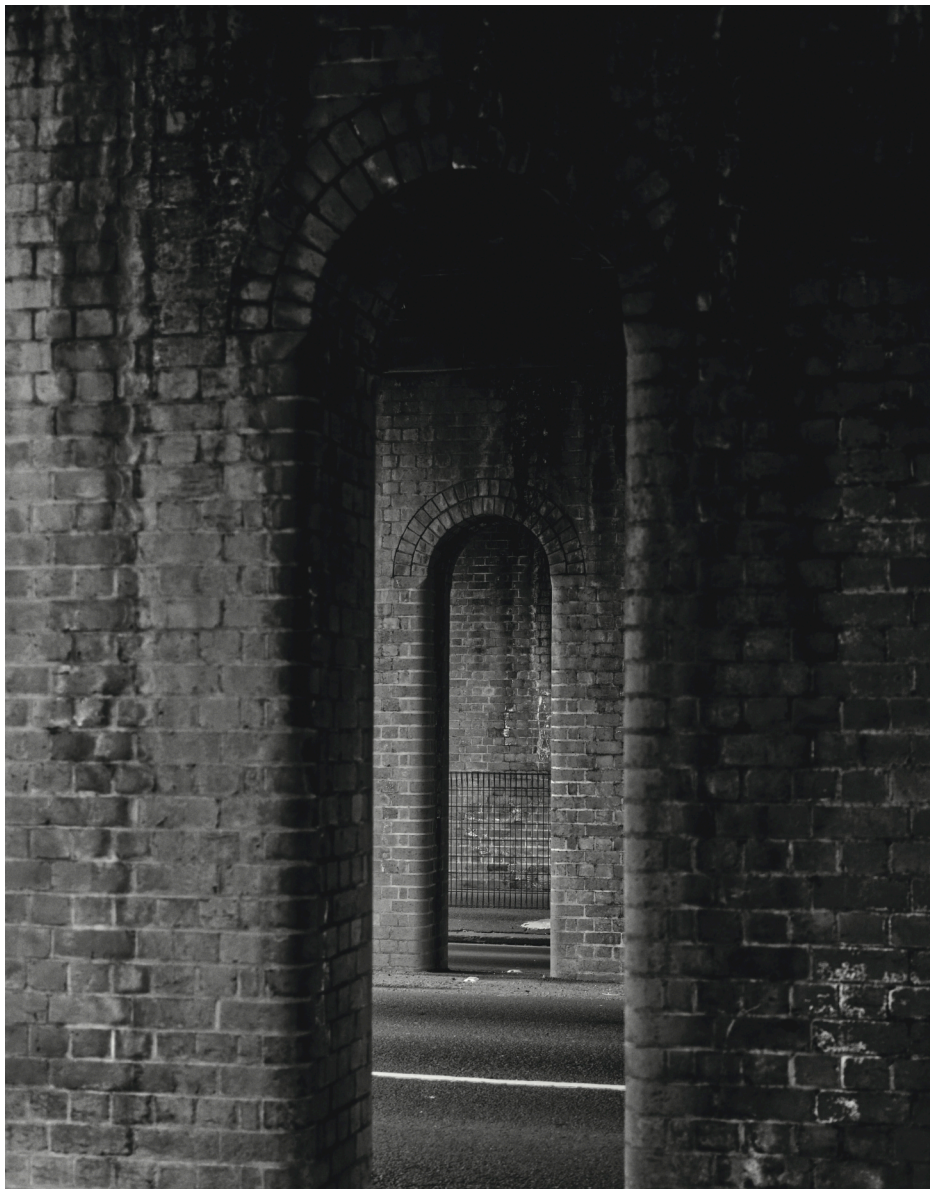


WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

September 1, 2024



Ordinary Time

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, 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.

Glory to God

Glory to God on high,
Let heav'n and earth reply, "Praise His name!"
His love and grace adore,
Who all our sorrows bore, praise His name!

Sing aloud evermore: Worthy is the Lamb!

Jesus, our Lord and God,
Bore sin's tremendous load, praise His name!
Tell what His arm has done,
What spoils from death he won, praise His name!

Let all the hosts above
Join in one song of love, praise His name!
To Him ascribed be
Honor and majesty, praise His name!

James Allen (1831), Bowles, Swing, Van Patter (2009)

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

Colossians 1:15-20 and Psalm 97:12

Merciful and Mighty. The classic hymn, “Holy, holy holy,” uses the phrase “merciful and mighty” to describe God. Theologians use the contrasting terms “transcendence” (superior, outside of human’s grasp) and “immanence” (being perceivable, knowable) to name this paradox. What we receive in the Call to Worship is both a warm and weighty invitation to engage our hearts, minds, and bodies in worship of the Living God who created all things and holds all things together (Col. 1:17).

Leader: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

All: And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Leader: For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

**All: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,
And give thanks to his holy name!**

Sing

Did you draw a breath as the dawn awoke
And does your heart still beat?
Is the mighty Word of the living God
Upholding you? Then sing, O sing!

Has the Father’s love filled your longing heart
With grace for every need?
Come and lay your burdens at Jesus’ feet
And find new strength to sing, O sing!

*Morning and evening, everything breathing must sing, O sing!
All of creation rise up and praise the King of kings and sing!*

Has the Son of God died to take away
Your sin and set you free?
Has the Conqueror trampled over death?
Is Christ enthroned? Then sing, O sing!

