

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

December 29, 2024



The First Sunday of Christmas

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

Reflection

To all who are weary and need rest;

To all who mourn and long for comfort;

To all who feel worthless and wonder if God cares;

To all who fail and desire strength;

To all who sin and need a Savior —

This church opens wide her doors with a welcome from Jesus Christ,

the ally of his enemies, the defender of the guilty,

the justifier of the inexcusable, the friend of sinners.

Welcome!

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.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her king;
 Let every heart prepare Him room
 And heaven and nature sing,
 And heaven and nature sing,
 And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the savior reigns,
 Let men their songs employ!
 While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains,
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

Repeat the sounding joy, The sounding joy, the sounding joy!

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
 Nor thorns infest the ground;
 He comes to make his blessings flow
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
 Far as, far as the curse is found!

He rules the world with truth and grace
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders, wonders of His love.

Isaac Watts (1719), George Frederick Handel (1742), arr. Lowell Mason (1848)

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 89:1-2, 8

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: I will sing of the Lord's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through all generations.
I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

All: Who is like you, Lord God Almighty?
You, Lord, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Song of Praise

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

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.

Merciful God:

We confess that we have sinned against You
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
So that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
for the glory of your holy name.
Through Christ, our Lord...

*** time for silent confession ***

Words of Forgiveness

Philippians 2:5b-8

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 (being fully God) 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.

Passing of the Peace

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.

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).



Goodness of God

I love You Lord, oh Your mercy never fails me;
All my days I've been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God.

*All my life You have been faithful,
All my life You have been so, so good!
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God.*

I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire.
In darkest nights, You are close like no other.
I've known You as a father, I've known You as a friend;
I have lived in the goodness of God.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You everything
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

Jenn Johnson, Jason Ingram, Ben Fielding, Ed Cash, Brian Johnson (2018)

Scripture Reading

I Peter 1:22-2:3 & Hebrews 4:12-13 (NASB)

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 Peter 1:22–2:3

²² Since you have purified your souls in obedience to the truth for a sincere love of the brothers and sisters, fervently love one another from the heart, ²³ for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable, but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For,

“All flesh is like grass,
 And all its glory is like the flower of grass.
 The grass withers,
 And the flower falls off,
²⁵ But the word of the Lord endures forever.”

And this is the word which was preached to you.

²¹ Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, ² and like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, ³ if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

Hebrews 4:12–13

¹² For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we must answer.

Sermon

Jim Osborne is a retired physician and founding member/elder of Hope Chapel. Since 2008, he has been a regular part of the teaching team at Hope. For past sermons, please visit our website.

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.

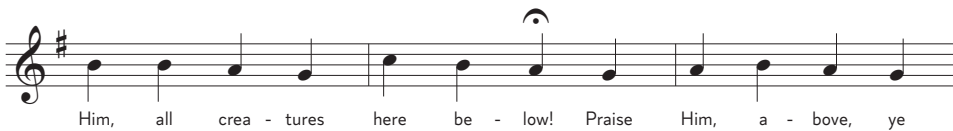
**All: O Jesus Christ, Savior of the world,
We thank You that in this holy meal,
You renew Your promises within us,
empower us by Your Spirit to witness and to serve,
and send us out as Your disciples. Amen.**

Doxology

Thomas Ken (1674), Louis Bourgeois (1551)



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! Praise



Him, all creatures here below! Praise Him, above, ye



heav'n - ly host! Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.



A - men.

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.

Speak, O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word
 Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness.
 That the light of Christ might be seen today
 in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
 Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility.
 Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.
 Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
 Your majestic love and authority.
 Words of pow'r that can never fail, let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds,
 help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
 Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity
 And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
 and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
 Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

Stuart Townend, Keith Getty (2005)

Sending Song**All Glory Be To Christ**

Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive,
 Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive.
 To you who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life?
 A mist that vanishes at dawn – all glory be to Christ!

*All glory be to Christ our King, all glory be to Christ!
 His rule and reign will ever sing, all glory be to Christ!*

His will be done, His kingdom come on earth as is above;
 Who is Himself our daily bread, praise Him the Lord of love.
 Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price,
 We'll take a cup of kindness yet, all glory be to Christ.

When on the day the great I AM, the faithful and the true,
 The Lamb who was for sinners slain is making all things new.
 Behold our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light;
 And we shall ere his people be, all glory be to Christ!

Dustin Kensrue (2012), Scottish folk melody

Community Life

Blessing & Sending

Minister: Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, shine upon you,
 Scatter the darkness from before your path,
 And make you ready to meet Him when He comes in glory;
 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:	\$29,930	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$803,250	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Dec. 15)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$864,900	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	\$61,550	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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