

# WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

January 5, 2024



**The Second 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.*

### 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

### Steadfast

I will build my house, whether storm or drought,  
On the rock that does not move.  
I will set my hope in your love, O Lord  
And your faithfulness will prove You are steadfast, steadfast.

By the word you spoke, all the starry host  
Are called out by name each night.  
In your watchful care I will rest secure  
As you lead us with your light. You are steadfast, steadfast.

I will not trust in the strength of kings  
On your promise I will stand.  
I will shout for joy, I will raise my voice,  
"Hallelujah to the Lamb!" You are steadfast, steadfast.

In the moment of emptiness, all was fulfilled.  
In the hour of darkness, Your light was revealed.  
In the presence of death, Your life was affirmed.  
In the absence of holiness, You are still God.

*Sandra McCracken, Leslie Jordan, Josh Silverberg (2016)*

## 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.*

Almighty God, who knows all and sees all:  
 We confess our constant striving  
   for righteousness, acceptance, and approval  
   from sources that leave us empty.  
 We ask your forgiveness,  
   and we renew our hope in Christ alone,  
   who offered Himself  
   to appease your wrath and forgive our sins.  
 We find all comfort in His wounds,  
   and we have no need to seek or invent any other means  
   to reconcile ourselves with God,  
   than this one and only sacrifice  
   which renders believers justified forever...

*\*\* 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 (being fully God) also has set us free from the power of sin by his death and resurrection.

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:5-7

## 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.*

### Never See the End

Where can we run, where can we hide, that You will not find us?  
 Deepest of depths, highest of heights, Your love, it chases us.  
 No matter where we've been, no matter what we've done,  
 We can't escape Your love.

*We will never see the end,  
 We will never see the end of Your goodness.*

Though we pass through the fire,  
 Or we pass through the flood, You will be with us.  
 Though we walk through the valley,  
 The darkest of night Your love will be our light.  
 And when we are in plenty or we are in want,  
 You will always be enough.

In our darkest hours, on our hardest days,  
 We do not have to be afraid.  
 For You will never leave, You will not forsake,  
 The promises that You have made.

*Jess Ray (2019)*

## 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).*



**Yet Not I, But Through Christ In Me**

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer,  
there is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom;  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,  
For my life is wholly bound to His.  
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken,  
for by my side, the Savior He will stay.  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,  
For in my need, His power is displayed.  
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me,  
Through the deepest valley He will lead.  
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;  
the future sure, the price it has been paid  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon  
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.  
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated;  
Jesus now and ever is my plea.  
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,  
For He has said that He will bring me home;  
And day by day I know He will renew me  
Until I stand with joy before the throne.  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus:  
All the glory evermore to Him!  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

*Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren (2018)*

## 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

**John 1:14-18** (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.*

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

## Sermon

*Chris Horne is Campus Minister with Reformed University Fellowship at Wake Forest University. 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!

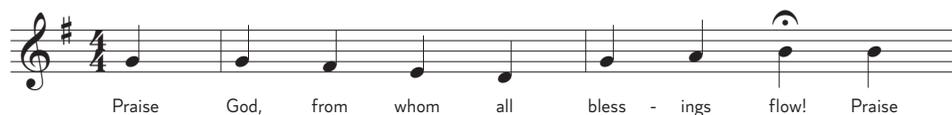
***Preparation for the Table******The Feast******Prayer after Communion***

Minister: Let us pray.

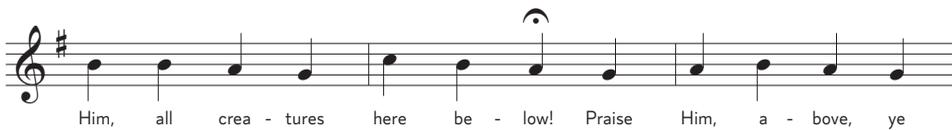
**All: O Jesus Christ, Savior of the world,  
We thank You that in this holy meal,  
You renew Your promises within us,  
empower us by Your Spirit to witness and to serve,  
and send us out as Your disciples. Amen.**

### 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.

### **There Is Only One Name**

Who is near to the broken-hearted?  
Who is here with us in our sorrow?  
Knows our grief and bore our suffering

Who comes running when we call out?  
Who shows mercy when we fall down?  
Lifts us up in our weakness

*There is only one name  
There is only one name  
Who is worthy of all praise*

Who will not hold our sins against us  
Who has wounds pouring out forgiveness  
Who alone has power to save

Who at last will bring death to its end  
Who will no longer let the dark win  
Who will raise us from the grave

*Matt Armstrong, Jessica Ray Langdon, Abby Siler (2024)*

## **Sending Song**

### **None But Thee**

Jesus, mighty King of Heaven, Thou, O Lord, our guide shall be.  
Thy commission we rely on, we will follow none but Thee.

As an emblem of Thy passion and Thy victory o'er the grave,  
We who know Thy great salvation are baptized now beneath the wave.

*Fall on us, O Holy Lord,  
 Our hearts, Oh King, are only Yours!  
 By your grace we live, and we will follow none but Thee,  
 Will follow none but Thee!*

Fearless of the worlds despising, we the ancient path pursue.  
 Buried with our Lord and rising to a life divinely new.

Sin shall never be our master, captives of Thy blessed grace.  
 Offering our lives hereafter, we resolve to seek Thy face.

*John Fellows (d. 1783), Eric Marshall (2011)*

## Community Life

### Blessing & Sending

2 Corinthians 13:14

Minister: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
 and the love of God,  
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: Amen.**

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Financial Update

Given Last Week:	\$53,693	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$835,484	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Dec. 29)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$924,428	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	\$88,944	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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