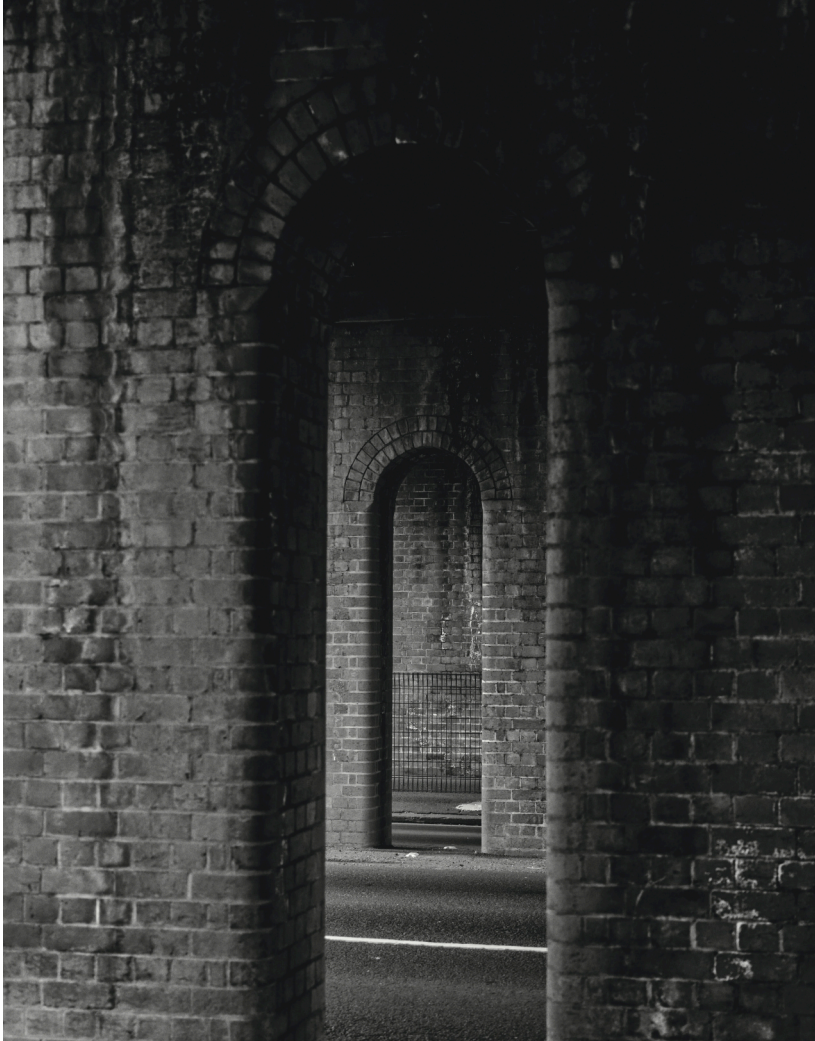


WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

September 22, 2024



Ordinary Time

What is liturgy?

Every worship service has a liturgy; it's simply the way and order in which a community worships. "The Greek word "leitourgia" means a public work, the work of the people. And that's what liturgy is—the action of God's gathered people, but only in response to his prior action of sending Jesus Christ for our salvation.

The liturgy itself is a retelling of the Gospel story. It begins with God's call upon us, his meeting with us, speaking among us, and ministering to us. We remember and confess our sinfulness, and celebrate God's forgiveness and complete acceptance of us. We are fed from the Scriptures and Sacraments and are sent out to love and serve the Lord in the world.

Liturgy reminds us that worship is not only individual, but an action of a community. Proper liturgy deliberately evokes our corporate response, gives voice to our common celebration and lament, and engages us together in dialogue with our Creator and Savior. Mark Earey writes that liturgy "goes beyond the personal encounter with God (without denying it) to the corporate drama of being the people of God."

Liturgy is the church at prayer, serving as a priestly people, interceding on behalf of the whole church and world, and being sent out together on God's mission. In all of this, liturgy draws us into the enacted story of salvation.

adapted from City Church Philadelphia

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.

Oh How Good to Be Together

Oh how good to be together in this weary world we trod;
What a gift, what a treasure, kindred in the house of God.

On this day the Lord has fashioned come rejoice with all your might;
Raise a banner of salvation, He has led us through the night.

*Oh the joy, oh the sweetness,
To be gathered in the name of the Lord!
Evermore, He will keep us
From the valley to the golden shore.*

When it looked like evil conquered, when we felt the darkest hour,
In despair we sought the Father and He has proved His mighty power.

Tell the theme of His provision, how He met our every need;
He has been our firm foundation and He will ever, always be!

Paul Ranheim, Kirk Sauers (2020)

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

1 Chronicles 16:8-13

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 Inviter, and we respond to His grace!

Leader: Oh give thanks to the LORD;
call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!
Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

**All: Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**

Leader: Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually!

**All: Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he uttered,
O offspring of Israel his servant,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**

Song of Praise

Sing With All Your Heart

Jacob Sooter, Jess Ray, Matt Maher, Taylor Leonhardt (2023)



1. Let the weak look to their bro-ther, lean on a shoul-der when they
 2. Let the strong car-ry their neigh-bor, bind up the wound-ed and wash



___ can't stand; no shame in need-ing ___ one a - no-ther,
 ___ their feet. ___ O - pen your door, ___ and set your ta - ble;



reach out and take hold of a heal-ing hand. Re-joice, a - gain I ___
 the place of ho - nor for the least of these.



