

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

August 24, 2025



Ordinary Time

The Psalms Project

At the beginning of the year, we put out a call to artists in our church to contribute to an ambitious project; to write original songs and create visual artwork to accompany each of the 15 Psalms that would be part of our summer sermon series. Our creative community responded enthusiastically and has been hard at work since then crafting art that will come alongside the teaching and worship to help our congregation engage the Psalms more deeply!

Each Sunday you will hear (and most weeks be invited to sing!) a new song and will see a reproduction of the visual art created for the Psalm. The original art piece will be displayed in the sanctuary near the stage. In September we are planning a night to play all of the songs together and will set up a gallery with all 15 art pieces.

Artist Statements

Visual Art:

Barrie Johnson / Psalm 2 / photograph

I was drawn to the image of broken pottery from verse 9 of this chapter. The reality that broken pottery can never be reassembled emphasizes the devastation of any punishment from the Lord. However, the overlay of the cross-shaped shadow serves as an intentional reminder that Christ's loving sacrifice overshadows any punishment. I shot this photograph on 120 film using a medium-format camera which I think captures light better than other formats.

Lyrics:

Alice Hodgkins

The central idea of Psalm 2 is that though Christ, through his Father, is the uncontested king of all, human nations are often led by lesser kings trying consciously (and uselessly) to usurp his power. The end of this psalm is actually addressed directly to those rulers, sunk in their foolishness. Well, Flannery O'Connor wrote that "to the hard of hearing you shout, and for the almost-blind you draw large and startling figures," so, with those nearly-deaf earthly kings in mind as I wrote, it felt appropriate to lean loudly into the holy grit and aggressive certainty of the psalm's message: refuge under the Lord's wing is absolutely available, but only for those willing to fully acknowledge Christ's ultimate and complete reign over all the earth.

Music:

Robin Conine

Psalm 2 makes sweeping statements about God's authority and compels the kings of earth to imitate his wisdom and serve him with reverence. I enjoyed painting Alice's text musically with bluesy drama, big contrasts, and unexpected textures.

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 95:1-7

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: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;

let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

**All: For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.**

Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship,

let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

**All: for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.**

Songs of Praise

O Worship the King!

O worship the King, all glorious above,
O gratefully sing His wonderful love.
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light and canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

O measureless might, ineffable love,
While angels delight to worship above.
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end;
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

All hail to the King! In splendor enthroned,
Glad praises we bring, Thy wonders make known;
Returning victorious, great conqueror of sin,
King Jesus, all glorious, our vict'ry will win!

R. Grant (1833), J.M. Kraus (1756), 4th Verse: David Guthrie (1991)

To God All Praise and Glory

Sing praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation.
The God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
He fills my soul with sweet relief and make my faithless murmur cease.

To God all praise and glory! (x4)

The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing;
An ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing.
And in my Father's tender care His love eclipses my despair.

When life is hard and days are long, I'll sing aloud His praises.
That all may hear the grateful song my joyful spirit raises.
My heart revived, my soul restored, my heart rejoices in the Lord.

Let all who claim Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory.
 Let all who lean on the Spirit's strength declare the wondrous story!
 Cast every idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord and Christ alone.

*Johann Jakob Schutz (1675), trans. Frances Elizabeth
 Cox (1864), Music & Add. lyrics Brian Eichelberger (2017)*

Confession of Sin

Confession of sin happens within the context of relationship, both with God and each other. We confess together, in community, before a gracious God who has given us himself. Confession both acknowledges our need for mercy and celebrates its abundance in Christ.

Father in heaven, we confess to You this morning
 that You have sent Your Son to establish Your kingdom here on earth.
 And we need Your kingdom.
 Our city needs Your kingdom.
 Our world needs Your kingdom.
 Yet we resist Your rule at every point.
 We are constantly trying to limit Your kingship.

We confess trying to take power from You.
 We are so afraid of having You enter into our lives
 because we would lose control.
 We don't trust You with our priorities, our schedules, our money,
 our relationships, our children, our bodies, or our reputations.
 Forgive us for doubting Your goodness.

