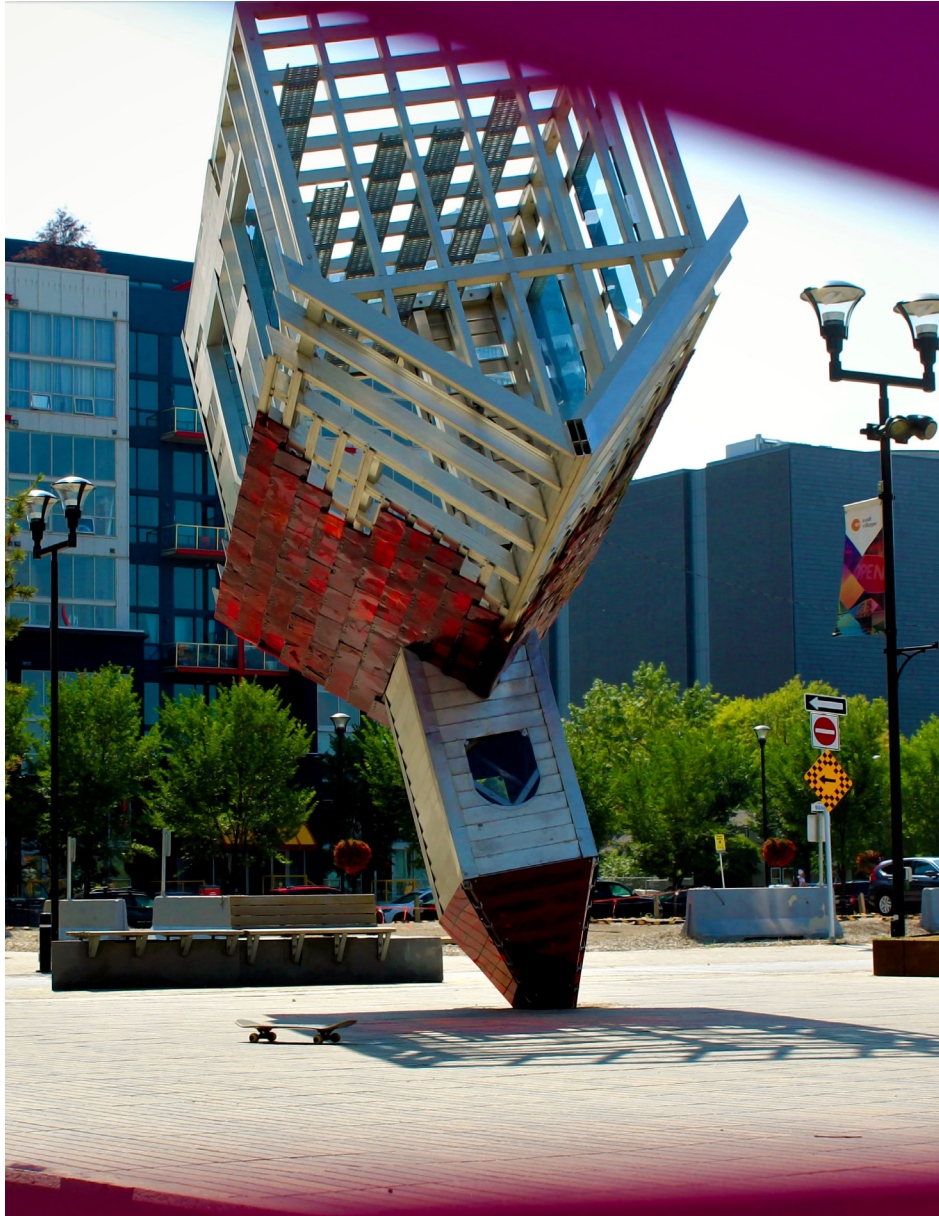


WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

August 20, 2023



Ordinary Time

Cover art: "Device to Root Out Evil" by Dennis Oppenheim.

Preparation

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need forgiveness;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
to whoever will come – this church opens wide her doors
and welcomes you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Gathering Song

We sing as a way of engaging our voices, bodies, imaginations, words, and desires in the worship of God. We sing together, to God and to each other, because of our calling to be a people joined together in Christ.

We Sing the Mighty Power

We sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
We sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at his command, and all the stars obey.

We sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
he formed the creatures with his word and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed, where'er we turn our eyes,
if we survey the ground we tread or gaze upon the skies.

There's not a plant or flower below but makes your glories known,
and clouds arise and tempests blow by order from your throne;
while all that borrows life from you is ever in your care,
and everywhere that we can be, you, God, are present there.

Text: Isaac Watts (1715), Tune: ELLACOMBE (1784)

Welcome

We're glad you are here. If you are visiting with us, please take a moment to fill out a "Connect Card", available in a seat-back near you or online using this QR code. We would love the chance to connect with you and help you know more about our community.



