

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

March 3, 2024



The Third Sunday of Lent

Reflection

I imagine Lent for you and for me as a great departure from the greedy, anxious anti-neighborliness of our economy, a great departure from our exclusionary politics that fears the other, a great departure from self-indulgent consumerism that devours creation. And then an arrival in a new neighborhood, because it is a gift to be simple, it is a gift to be free; it is a gift to come down where we ought to be..

— Walter Brueggemann

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.

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

*Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!*

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes in succor speedy to those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong.

To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in His path to birth.

The tide of time shall never His covenant remove.
His Name shall stand forever, that Name to us is Love.

James Montgomery (1821), Sandra McCracken (2012)

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

Psalm 145:1-7

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 is both the Creator and the Invitor, and we respond to His grace!

Leader: I will extol You, my God and King,
and bless Your name forever and ever.

**All: Every day I will bless You
and praise Your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
and His greatness is unsearchable.**

Leader: One generation shall commend Your works to another,
and shall declare Your mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of Your majesty,
and on Your wondrous works, I will meditate.

**All: They shall speak of the might of Your awesome deeds,
and I will declare Your greatness.
They shall pour forth the fame of Your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.**

Song of Praise & Adoration

Greater Than We Can Imagine

Every day we'll bless You and praise Your name
And on Your glorious splendor we will dwell.
On Your wondrous works, Lord, we'll meditate
And of Your awesome power we will tell.
We'll speak of Your salvation and Your abundant goodness...

*Because You are greater than we can imagine!
You are too beautiful for us to fathom!
Oh, You are great, and greatly to be praised!*

Every generation shall sing Your worth
And magnify Your mercy and Your grace.
We'll sing about the Savior who came to earth
To bear the sins of those He came to save.
You fill our hearts with wonder, we'll worship You forever...

George Romanacce, Eric Grover (2009)

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.

Holy, wise, and loving Father,
 we humble ourselves before You now,¹
 confessing that we are by nature sinful and unclean.²
 Not only is all creation groaning under the effects of sin,³
 but like ink dropped into clean water,
 our own hearts and lives are evidence of
 the total corruption that sin has ushered into the world.⁴
 We have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions.
 We acknowledge that no one is righteous,⁵
 that even our best acts are as filthy rags in Your sight.⁶
 and that our only hope in life and death
 is to belong to God through the work of Jesus.⁷

It is in His strong name that we humbly ask You to
 have mercy on us and forgive us.⁸
 Renew us and lead us by Your Holy Spirit⁹
 so that we may delight in Your will¹⁰
 and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name...¹¹

*** time for silent confession ***

Scripture References:

¹ James 4:10, ² Ephesians 2:3, ³ Romans 8:22, ⁴ Mark 7:20-23, ⁵ Romans 3:11, Psalm 53:1-3,
⁶ Isaiah 64:6, ⁷ Romans 14:7-9, ⁸ Proverbs 18:10, Psalm 86:1, ⁹ Romans 8:14, Galatians 5:18,
¹⁰ Psalm 40:8, ¹¹ John 15:8.

Song of Lament

What is lament? The author Dan Allender says lament "is to cry out to God with our doubts, our incriminations of him and others, to bring a complaint against Him" and goes on to say that lament is "the context for surrender... it is inconceivable to surrender to God unless there is a prior, declared war against him... sanctification is a lifetime process of surrendering as more and more intense conflicts with God and others expose and dissolve our urgent preoccupation with the self. Lament is the battle cry against God that paradoxically voices a heart of desire and ironic faith in his goodness."

Psalm 126

Our mouths, they were filled, filled with laughter;
 Our tongues, they were loosed, loosed with joy.
 Restore us, O Lord! Restore us, O Lord!

*Although we are weeping, Lord, help us keep sowing
The seeds of Your Kingdom for the day You will reap them!
Your sheaves we will carry; Lord, please do not tarry!
All those who sow weeping will go out with songs of joy!*

The nations will say, "He has done great things!"
The nations will sing songs of joy.
Restore us, O Lord! Restore us, O Lord!

Isaac Wardell (2011)

Words of Forgiveness

Romans 5:8-9

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

Passing of the Peace

What is 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.

Thank You Jesus for the Blood

I was a wretch, I remember who I was;
I was lost, I was blind, I was running out of time.
Sin separated, the breach was far too wide,
But from the far side of the chasm You held me in Your sight.

