

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

March 31, 2024



EASTER SUNDAY

FOR REFLECTION

From beginning to end, the Holy Scriptures testify that the predicament of fallen humanity is so serious, so grave, so irremediable from within, that nothing short of divine intervention can rectify it.

Flemming Rutledge, *The Crucifixion*

Made for spirituality, we wallow in introspection. Made for joy, we settle for pleasure. Made for justice, we clamor for vengeance. Made for relationship, we insist on our own way. Made for beauty, we are satisfied with sentiment. But new creation has already begun. The sun has begun to rise. Christians are called to leave behind, in the tomb of Jesus Christ, all that belongs to the brokenness and incompleteness of the present world. It is time, in the power of the Spirit, to take up our proper role, our fully human role, as agents, heralds, and stewards of the new day that is dawning. That, quite simply, is what it means to be Christian: to follow Jesus Christ into the new world, God's new world, which he has thrown open before us. Jesus' poor and ordinary provisions for this historic entry [are striking]: no heralds at arms, no trumpet sounds, no chariots of state, no liveries, no prancing horse that a shy petitioner would be afraid to approach, no running horse that a slow-footed petitioner could not keep pace with, but he comes on a quiet ass, that the poorest of his subjects may not be discouraged in their access of him.

N.T. Wright, *Simply Christian*

The resurrection was indeed a miraculous display of God's power, but we should not see it as a suspension of the natural order of the world. Rather it was the beginning of the restoration of the natural order of the world, the world as God intended it to be. . . . The resurrection means not merely that Christians have a hope for the future but that they have a hope that comes from the future. The Bible's startling message is that when Jesus rose, he brought the future kingdom of God into the present.

Timothy Keller, *Hope in Times of Fear*

Immanuel, God with us in our nature, in our sorrow, in our lifework, in our punishment, in our grave, and now with us, or rather we with Him, in resurrection, ascension, triumph, and Second Advent splendor.

Charles H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening*

"The proclamation of Easter Day is that all is well. And as a Christian, I say this not with the easy optimism of one who has never known a time when all was not well but as one who has faced the Cross in all its obscenity as well as in all its glory, who has known one way or another what it is like to live separated from God. In the end, his will, not ours is done. Love is the victor. Death is not the end. The end is life. His life and our lives through Him, in Him. Existence has greater depths of beauty, mystery, and benediction than the wildest visionary has ever dared to dream. Christ our Lord has risen."

Frederick Buechner, *The Magnificent Defeat*

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP GUIDE

Risen, As He Said!

Carol Troutman Wiggins

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun!

John Newton (1779), NEW BRITAIN (1829)

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: Christ, who died, lives again! Alleluia!

ALL: Alleluia!

LEADER: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL: He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

LEADER: God has claimed us as his own.

ALL: He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

LEADER: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

ALL: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

based on I Peter 1:3-5

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
 Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
 Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
 Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
 Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
 Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
 Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
 Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
 Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
 Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
 Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

CONFESSION OF SIN

Confession of sin happens within the context of relationship, both with God and each other. We confess together, in community, before a gracious God who has given us himself. Confession both acknowledges our need for mercy and celebrates its abundance in Christ.

Sin is a word that means, at its core, "an obsession or worship of oneself." Martin Luther famously described sin as "curving in on oneself," which causes a relational breach not only with the people we harm, but also with God by not giving God the place he deserves in our lives, as our loving Creator and Savior.

Almighty God,
When You raised Jesus from the grave,
You shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by ways that lead to death and emptiness.
We return to our sinful ways
instead of stepping into the new life You give.
Lord, bring new life where we are worn and tired;
new love where we have turned hard-hearted;
forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded.

In the bright light of Easter morning, Lord,
our sin is exposed, and Your grace is revealed.
Raise us in Your love so that, with joy,
we may be found in Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life.

*** time for silent confession of sin ***

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Why is it called “Words of Forgiveness?” There’s a reason we don’t call this element “The Forgiveness of Sins.” As Protestants, we truly believe that there is only one mediator between God and humankind—Jesus Christ (1 Tim 2:5). Therefore, no pastor or priest can offer God’s pardon...this is the work of Christ alone, given freely by and directly from Him! Therefore, we are assured that as we confess our sins and put our faith in Jesus Christ, He indeed does pardon us. Our pastors and leaders in worship merely offer this good news as it is proclaimed in Scripture (see 1 John 1:9).

