

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

June 1, 2025



The Seventh Sunday of Eastertide

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

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.*

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 145:1-9

The Call to Worship and the Benediction are important traditions in the history of Christian worship. As the start and close of the service, they make an important point to us about worship: God gets the first and last word.

We understand the Call to Worship as God's call to us. If we are ever to have a relationship with God, it is God who must first initiate to us. God alone can invite us and draw us in.

Likewise, in the Benediction, it is only by God's blessing (which is what a "benediction" is) and power are we able to go out into the world, to surrender our lives in daily worship, and to live out God's mission.

Leader: I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.

**All: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.**

Leader: One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.

On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

**All: They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.**

**They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.**

Leader: The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**All: The Lord is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.**

Songs of Praise

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 weighty 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).

Oh! Great Is Our God!

Oh! Great is our God! So we should worship greatly!
 No song is too loud, no orchestra too stately
 To hail the majesty of our King!
 So lift your voices loud as we sing.

Oh! Great is our God! So let our songs be endless!
 So awesome His ways, how could we comprehend them?
 So we will make it known to our kids
 And we will sing about the gracious gifts you give.

*We will sing Your praise and pour forth your fame,
 We will bless your name!
 Let every one give thanks, because our God is great!*

Oh! Great is our God! And we cannot contain it!
 We sing from our souls, affected by His greatness.
 His mercy covers all that He's made,
 Showing His glory and His grace.

Brian Eichelberger (2009)

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.

Gracious and forgiving God, hear our confession:
We acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins:
 those known to us that burden our hearts,
 and those unknown to us, but seen by You.
We know that before You nothing remains hidden,
 and in You everything is revealed.

Gracious and forgiving God, hear our request:
 free us from the slavery of sin;
 liberate us from the bondage of guilt;
 work in us that which is pleasing in Your sight;
 for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord...

*** pause 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).

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.
I cried to him with my mouth,
and high praise was on my tongue.
If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.
But truly God has listened;
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
Blessed be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me!

Psalm 66:16-20

Passing of the Peace

Why is the Greeting put after our Words of Forgiveness? The book of 2 Corinthians reminds us that part of God’s goal in reconciling Himself to us was that we might likewise be reconciled with one another. But for healing and wholeness to take place in our relationships (which is what the Greeting enacts as we acknowledge one another in the peace of our Lord), we must first know the healing of our relationship with God through Christ. God’s pardon of us sets us free to love and forgive one another without reservation or qualification!

New Members Join

Baptism

Remember your own baptism. As we participate in today's baptism with our vows and affirmation, allow it to be a time of recommitment to the Lord.

If you were baptized as an infant, think about how your baptism was a picture of your utter helplessness before God—how He found you, loved you, and clothed you with righteousness, even before you were able to choose and respond to Him.

If you were baptized as an older child or adult, think about how your baptism was a conscious public profession before people that you would follow Christ. Allow God's covenant to be renewed in your life today.

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. (cont. on next page)

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).



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.

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long!*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my Savior am happy and blessed,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Fanny Crosby, Phoebe Knapp (1873)

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.

2 Timothy 4:9-22 (ESV)

p.937 IN CHURCH BIBLE

⁹Do your best to come to me soon. ¹⁰For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. ¹²Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. ¹³When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. ¹⁴Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. ¹⁵Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

¹⁹Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. ²⁰Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus. ²¹Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers.

²²The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

Sermon

Erik Rome is preaching as a candidate for our Pastor of Community & Mission position. This sermon is part of a series on the book of 2 Timothy where we are exploring God's call and direction for church leaders. 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 with your spirit.

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to the Lord!

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Minister: It is right and good and a joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks unto You,
O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.
Therefore, we join 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: Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these Your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
that we may be one with all who share this feast.

**All: As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world,
for by Him, with Him, and in Him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is Yours,
Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

Minister: Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed,
once for all upon the Cross.

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Preparation for the Table

The Feast

Prayer after Communion

Minister: Let us pray.

**All: Heavenly Father, we thank You for feeding us
with the spiritual food of the most precious
Body and Blood of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the body of Your Son,
and heirs of Your eternal Kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out to do the work
You have given us to do, to love and serve You
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to You, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. 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.

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.

Satisfied By Grace

Once more, like children, we are come to banquet with our God;
May each one feel himself at home, and feast upon Your love.

While we receive the bread and wine, as emblems of Your death,
Lord, raise each soul above the sign, to feast on Christ by faith.

*We've come with starving hearts and thirsty souls, satisfied by grace,
Jesus, You've made us whole.
And as we take and eat body and blood: new! You're making us new
By Your steadfast love, Your steadfast love.*

We would not come as strangers, Lord, who only see the sign,
 But, as the objects of Christ’s love, would feel were one in Him.

*We’ve come with starving hearts and thirsty souls, satisfied by grace,
 Jesus, You’ve made us whole.
 And as we take and eat body and blood: new! You’re making us new
 By Your steadfast love, Your steadfast love.*

Like free-born sons, we would be free from every legal chain.
 Praise Him who brought our liberty, and ever with Him reign.

William Gadsby (b. 1773), Bobby Kier, Justin Ruddy (2011)

Sending Song

Faithful One

Faithful One, we lift our praise
 toward Your light we turn our gaze.
 The weight of sin is bearing down,
 we need Your grace to save us now.

*Faithful One, Faithful One,
 You never fail, You never fail, You never fail to raise the sun,
 Faithful One, Faithful One,
 You never fail, You never fail, not my will, but Yours be done.*

God of Grace I long to live
 by the peace You freely give.
 When lesser things seduce my eyes,
 Lord, break my heart and make me wise.

Ancient love has brought to bear
 kinship with the royal heir.
 You broke the bread, You poured the wine,
 now I am Yours and You are mine.

Randall Goodgame (2014)

Community Life

Blessing & Sending

Romans 15:13

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: May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Financial Update

Given Last Week:	\$5,483	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$384,888	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - May 25)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$416,227	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	\$31,339	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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