

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

September 12, 2021



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

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

Why a “call to worship”? Worship is something we offer to God every day of our lives in everything that we do. If we are worshipping as we come in the church doors, why do we have a Call to Worship? Implied in the phrase is the word “corporate.” When we hear the Call to (corporate) Worship, we are called by God as one community to worship Him together.

What is unique about Sunday is not that we worship on that day and not others; it is that we worship together.

Leader: As a deer pants for flowing streams,
so pants my soul for you, O God.

All: **My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I come and appear before God?**

Leader: My tears have been my food day and night,
while they say to me all the day long, “Where is your God?”

All: **Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation and my God.**

Psalm 42:1-3, 5-6

Arise and Sing

There is a King, a risen King;
Radiant, He reigns in majesty.
He conquered death, it has no sting,
And at His word we will rise and sing.

*Arise, we will arise and sing!
Arise, we will arise and sing!*

Come awake, rise from the ground,
Open your eyes and see what you have found.
Come awake, oh you who sleep,
Search no more, for He is all we need.

Beautifu, beautiful, there is not one,
there is not one who is so beautiful!

Brenton Brown, Jason Ingram, and Marty Sampson (2012)

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.

Most holy and merciful Father,
 we acknowledge and confess before you
 our sinful nature, prone to evil and slow in good.
 We also confess to you the outworking of this sinful nature
 in all our shortcomings and offenses.
 You alone know how often we have sinned:
 wandering from your ways;
 wasting your gifts;
 forgetting Your love.

But, O Lord, our sins do not have the last word!
 For the sake of your dear Son,
 have mercy upon us and forgive us our sins.
 Teach us to hate our errors.
 Cleanse us from our secret faults
 and grant that we would live in your light and walk in your ways.
 We pray this in Christ's name...

*** time for silent confession ***

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).

Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.

Ephesians 2:12-14

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."

SONGS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain, that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.

George Matheson (1882), Christopher Miner (1997)

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).



And Can It Be

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain; for me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

*Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*

He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace!
Emptied Himself of all but love and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me!
Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

No condemnation now I dread, Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine.
Bold I approach the eternal throne
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Charles Wesley (1738), Thomas Campbell (1825)

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.

Genesis 15:1-21

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ² But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” ⁴ And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

⁷ And he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.” ⁸ But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” ⁹ He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰ And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³ Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, ¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”

SERMON

“THE BLOOD PATH: ABRAHAM’S JOURNEY CONTINUES”

Todd Jones is Hope Chapel’s founding/lead pastor.

This sermon is part of a series based in the Old Testament called “Fathers of the Faith”, focusing on some of the key figures in the Biblical narrative. 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.

Grace Upon Grace

In every station new trials and troubles
Call for more grace than I can afford.
Where can I go but to my dear Savior,
And mercy that pours from boundless stores?

*Grace upon grace, every sin repaired,
Every void restored, you will find him there.
In every turning He will prepare you with grace upon grace.*

He made a way for the fallen to rise perfect in glory and sacrifice.
In sweet communion my need He supplies
He saves and keeps and guards my life.

To thee I run now with great expectation
To honor you with trust like a child.
My hopes and desires seek a new destination
And all that You ask Your grace will provide.

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 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.

SENDING SONG

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand and cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains, shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns and scatters night away.

*I am bound (I am bound), I am bound (I am bound),
I am bound for promised land.*

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.

When shall I reach that happy place and be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face and in His bosom rest?

Samuel Stennett (1787), Christopher Miner (1997)

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: The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

All: Amen.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Number 6:24-26

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Given Last Week:	\$9,796	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to Date	\$382,896	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Sept. 12)		Hope Chapel
Given to Date	\$354,796	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	[\$28,100]	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/i'm-new