LEADER: This is what the Lord says:

“Death is swallowed in victory.

O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

For sin is the sting that results in death.

ALL: **But thank God! He has given us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

LEADER: In Christ, our sins are forgiven, death has no grip on us,
and we will share in His victory.

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

LEADER: Christ is Risen! ALL: **He is Risen indeed!**

based on 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Why is the Greeting put after our Words of Forgiveness? The book of 2 Corinthians reminds us that part of God’s goal in reconciling Himself to us was that we might likewise be reconciled with one another. But for healing and wholeness to take place in our relationships (which is what the Greeting enacts as we acknowledge one another in the peace of our Lord), we must first know the healing of our relationship with God through Christ. God’s pardon of us sets us free to love and forgive one another without reservation or qualification!

Nursery and preschool aged children are dismissed

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).



When I Think About the Lord

When I think about the Lord,
 How He saved me, how He raised me,
 How He filled me with the Holy Ghost,
 How He healed me to the uttermost.
 When I think about the Lord,
 How He picked me up, turned me around,
 How He set my feet on solid ground...

*It makes me wanna shout,
 "Hallelujah! Thank you Jesus!
 Lord, You are worthy of all the glory,
 All the honor, all the praise!"*

James Huey (1998)

K-5th grade children are dismissed

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.

ROMANS 6:1-14

¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

SERMON

“What to Expect When You’re Resurrecting”

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 currently exploring the themes of sanctification, or how we become more like 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 our God.

ALL: It is right to give Him thanks and praise,
 joining our voices with Your people on earth
 and all the company of heaven,
 who forever sing to the glory of Your Name.

MINISTER: Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

ALL: Dying, You destroyed our death;
 rising, You restored our life.
 Lord Jesus, come in glory.

MINISTER: Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us.

ALL: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

*** institution of the elements ***

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

MINISTER: Merciful God, pour out Your Holy Spirit

on these gifts of bread and wine, that in eating and drinking
 we may be made one with Christ and one another.

ALL: Amen.

MINISTER: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, now and forever.

As our Savior taught us, so we pray,

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.

PRAYERS FOR REFLECTION

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 & 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.

For the Songless Hearts

Awake, glad soul awake, the sun has risen long;
Go now to His grave and bring a tuneful heart... and song.

*When He was laid in the tomb, He laid right next to you.
No one could hear your hopeless sorrow,
But there He could hear you.
When He was sad and wept alone, child, He wept for you.
When you were dead in a song-less slumber,
He sang and died for you.*

Awake, glad soul awake, your shoes are all worn low.
Far enough, you cannot say!
Just past those clouds He comes for you, you know?

Awake, glad soul awake, the Lord has risen long.
He comes now to your grave and He brings a tuneful heart and song.

Jon Guerra (2017)

BENEVOLENCE OFFERING

We take a special offering each Easter and Christmas Eve for a benevolence fund. This is outside of our operating budget and is used to help those within our congregation with practical needs. If you would like to give specifically to the benevolence fund, you may drop a check or cash in the offering plate, give online at hopechapelgreensboro.org/give or through the QR code (be sure to specify 'benevolence' online).



SENDING SONG

Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed

How can it be, the One who died, has born our sin through sacrifice
To conquer every sting of death? Sing, sing hallelujah.

For joy awakes as dawning light when Christ's disciples lift their eyes.
Alive He stands, their Friend and King; Christ, Christ He is risen.

*Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Oh, sing hallelujah.
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed;
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.*

Where doubt and darkness once had been,
 They saw Him and their hearts believed.
 But blessed are those who have not seen, yet, sing hallelujah.

Once bound by fear now bold in faith,
 They preached the truth and power of grace.
 And pouring out their lives they gained life, life everlasting.

The power that raised Him from the grave now works in us to powerfully save.
 He frees our hearts to live His grace; go tell of His goodness.

Ed Cash, Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty (2012)

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 the God of peace,
 who raised to life the Great Shepherd of the sheep,
 make us ready to do His will in every good thing,
 through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

MINISTER: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

ALL: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

from Hebrews 13:20

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Given Last Week:	\$9,339	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to Date	\$192,804	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - March 24)		Hope Chapel
Given to Date	\$191,695	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	[\$1,108]	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/im-new