We confess trying to limit Your power.
 We think that You are a private god, and we try
 to keep You out of our relationships, our workplaces, and our schools.
 We think You are irrelevant to the needs of our city.
 Forgive us for doubting Your competence.

Father, You have said that Your kingdom makes all things new.
 Help us believe it!
 Meet us where we are and enter our lives, our city and our world.
 We ask this not because we deserve it,
 but because Christ has earned it for us on the cross.

*** 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.*

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ.

Ephesians 1:7-9

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

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.

All I Have Is Christ

I once was lost in darkest night, yet thought I knew the way.
The sin that promised joy and life had led me to the grave.
I had no hope that You would own a rebel to Your will
And if You had not loved me first I would refuse You still.

But as I ran my hell-bound race, indifferent to the cost,
You looked upon my helpless state and led me to the cross.
And I beheld God's love displayed, You suffered in my place;
You bore the wrath reserved for me, now all I know is grace.

Hallelujah – all I have is Christ!
Hallelujah – Jesus is my life!

Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone and live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands could never come from me.
O Father, use my ransomed life in any way You choose
And let my song forever be my only boast is You.

Jordan Kauflin (2008)

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.

Psalm 2 (ESV)

- ¹ Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
 - ² The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,
 - ³ "Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us."
 - ⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.
 - ⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
 - ⁶ "As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill."
 - ⁷ I will tell of the decree:
The Lord said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.
 - ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.
 - ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."
 - ¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
 - ¹¹ Serve the Lord with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.
 - ¹² Kiss the Son,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
- Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Sermon

How to Worship God: Celebrating God's Kingship

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 on the book of Psalms, where we learn about how God's "songbook" teaches us to worship. For past sermons, please visit our website.

Notes:

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).*



Psalm 2

Why are you rulers crowded round on thrones of clay
Scheming in loud whispers in rooms so full of smoke?
You're trying to cast off the light and easy yoke
You rage against Life itself, against the Light of day.

The Lord hears you and laughs, righteous from heav'n
That sharp laughter will rain down, your fool faces prone
"I have set my king in my city on my throne."
That is all he deigns to say to the wayward kings of men!

*On God's Zion hill, His Son is the Holy King all complete.
Weep tears of joy before Him, take refuge at the mercy seat.*

To His Son today He says, "I've begotten You
This shinning, spitting world is Your kingdom to rule.
Break those rebels, Your iron sceptre as Your tool
Smash those brittle, muddy thrones to pieces for their coup."

Rulers if you find bitter pow'r in your hands,
Hear that shrill siren's call to usurpers' seats
Throw your whole self instead before your Christ the King
Escape His dire wrath, the death of your lands!

Lyrics: Alice Hodgkins, Music: Robin Conine (2025)

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, singing...**

Hosanna In the Highest

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory!

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest,

and blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Greg LaFollette (2018)

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.**

Sung together:

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Thomas Ken (1674), Louis Bourgeois (1551)

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 a Mountain

There is a mountain only the lame can climb,
There is a table only the hungry find;
Only the beggar will have the currency, when need is all you need.

There is a victory only the conquered gain,
There is a glory that you get when give up your name.
Oh the peace when you finally yield the fight, in surrender rise.

*Come with open hands in need,
come hearts broken, bended knee,
A gift can only be received, received.*

So come to the mountain, He carries the cripple to the feast.
Come to the table, undeserved He has saved you a seat.
Come and eat and drink without money and without a cost,
He has paid it on the cross.

The king bends low to wash our feet, to lift our heads, set captives free,
To lead us home to that wedding feast; we taste it now, at last we'll eat
Of that richest food, oh that well-aged wine.
The shroud will lift, our tears he'll dry,
Come hungry souls, be satisfied both now and forever.

Caroline Cobb (2014)

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

Ephesians 3:20-21

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: Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly
 than all that we ask or think,
 according to the power at work within us,
 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
 throughout all generations, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Financial Update

Given Last Week:	\$22,870	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$604,824	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Aug. 17)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$652,056	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	\$47,232	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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Visiting with us?
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