

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

September 10, 2023



Ordinary Time

Preparation

*Almighty God, we pray for your blessing
on the church in this place.
Here may the faithful find salvation,
and the careless be awakened.
Here may the doubting find faith,
and the anxious be encouraged.
Here may the tempted find help,
and the sorrowful find comfort.
Here may the weary find rest,
and the strong be renewed.
Here may the aged find consolation
and the young be inspired;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

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.*

To God All Praise and Glory

Sing praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation.
The God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
He fills my soul with sweet relief and make my faithless murmur cease.

To God all praise and glory! (x4)

The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing;
An ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing.
And in my Father's tender care His love eclipses my despair.

When life is hard and days are long, I'll sing aloud His praises.
That all may hear the grateful song my joyful spirit raises.
My heart revived, my soul restored, my heart rejoices in the Lord.

Let all who claim Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory.
Let all who lean on the Spirit's strength declare the wondrous story!
Cast every idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord and Christ alone.

Johann Jakob Schutz (1675), trans. Frances Elizabeth
Cox (1864), Music & Add. lyrics Brian Eichelberger (2017)

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: I will sing of Your strength;

I will sing aloud of Your steadfast love in the morning.

For You have been to me a fortress

and a refuge in the day of my distress.

**All: O my Strength, I will sing praises to You,
for You, O God, are my fortress,
the God who shows me steadfast love.**

Psalm 59:16-17

Continuously

I will hold your right hand, right beside you, my word is true

I am continuously, continuously with you.

Though your flesh and heart may fail, I will hold you in veil,

I am continuously, continuously with you.

*Rest in my love as you sleep tonight,
Rest in the song that mercy sings,
Your shield and strength, all through the fight
I will be your covering.*

I'll be your shelter where e'r you go,

When you wonder I'll bring you home.

I am continuously, continuously with you.

Sandra McCracken (2016)

Confession of Sin

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.

God of Wisdom and Grace:

We confess to you

Our tendency to say that we know you
but fail to obey your commands.¹

We love the idea of shalom,
but we often fail to put it into practice.

We are often wise in our own sight.²

Forgive our sin and self-righteousness.

Teach us wisdom in the inmost place.

Cleanse us with hyssop, and we will be clean;
wash us, and we will be whiter than snow.³

Renew us by your grace,
that we might be cultivators of shalom in the world.
In the name of our merciful Savior Jesus,
in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom...⁴

*** time for silent confession ***

References: ¹ John 2:4; ² Romans 12:16; ³ Psalm 51:6-7; ⁴ Colossians 2:3

Words of Forgiveness

Titus 3:5-7

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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."

Songs of Praise & Thanksgiving

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

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Jesus, priceless treasure, source of purest pleasure, friend most sure and true:
 Long my heart was burning,
 Fainting much and yearning, thirsting, Lord, for You.
 Yours I am, O spotless Lamb,
 So will I let nothing hide You, seek no joy beside You!

Let Your arms enfold me: take me in and hold me – keep me ever near.
 Though the earth be shaking,
 Every heart is quaking, Jesus calms my fear.
 Fire may flash and thunder crash;
 But, though sin and death assail me, Jesus will not fail me.

In our times of sadness, then the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in;
 Though the clouds will gather,
 Those who love the Savior can have peace within.
 Though we bear much sorrow here,
 Still in You lies purest pleasure, Jesus, priceless treasure!

Gone, all worldly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure, Jesus is my choice.
 Gone, all empty glory! Jesus is my story; O, my soul, rejoice!
 Pain or loss or shame or cross
 Shall not from my Savior move me, since He chose to love me.

*Johann Franck (1653), trans by Catherine. Winkworth (1863)
 music & add. lyrics by Michael Van Patter (2018)*

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).



Goodness of God

I love You Lord, oh Your mercy never fails me;
All my days I've been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God.