Call to Worship

Created and Called. We believe that God created humans to be in relationship with Him, and to worship Him as their Creator. But it's more than that. He is also a loving Father who is calling, or inviting His children to come near. God's is both the Creator and the Invitor, and we respond to His grace!

Leader: To you, Lord, we call; you are our Rock, do not turn a deaf ear to us.

For if you remain silent, we will be like those who go down to the pit.

**All: Hear our cry for mercy as we call to you for help,
as we lift up our hands toward your Most Holy Place.**

Leader: Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard our cry for mercy.

The Lord is our strength and our shield;

our heart trust in him, and he helps us.

our hearts leaps for joy, and with our songs we praise him.

**All: The Lord is the strength of his people,
a fortress of salvation for his anointed ones.
Save your people and bless your inheritance;
be our shepherd and carry us forever.**

Psalm 28:1-2, 6-9

Oh! Great Is Our God!

Oh! Great is our God! So we should worship greatly!

No song is too loud, no orchestra too stately

To hail the majesty of our King!

So lift your voices loud as we sing.

Oh! Great is our God! So let our songs be endless!

So awesome His ways, how could we comprehend them?

So we will make it known to our kids

And we will sing about the gracious gifts you give.

We will sing Your praise and pour forth your fame,

We will bless your name!

Let every one give thanks, because our God is great!

Oh! Great is our God! And we cannot contain it!

We sing from our souls, affected by His greatness.

His mercy covers all that He's made,

Showing His glory and His grace.

Brian Eichelberger (2009)

Confession of Sin

from Matthew 4 & 5

Why do we confess sin? Worship both draws us to God and reveals where we are distant from him. Throughout Scripture, when people see or experience God they are faced with the reality of their own brokenness and shame. Likewise, we confess our sin, as a community and individually.

Leader: Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues
and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom
and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

**All: We, too, have heard this good news of the kingdom:
Blessed are the poor in spirit and those who mourn.
Blessed are the meek and the hungry and the merciful.
Blessed are the pure in heart and the peacemakers.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for Jesus' sake.**

Leader: Jesus, you have called us to rejoice
and be glad in the midst of these things;
to see the eternal significance and reward in temporary sufferings.

**All: Forgive us for taking up the world's version of "good news";
for embracing competence, denial, power, security,
revenge, idolatry, tribalism, and comfort.**

Leader: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are the source
of the life and wholeness for which we long.
Mold us into a people who rejoice
in the backward goodness of your kingdom.

**All: Come near to us in your tender strength
and revive us, for our good and your glory.**

*** time for silent confession ***

Words of Forgiveness

Psalms 145:7-9

They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The LORD is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Passing of the Peace

The "passing of the peace": As recipients of God's grace, we gladly receive peace from Him. In response to His grace, we also extend that grace to one another with a handshake or a hug. Traditionally, Christians have greeted one another during this time in the service with the phrase, "May the peace of Christ be with you" and receive back the greeting "And also with you."

All You Do Is Good

You are full of compassion and abounding in love,
 You create things from nothing, call what's not though it was.
 You are light with no shadow, with no shifting or change.
 You turn weeping to dancing and despair into thanks.

*You are good and all you do is good.
 You are good and all you do is good.
 You are good and all you do is good, all you do is good,
 All you do is good.*

You release every captive, cut the shackles from slaves,
 Those who hate you, you ransom, Give you blood for their shame.
 With the bent stem, you're tender, shield the smoldering flame,
 You bring home the unwanted, call the lost back by name.

You lift up, you, you revive, you, you restore, you, you increase, you,
 You anoint, you, you fill up, you, you spill out, you, you release, you,
 You make grow, you, you bring forth, you, you call out, you, you set free
 It's who you are, It's who you were, It's who you will always be.

Your life is eternal, not in measure but kind,
 Running over with healing, inexhaustible might.
 You in us, and we in you, the delight in your face.
 Resting here we enjoy you, and our joy is your praise.

Nathan Partain (2015)

Giving of Tithes & Offering

What's the offering all about? The offering is a way for Christians to support the mission and ministry of the church. Christians offer a sacrificial portion of their resources—time, talents, possessions—as an act of faith and gratitude in response to God's grace. While many at Hope Chapel make their regular contributions through online giving and automated bill pay, offerings are a part of our worship service as an opportunity for the regular, proportionate and generous giving of the resources God has given us.

If you are a guest, please feel no obligation to give. Giving is for the members and regular attenders who desire to give to God and His church so that we can be a blessing to Him and our community in even greater ways.

Ways to give: You may drop a check or cash in the offering plate, give online at hopechapelgreensboro.org/give, or give through Venmo to @HopeChapel (note: contributions made through Venmo are not receipted for tax purposes).