So You made a way across the great divide,
Left behind heaven's throne to build it here inside.
And there, at the cross You paid the debt I owed;
Broke my chains, freed my soul, for the first time I had hope.

*Thank You, Jesus, for the blood applied.
 Thank You, Jesus, it has washed me white.
 Thank You, Jesus, You have saved my life;
 Brought me from the darkness into glorious light!*

You took my place, laid inside my tomb of sin;
 You were buried for three days, but then You walked right out again.
 And now death has no sting and life has no end,
 For I have been transformed by the blood of the Lamb!

There is nothing stronger than the wonder-working power
 Of the blood, the blood!
 That calls us sons and daughters, we are ransomed by our Father
 Through the blood, the blood!

Charity Gayle, Ryan Kennedy, Steven Musso, David Gentiles, Bryan McCleery (2021)

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).*



Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.
 Let the water and the blood, from Thy wounded side which flowed,
 Be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling.
 Naked, come to Thee for dress; helpless, look to Thee for grace.
 Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

Augustus Toplady (1776), Thomas Hastings (1830)

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 our powerful and merciful God for 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

Romans 4:13-25

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." ²³ But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Sermon

"Faith"

Harrison Holbrook is Hope Chapel's pastor of assimilation & discipleship. This sermon is part of a series on the New Testament book of Romans, where we are exploring the doctrine of justification, or how we are made right with God. 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: The Lord be with you. **All: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts! **All: We lift them up to the Lord!**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

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

Minister: You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
He took upon Himself the weight of our sin
and carried the burden of our guilt.
He shared our life in every way,
and though tempted, was sinless to the end.
Baptized as Your own, He went willingly to His death
and by Your power was raised to new life.

**All: In His dying and rising, You gave birth to Your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.**

Minister: Sanctify this bread and wine, and use these elements
to communicate to us the mercy of Your Son,
that we might be enabled to submit our lives to You.

**All: Grant that this sacrament would empower us to die
to ourselves, and live for Your glory, now and forever, amen.**

**** institution of elements ****

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Minister: God did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all,
and will also give us all things with Him.

**All: Therefore we praise You, God, with our hearts and our voices,
now and forevermore! 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 than 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.

Not What My Hands Have Done

Not what my hands have done can save my guilty soul;
Not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers, and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin
 Thy blood alone O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.
 Thy love to me O God, not mine, O Lord, to Thee
 Can rid me of this dark unrest, and set my spirit free!

Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak;
 Thy power alone O Son of God, can this sore bondage break.
 No other work, save Thine, no other blood will do,
 No strength save that, which is divine, can bear me safely through.

I bless the Christ of God; I rest on love divine;
 And with unfaltering lip and heart, I call this Savior mine.
 His cross dispels each doubt, I bury in His tomb
 My unbelief, and all my fear, each lingering shade of gloom.

I praise the God of grace, I trust His truth and might
 He calls me His, I call Him mine, my God, my joy, my light
 'Tis He Who saveth me, and freely pardon gives
 I love because He loveth me, I live because He lives!

Horatius Bonar (1864), Kevin Twit (2001)

Sending Song

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
 Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
 Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word,
 I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord.
 Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
 Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my battle shield, sword for the fight;
 Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight;
 Thou my soul's Shelter, and Thou my high tower,
 Raise Thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
 Thou mine inheritance, now and always!
 Thou and Thou only first in my heart;
 High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
 May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's sun!
 Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
 Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Dallan Forgaill (8th century), Irish folk melody

Community Life

Blessing & Sending

What is the benediction? Benediction is a word with Latin origin (bene = "well," and dicere = "to speak"); a benediction is a word which "speaks wellness/goodness" to us, therefore properly understood as a blessing. The benediction in worship has ancient roots, going back to the worship of God's people in the Temple. When we utilize the benediction in our worship, we connect ourselves with an ancient practice of God's people and join with them together in worship of our one great God.

Minister: May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit,
 give you a contrite heart.
 May Christ, who bore our sins in His body on the tree,
 heal you by His wounds.
 May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth,
 speak to you words of pardon and peace.

All: Amen.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Financial Update

Given Last Week:	\$18,334	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$128,536	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Feb. 25)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$119,086	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	[\$9,449]	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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