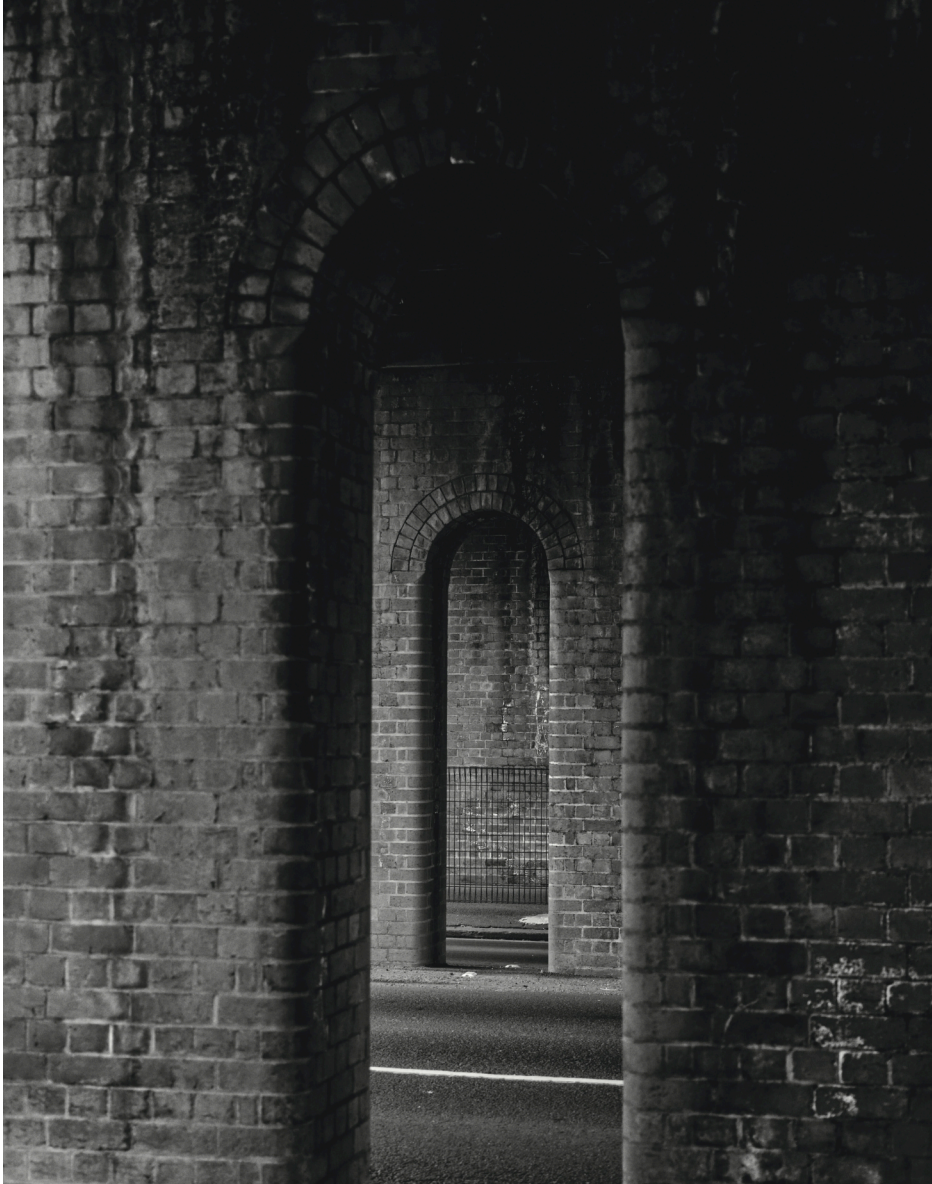


WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

September 8, 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.

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

Psalm 147:1-6, 10-11

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 mighty 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: Praise the Lord!

**All: For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant and a song of praise is fitting.**

Leader: The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

**All: He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.
Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.**

Leader: The Lord lifts up the humble;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

**All: His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,
but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

Song of Praise

Immortal Invisible

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

*You are holy, You are mighty, You are evermore the same,
You are faithful, never-failing, all the glory to Your name!*

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
 In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
 We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
 And wither and perish, but naught changeth Thee.

Walter Chalmers Smith, Welsh melody (1867), ch. M. Van Patter

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.

Merciful God,
 we have sinned.
 We have sinned in what we have thought and said,
 in the wrong we have done
 and the good we have not done.

We have sinned in ignorance;
 We have sinned in weakness;
 We have sinned through our own deliberate fault.
 We repent and turn to You.

Forgive us, for the sake of our merciful Savior Jesus,
 and renew our lives to the glory of Your name:
 the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*** 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.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

I Peter 2:24

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.

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)

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 3:1-7 (NASB 2020)

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 seventh month came, and the sons of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered together as one person to Jerusalem. ² Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brothers the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brothers, rose up and built the altar of the God of Israel to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Law of Moses, the man of God. ³ So they set up the altar on its foundation, because they were terrified of the peoples of the lands; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord, burnt offerings morning and evening. ⁴ They also celebrated the Feast of Booths, as it is written, and offered the prescribed number of burnt offerings daily, according to the ordinance, as each day required; ⁵ and afterward there was a continual burnt offering, also for the new moons and for all the appointed festivals of the Lord that were consecrated, and from everyone who offered a voluntary offering to the Lord. ⁶ From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the Lord, but the foundation of the temple of the Lord had not been laid. ⁷ Then they gave money to the masons and carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians to bring cedar wood from Lebanon to the sea at Joppa, according to the permission they had from Cyrus king of Persia.

Sermon

“Remembering Worship”

Jim Osborne is a retired physician and a founding member/elder of Hope Chapel. Since 2008, he has been a regular part of the teaching team at Hope. 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 3:8-13.

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).



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)

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.

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above I have a strong, a perfect plea,
 A great High Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.
 My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart;
 I know that while in heaven He stands no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
 Upward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my sin.
 Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
 For God, the Just, is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me,

Behold Him there the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
 The great unchangeable I Am, the King of glory and of grace.
 One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased with His blood;
 My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God!

Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863), Vikki Cook (1997)

Sending Song

We Will Feast

*We will feast in the house of Zion,
 We will sing with our hearts restored.
 "He has done great things"; we will sing together.
 We will feast and weep no more.*

We will not be burned by the fire, He is the LORD our God.
 We are not consumed, by the flood;
 Upheld, protected, gathered up.

In the dark of night, before the dawn, my soul, be not afraid.
 For the promised morning, oh how long?
 Oh God of Jacob, be my strength.

Every vow we've broken and betrayed; You are the Faithful one.
 And from the garden to the grave
 Bind us together, bring shalom.

Sandra McCracken, Joshua Moore (2015)

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:	\$18,879	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$562,345	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Sep. 1)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$569,995	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	\$7,650	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/community

Visiting with us?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/i'm-new

