

# **WORSHIP GUIDE**

**Hope Chapel Greensboro**

**September 17, 2023**



**Ordinary Time**

## Preparation

*O God, by your power may we, with all the saints,  
comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth  
of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,  
so that we may be filled with your fullness. Amen.*

—based on Ephesians 3:18-19

## Gathering Song

*We sing as a way of engaging our voices, bodies, 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.*

### All Ye Refugees

I am the One, the earth is my handmade work,  
The skies I laid them wide, beauty unfurled.  
Horizon to horizon,  
Creation to creation sings you home...

*Welcome home, gather round,  
All ye refugees, come in.  
Welcome home, gather round,  
All ye refugees, come in.*

Oh refugee, I did not cast you out,  
In death and broken ground, Salvation springs.  
My body and my blood,  
The healing that you need, come and receive...

Watch and wait and see, what is yet to be,  
Watch and wait and see, for the morning!

Go out in joy and join the great procession,  
The mountains and the heav'ns all will rejoice.  
Horizon to horizon,  
Creation to creation, with one voice...

Chelsey Scott, Kellie Haddock, and Flo Paris (2014)

## 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

from Matthew 11 and Psalm 100

*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: Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,  
and I will give you rest.

**All: Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.  
For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.**

Leader: Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.

**All: Know that the LORD is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

## He Set Me Free

*He set me free, He set me free,  
My Jesus came and rescued me.  
He set me free, gave me eyes to see,  
No bonds and chains shackle me.*

Through life's trials, when you lose your way  
Look to him for strength today;  
He'll do the same for you as he did for me,  
Lay down your burdens at his feet.

On a hill so long ago  
He paid a debt He did not owe;  
And with his blood He covered me,  
Took away my sins, He set me free!

*Thad Cockrell (2009)*

## 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.*

God of Wisdom and Grace:

We confess to you

Our tendency to say that we know you  
but fail to obey your commands.<sup>1</sup>

We love the idea of shalom,  
but we often fail to put it into practice.

We are often wise in our own sight.<sup>2</sup>

Forgive our sin and self-righteousness.

Teach us wisdom in the inmost place.

Cleanse us with hyssop, and we will be clean;  
wash us, and we will be whiter than snow.<sup>3</sup>

Renew us by your grace,  
that we might be cultivators of shalom in the world.  
In the name of our merciful Savior Jesus,  
in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom...<sup>4</sup>

*\*\* time for silent confession \*\**

*References:* <sup>1</sup> John 2:4; <sup>2</sup> Romans 12:16; <sup>3</sup> Psalm 51:6-7; <sup>4</sup> Colossians 2:3

## Words of Forgiveness

1 Peter 2:24

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.

## 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

*Responding to grace: After being reminded of God's lavish grace and love toward us, we respond by celebrating with singing.*

### 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)*

## 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](http://hopechapelgreensboro.org/give), or give through Venmo to @HopeChapel (note: contributions made through Venmo are not receipted for tax purposes).*



### Whole Heart

When I am broken, when I'm afraid,  
 When I don't have it together, when I lose my way,  
 There is a place where I can go  
 Where I am safe, where I am home...

*And I can trust You with my whole heart,  
 Trust You with my whole heart, my whole heart.  
 Yes I can trust You with my whole heart,  
 Trust You with my whole heart, with my whole heart.*

You know my story, You've always been  
 My true companion, my Faithful friend;  
 There's not a moment of my life  
 I live without You by my side...

Let every anxious part of me, and every fearful thought in me,  
 Be set free, set free in Your peace, Your peace.  
 Let every shackle on me break, and every shadow fall away  
 I'm set free set free in Your peace, Your peace.

*Taylor Leonhardt, Leslie Jordan, Jess Ray (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 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.

## Proverbs 17:27 - 18:7

<sup>17:27</sup> Whoever restrains his words has knowledge,  
and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.

<sup>28</sup> Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise;  
when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.

<sup>18:1</sup> Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire;  
he breaks out against all sound judgment.

<sup>2</sup> A fool takes no pleasure in understanding,  
but only in expressing his opinion.

<sup>3</sup> When wickedness comes, contempt comes also,  
and with dishonor comes disgrace.

<sup>4</sup> The words of a man's mouth are deep waters;  
the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.

<sup>5</sup> It is not good to be partial to the wicked  
or to deprive the righteous of justice.

<sup>6</sup> A fool's lips walk into a fight,  
and his mouth invites a beating.

<sup>7</sup> A fool's mouth is his ruin,  
and his lips are a snare to his soul.

## James 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup> For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. <sup>3</sup> If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. <sup>4</sup> Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup> So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>

For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup> but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

<sup>11</sup> Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water?

<sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

## Sermon

### “Wisdom with Our Words”

*Andy Koesters serves as Pastor to Churches and Families with Families Alive (familiesalive.org). He and his family worship at Hope Chapel.*

*This sermon is part of a series called “Proverbs: Learning Skill in Salom Cultivation”. 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: Is the Father with us?

**All: He is.**

Minister: Is the Christ among us?

**All: He is.**

Minister: Is the Spirit here?

**All: He is.**

Minister: This is our God:

**All: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

Minister: We are His people:

**All: We are redeemed by His grace.**

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of Faith

**All: Christ has died! Christ is risen  
Christ will come again!**

Minister: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us. Hallelujah!

**All: Hallelujah!**

\*\* institution of elements \*\*

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Minister: Let us pray together:

**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.**

### **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.

### **My Truest Praise**

My heart you wring and press and flame,  
I know this grief, You know my ways;  
My knees I drop, my head you raise.  
Repentance be my truest praise,  
Repentance be my truest praise.

*More than a word heard clearly,  
More than a truth felt deeply,  
More than a song sung sweetly,  
As a crowd sings with me.  
Repentance be my truest praise,  
Repentance be my truest praise.*

Showmanship and smiling face,  
Costume that I wear for praise;  
Would you cover my disgrace?  
Repentance be my truest praise,  
Repentance be my truest praise.

*Jon Guerra (2019)*

### **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)*

## Community Life

### Blessing & Sending

Minister: May the living God, who alone can renew,  
draw near to you, strengthen you, and give you hope,  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be among you, and remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Financial Update

|                    |            |                                     |
|--------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Given Last Week:   | \$8,609    | Gifts can be placed in the offering |
| Required to date:  | \$526,140  | plate on Sundays or mailed to:      |
| (Jan. 1 - Sep. 10) |            | Hope Chapel                         |
| Given to date:     | \$507,836  | 908 N. Josephine Boyd St            |
| Over/[Under]       | [\$18,303] | Greensboro, NC 27408                |

Online giving is available on our website: [www.hopechapelgreensboro.org/give](http://www.hopechapelgreensboro.org/give)  
We also accept donations via Venmo: @HopeChapel.

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Want to connect with others?  
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Visiting with us?  
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