___ say re-joice; sin - ners, stran-gers, we're wel-comed in! ___ Lift



up your hands, life up your voice; sing ___ with all your heart, He



calls you friend. Sing ___ with all your heart, He calls you friend.

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.

Sovereign God:

We acknowledge that we are ruled
by our selfish desires.

We seek our own interests
rather than living for You and others.

Today, we repent.

We humble ourselves before You.

Holy Spirit, claim our hearts,
engage our wills, and conform our desires to Yours.

Help us to live each day in a way
that pleases You and counts for eternity.

We pray in Your name and for Your glory...

*** time for silent confession ***

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.

Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:5b-8

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.

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).



Abide with Me

Abide with me; falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers, fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

Thou on my head in early youth did smile,
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile
Thou hast not left me, though I oft left Thee,
On to the close, Lord, abide with me.

I need Thy presence, every passing hour.
What but Thy grace, can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross, before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

Henry Lyte (1847) Justin Smith (2007)

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 4 (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 Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple to the Lord, the God of Israel, ² they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers' houses and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we worship your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria who brought us here." ³ But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of fathers' houses in Israel said to them, "You have nothing to do with us in building a house to our God; but we alone will build to the Lord, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us."

⁴ Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build ⁵ and

bribed counselors against them to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

⁶ And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

⁷ In the days of Artaxerxes, Bishlam and Mithredath and Tabeel and the rest of their associates wrote to Artaxerxes king of Persia. The letter was written in Aramaic and translated. ⁸ Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king as follows: ⁹ Rehum the commander, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their associates, the judges, the governors, the officials, the Persians, the men of Erech, the

Babylonians, the men of Susa, that is, the Elamites,¹⁰ and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnappar deported and settled in the cities of Samaria and in the rest of the province Beyond the River.¹¹ (This is a copy of the letter that they sent.) “To Artaxerxes the king: Your servants, the men of the province Beyond the River, send greeting. And now¹² be it known to the king that the Jews who came up from you to us have gone to Jerusalem. They are rebuilding that rebellious and wicked city. They are finishing the walls and repairing the foundations.¹³ Now be it known to the king that if this city is rebuilt and the walls finished, they will not pay tribute, custom, or toll, and the royal revenue will be impaired.¹⁴ Now because we eat the salt of the palace and it is not fitting for us to witness the king's dishonor, therefore we send and inform the king,¹⁵ in order that search may be made in the book of the records of your fathers. You will find in the book of the records and learn that this city is a rebellious city, hurtful to kings and provinces, and that sedition was stirred up in it from of old. That was why this city was laid waste.¹⁶ We make known to the king that if this city is rebuilt and its walls finished, you will then have no possession in the province Beyond the River.”

¹⁷ The king sent an answer: “To Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe and the rest of their associates who live in Samaria and in the rest of the province Beyond the River, greeting. And now¹⁸ the letter that you sent to us has been plainly read before me.¹⁹ And I made a decree, and search has been made, and it has been found that this city from of old has risen against kings, and that rebellion and sedition have been made in it.²⁰ And mighty kings have been over Jerusalem, who ruled over the whole province Beyond the River, to whom tribute, custom, and toll were paid.²¹ Therefore make a decree that these men be made to cease, and that this city be not rebuilt, until a decree is made by me.²² And take care not to be slack in this matter. Why should damage grow to the hurt of the king?”

²³ Then, when the copy of King Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum and Shimshai the scribe and their associates, they went in haste to the Jews at Jerusalem and by force and power made them cease.²⁴ Then the work on the house of God that is in Jerusalem stopped, and it ceased until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Sermon

Ross Durham is pastor at Grace Hill Church (ARP) in Hillsborough, NC. 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 Haggai 1.

Notes:

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him, all creatures here below!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! 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. (*...continued on next page*)

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.

Come, You Disconsolate

Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish,
Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.
Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish;
Earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot heal.

Joy of the desolate, light of the straying,
Hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure!
Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying,
"Earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot cure."

Here see the bread of life, see waters flowing
Forth from the throne of God, pure from above.
Come to the feast of love; come, ever knowing
Earth has no sorrow but heav'n can remove.

Thomas Moore (1824), Thomas Hastings (1831), Karl Digerness (2015)

Sending Song**Your Labor Is Not in Vain**

Your labor is not in vain,
though the ground underneath you is cursed and stained;
Your planting and reaping are never the same,
but your labor is not in vain.

Your labor is not unknown,
 though the rocks they cry out and the sea it may groan.
 The place of your toil may not seem like a home
 but your labor is not unknown.

*For I am with you, I am with you.
 I am with you, I am with you
 For I have called you, called you by name,
 Your labor is not in vain.*

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
 the fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth,
 for all that is old will at last be made new:
 the vineyards you plant will bear fruit.

The houses you labored to build
 will finally with laughter and joy be filled.
 The serpent that hurts and destroys shall be killed
 and all that is broken be healed.

Wendell Kimbrough, Paul Zach, Isaac Wardell (2017)

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: | \$12,284 | Gifts can be placed in the offering |
| Required to date: | \$594,479 | plate on Sundays or mailed to: |
| (Jan. 1 - Sep. 15) | | Hope Chapel |
| Given to date: | \$595,191 | 908 N. Josephine Boyd St |
| Over/[Under] | \$712 | 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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