On the final day when the Lord on High returns in majesty,
 We will bow in wonder before the Lamb
 And evermore the saints will sing– yes, evermore the saints will sing!

*Morning and evening, everything breathing must sing, O sing!
 All of creation rise up and praise the King of kings and sing!*

Nathan Stiff and David Zimmer (2024)

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.

- O God, my God and my all,
 without You I am nothing, less than nothing,
 a rebel to Your love,
 a despiser of Your grace.
- O God, have pity on me, a sinner;
 grant me a new vision of Your love
 and of Your will for me:
 give me stillness in my soul
 that I may know You and love You,
 and grant me strength to do Your will,
- O God, my all...

*** time for silent confession ***

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.”

We Bring You All Our Sorrows

Lord, we bring You all our sorrows, all the words it hurts to say.
 In Your hands, our grief is hallowed; take it as our gift, we pray.
 Lay our tears upon Your altar like the bread You bless and break;
 Work Your mercy in our heartache, come, transfigure all our pain.

Christ, You came to share our burdens, all our human pain, You feel.
Walk beside us on our journey through the wounds that never heal.
Place the yoke upon our shoulders that You bore to Calvary.
Let the weight of grief transform us, bear with us our suffering.

Here on Calv'ry's hill You meet us in the pain You know so well.
Bread of heaven, here You feed us with a gift no tongue can tell.
You said You would never leave us, You who caught us when we fell;
Stay with us, O loving Jesus, while in shadows here we dwell.

Kate Bluett, Paul Zach (2021)

Words of Forgiveness

We are not alone. The Bible teaches that Jesus understands what it is to be human. Because He was fully man, He is compassionate and merciful toward us in our sin and failures. But not only can He sympathize with us, Jesus also has set us free from the power of sin by his death and resurrection.

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.
I cried to him with my mouth,
and high praise was on my tongue.
If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.
But truly God has listened;
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
Blessed be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!

Psalm 66:16-20

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."

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.

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).



Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee.

Land me safe on Canaan's side,
Bid my anxious fears, bid my anxious fears goodbye!

William Williams (1745), Jeremy Casella (2002)

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

Ezra 1 (ESV)

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.

¹ In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing:

² “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. ³ Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem. ⁴ And let each survivor, in whatever place he sojourns, be assisted by the men of his place with silver and gold, with goods and with beasts, besides freewill offerings for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.”

⁵ Then rose up the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up to rebuild the house of the Lord that is in Jerusalem. ⁶ And all who were about them aided them with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, with beasts, and with costly wares, besides all that was freely offered. ⁷ Cyrus the king also brought out the vessels of the house of the Lord that Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and placed in the house of his gods. ⁸ Cyrus king of Persia brought these out in the charge of Mithredath the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah. ⁹ And this was the number of them: ³⁰ basins of gold, ^{1,000} basins of silver, ²⁹ censers, ^{10 30} bowls of gold, ⁴¹⁰ bowls of silver, and ^{1,000} other vessels; ¹¹ all the vessels of gold and of silver were ^{5,400}. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up, when the exiles were brought up from Babylonia to Jerusalem.

Sermon

Harrison Holbrook is Hope Chapel’s pastor of assimilation & discipleship. This sermon is part of a series on the Old Testament book of Ezra, where we are exploring the core, or essence, of what it means to be followers of God. For past sermons, please visit our website.

Next week’s sermon text is Ezra 3:1-7.

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

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: As we come to the table, let us pray together:

All: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, You have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of Your glory in the face of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Therefore we praise You, joining our voices with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, who forever sing to the glory of Your Name.

Words of Institution

Prayer of Approach

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

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

Minister: Lord Jesus, Your perfect life, death, and resurrection are the source of all blessing in this life and the life to come.

All: As I eat this bread and drink this cup, renew me in the joy and glory of knowing and serving You. I come to this table on the basis of Your merit only and not my own.

**As You have completely and fully offered Yourself for me,
I now completely and fully offer
myself to You as a living sacrifice. Amen.**

Minister: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us. Alleluia.

All: Alleluia!

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Minister: Take these in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, and drink, remembering that Christ's blood has been shed for you!

Preparation for the Table

The Feast

Prayer after Communion

Minister: Let us pray.

**All: O Jesus Christ, Savior of the world,
We thank You that in this holy meal,
You renew Your promises within us,
empower us by Your Spirit to witness and to serve,
and send us out as Your disciples. Amen.**

Singing of the Doxology

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 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.

Flesh and Blood

Flesh and blood, born a babe,
Flesh and blood, You lived and breathed.
Amazing love, You came and gave
Your flesh and blood to set me free.

*Hallelujah, for the bread it is His body,
And the wine it is the blood that binds us now;
And the living bread remains the communion of the saints.
Sing the mystery of faith, flesh and blood.*

Flesh and blood, you are My children;
Flesh and blood, if you believe.
So, take this cup, and when you taste
My flesh and blood, remember Me.

We remember, blessed Jesus, we remember,
God help us all if ever we forget how the author of the story
Cast off His crown of glory for a crown of thorns, and flesh and blood.

Andrew Peterson, Ben Shive (2005)

Sending Song**The Church's One Foundation**

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be His holy bride;
With his own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
 Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
 And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
 She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
 Till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,
 And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
 And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
 O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
 Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.

Samuel Stone (1866), Brian Moss (1996)

Blessing & Sending

from Philippians 4:7

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:	\$10,380	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$546,278	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Aug. 25)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$551,115	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	\$4,837	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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hopechapelgreensboro.org/i'm-new