*All my life You have been faithful,
All my life You have been so, so good!
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God.*

I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire.
In darkest nights, You are close like no other.
I've known You as a father, I've known You as a friend;
I have lived in the goodness of God.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You everything
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

Jenn Johnson, Jason Ingram, Ben Fielding, Ed Cash, Brian Johnson (2018)

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.

Proverbs 1:1-7,

- ¹ The proverbs of Solomon,
son of David, king of Israel:
² To know wisdom and instruction,
to understand words of insight,
³ to receive instruction in wise dealing,
in righteousness, justice, and equity;
⁴ to give prudence to the simple,
knowledge and discretion to the youth—
⁵ Let the wise hear and increase in learning,
and the one who understands obtain guidance,
⁶ to understand a proverb and a saying,
the words of the wise and their riddles.
⁷ The fear of the Lord is the
beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- ²⁰ Wisdom cries aloud in the street,
in the markets she raises her voice;
²¹ at the head of the noisy streets she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
²² “How long, O simple ones,
will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
²³ If you turn at my reproof,
behold, I will pour out my spirit to you;
I will make my words known to you.

Proverbs 9:13-18

- ¹³ The woman Folly is loud;
she is seductive and knows nothing.
¹⁴ She sits at the door of her house;
she takes a seat on the highest
places of the town,
¹⁵ calling to those who pass by,
who are going straight on their way,
¹⁶ “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!”
And to him who lacks sense she says,
¹⁷ “Stolen water is sweet,
and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”
¹⁸ But he does not know that the dead are there,
that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

Proverbs 3:13-18

- ¹³ Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,
and the one who gets understanding,
¹⁴ for the gain from her is better
than gain from silver
and her profit better than gold.
¹⁵ She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
¹⁶ Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.
¹⁷ Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called blessed.

Sermon

“Intro: The Beginning of Wisdom”

Harrison Holbrook is Hope Chapel's associate pastor of assimilation & discipleship. This sermon is part of a series called "Proverbs: Learning Skill in Salom Cultivation". 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

Minister: Is the Father with us?

All: He is.

Minister: Is the Christ among us?

All: He is.

Minister: Is the Spirit here?

All: He is.

Minister: This is our God:

All: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Minister: We are His people:

All: We are redeemed by His grace.

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of Faith

**All: Christ has died! Christ is risen
Christ will come again!**

Minister: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us. Hallelujah!

All: Hallelujah!

** institution of elements **

Minister: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Minister: Let us pray together:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

**Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For yours is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. 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.

Wisdom

Humble yourself before the Almighty,
That's where you find true wisdom.
Make it your first step, make it your last thought,
Lying in bed when the day's done.

*Hear it calling out your name
In the busy streets in the center of town;
Who will turn their face to truth and then live it out?*

Wisdom is greater than any fleeting
Pleasure that money brings you.
Answers will come to those who pursue
The pathway to life that few choose.

Knowledge awaits you, filling your arms
With more than they ever could grasp.
Blessed are you who hunger for truth
And keep your eyes fixed on what lasts.

Jill Phillips (2003)

Sending Song

In Feast or Fallow

When the fields are dry, and the winter is long,
Blessed are the meek, the hungry, the poor.
When my soul is downcast, and my voice has no song,
For mercy, for comfort, I wait on the Lord.

*In the harvest feast or the fallow ground,
My certain hope is in Jesus found.
My lot, my cup, my portion sure;
Whatever comes, we shall endure.*

On a cross of wood, His blood was outpoured.
 He Rose from the ground, like a bird to the sky,
 Bringing peace to our violence, and crushing death's door;
 Our Maker incarnate, our God who provides.

When the earth beneath me crumbles and quakes,
 Not a sparrow falls, nor a hair from my head
 Without His hand to guide me, my shield and my strength.
 In joy or in sorrow, in life or in death.

Sandra McCracken (2005)

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:	\$10,039	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$511,525	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Sep. 3)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$499,227	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	[\$12,297]	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