Song of Praise & Thanksgiving

Responding to grace: After being reminded of God’s lavish grace and love toward us, we respond by celebrating with singing.

Thy Mercy, My God

Thy mercy my God is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart, and the boast of my tongue.
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,
Hath won my affection and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy, I could not live here.
Sin would reduce me to utter despair,
But through Thy free goodness, my spirit’s revived
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart.
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground
And weep for the praise of the mercy I’ve found.

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own
In the covenant love of Thy crucified Son.
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine.

John Stocker (1776), Sandra McCracken (2001)

Prayer of Renewal

Church, City, World. Corporate prayer is an essential part of the worship and work of God’s people. We pray for specific needs– naming and sometimes lamenting the brokenness in the world– mindful to ask a powerful and merciful help for the Church, the city, the world, and for one another.

The leader will end each section of the prayer by saying “Lord, in Your mercy...” and the congregation responds with “...Hear our prayer”.

Scripture Reading

What do we do during the Scripture Reading? Because the Word of God is one of the chief means through which God has chosen to speak to us, it is a principle and direct way we “hear from God” in worship. The public reading of Scripture, then, is a sacred act that deserves our full attention and focus. Especially in our age, we must discipline ourselves to listen to readings for longer periods of time, for God’s Word is food for our soul.

Matthew 5:5

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Sermon

“Blessed Are The Merciful”

Harrison Holbrook is Hope Chapel’s associate pastor of assimilation & discipleship. This sermon is part of a series called “Beatitudes: Recognizing Shalom in the Upside Down”, where we are studying Matthew chapter 5. For past sermons, please visit our website.

Communion

***What Is Communion?** What we do during communion isn't merely a symbolic act or a remembrance—it's more than that. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 teaches us that we are actually communing with Christ Himself as we partake of the elements. We mysteriously "participate in the body and blood" of Jesus. As we take communion, let us remember that Christ is spiritually present in a special way for us in this sacrament. Let's enjoy the feast!*

If you are not a follower of Jesus or are not prepared to share in the meal, please feel free to not participate and instead spend this time in prayer ("Prayers for Reflection" are included in this worship guide). We hope this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the church. PLEASE NOTE: All bread is gluten-free.

Communion Litany

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to the Lord!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere
to give thanks to you, O Lord,
Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God.

**All: We give thanks to you with those who have gone
before us, and with brothers and sisters around the world,
and along with the angels and all the company of heaven,
who forever sing to the glory of your name.**

Leader: Therefore, together, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;

All: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

*** institution of the elements ***

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
 and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
 that the bread we break and the cup we bless
 may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
 By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
 that we may be one with all who share this feast.

**All: As this bread is Christ's body for us,
 send us out to be the body of Christ in the world,
 for by him, with him, and in him,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all honor and glory is yours,
 Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

Prayer for Those Searching

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and my Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and faithfully follow you in life. Amen.

Prayer for Renewal and Commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism, to love God and neighbor, and to a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, to pursue forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace, and to live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

The Kingdom Is Yours

Blessed are the ones who do not bury
All the broken pieces of their heart.
Blessed are the tears of all the weary,
Pouring like a sky of falling stars.

Blessed are the wounded ones in mourning,
Brave enough to show the Lord their scars.
Blessed are the hurts that are not hidden;
Open to the healing touch of God.

*The kingdom is yours, the kingdom is yours,
Hold on a little more, this is not the end;
Hope is in the Lord, keep your eyes on him.*

Blessed are the ones who walk in kindness,
Even in the face of great abuse.
Blessed are the deeds that go unnoticed,
Serving with unguarded gratitude.

Blessed are the ones who fight for justice,
Longing for the coming day of peace;
Blessed is the soul that thirsts for righteousness,
Welcoming the last, the lost, the least.

Blessed are the ones who suffer violence,
And still have strength to love their enemies.
Blessed is the faith of those who persevere,
Though they fall, they'll never know defeat.

Terrell Wilson, Brittney Spencer, Micah Massey, Aaron Keyes (2017)

Sending Song

His Mercy Is More

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum;
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
 What Father so tender is calling us home?
 He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;
 Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

*Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!
 Stronger than darkness, new every morn';
 Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!*

What riches of kindness He lavished on us!
 His blood was the payment His life was the cost.
 We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford;
 Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Matt Papa, Matt Boswell (2016)

Community Life

Blessing & Sending

Minister: May the peace of God,
 which transcends all understanding,
 guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

All: Amen.

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Financial Update

Given Last Week:	\$8,439	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$467,680	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Aug 13)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$435,127	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	[\$32,552]	Greensboro, NC 27408

Online giving is available on our website: www.hopechapelgreensboro.org/give
 We also accept donations via Venmo: @HopeChapel.

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Want to connect with others?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/community

Visiting with us?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/i'm-new

