

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

August 31, 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:

Kait Tromans / Psalm 81 / Printmaking + Mixed Media

“Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it... But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”

As I read this Psalm, I was deeply moved by God's longing to care for His people. Yet, like Israel, we often turn away with stubborn hearts, refusing to listen and chasing after other gods. I was struck by the phrase “open your mouth” as both a command and an image—a mouth opened not in trust, but in a scream of resistance. Despite God's promise to care for us when we open ourselves to Him, we so often resist what is good for us. Written for the Feast of Tabernacles, this Psalm reminds us that if we open our mouths—if we submit ourselves to God—He will care for us and provide for our every need.

Music:

Amanda Strayer / Psalm 81

While reflecting on and studying Psalm 81, I sat with the number and frequency of the feasts and festivals given by God for the Israelites to celebrate. There are a lot of them! I struggled, because I don't really feel like celebrating currently; life seems heavy. Tragedies and injustices seem dragged in front of my eyes and settle in my soul. But God didn't command them to feast and remember His goodness only when the Israelites felt good, they were to gather and rejoice in His goodness even when they were in exile, because despite current circumstances; God is the same. His redemption moves forward even when we don't see it with our own eyes. The beauty of the line “I relieved your shoulder of the burden, your hands were freed from the basket” came into my vision so clearly, and really dwelt with the relief the Israelites must have felt putting down their heavy burdens toiling as slaves. I hope this song is an encouragement to remember the burdens God has freed you from, and to remember His abiding and constant love and work of redemption in your life.

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 147:1-7, 11

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: Praise the Lord!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

**All: The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.**

Leader: He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.

**All: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.
The Lord lifts up the humble;
he casts the wicked to the ground.**

Leader: Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre!

**All: The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

Songs of Praise

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)

All Glory

We enter Your gates with thanksgiving
 And with thanksgiving, we enter Your gates.
 We pour out Your praise in Your presence
 And in Your presence, we pour out Your praise.
 And the song we sing, we sing forevermore...

*All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son,
 All glory to the Spirit, the Spirit of our God!
 As it was in the beginning and will be in the end;
 All glory to Your everlasting name!*

This is the sound of the forgiven
 A song of freedom, O Jesus, on and on Your name resounds.
 We lift up a shout for You are risen,
 And now we are risen, come on and pour His praises out...

And the song we sing, we sing forevermore!
 And the song we sing, we sing for You alone!
 Come on and pour His praises out, come on and sing His praises now!

Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman (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.

Almighty and merciful God:

We have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed too much

The devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against Your holy laws.

We have left undone those things

which we ought to have done;

And we have done those things

which we ought not to have done.

O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Spare those who confess their faults,

and restore those who are penitent,

according to Your promises

declared to the world in Your son.

And grant, O merciful God,

that we may live in Your light

and walk in Your ways,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior...

*** time 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).

Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.

Ephesians 2:12-14

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!

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.

Thank You Jesus for the Blood

I was a wretch, I remember who I was;
I was lost, I was blind, I was running out of time.
Sin separated, the breach was far too wide,
But from the far side of the chasm You held me in Your sight.

So You made a way across the great divide,
Left behind heaven's throne to build it here inside.
And there, at the cross You paid the debt I owed;
Broke my chains, freed my soul, for the first time I had hope.

*Thank You, Jesus, for the blood applied.
Thank You, Jesus, it has washed me white.
Thank You, Jesus, You have saved my life;
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light!*

You took my place, laid inside my tomb of sin;
You were buried for three days, but then You walked right out again.
And now death has no sting and life has no end,
For I have been transformed by the blood of the Lamb!

There is nothing stronger than the wonder-working power
Of the blood, the blood!
That calls us sons and daughters, we are ransomed by our Father
Through the blood, the blood!

Glory to His name, glory to His name!
There to my heart was the blood applied;
Glory to His name!

Charity Gayle, Ryan Kennedy, Steven Musso, David Gentiles, Bryan McCleery (2021)

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 81 (ESV)

P.460 IN CHURCH BIBLE

- ¹Sing aloud to God our strength;
shout for joy to the God of Jacob!
- ²Raise a song; sound the tambourine,
the sweet lyre with the harp.
- ³Blow the trumpet at the new moon,
at the full moon, on our feast day.
- ⁴For it is a statute for Israel,
a rule of the God of Jacob.
- ⁵He made it a decree in Joseph
when he went out over the land of Egypt.
I hear a language I had not known:
- ⁶“I relieved your shoulder of the burden;
your hands were freed from the basket.
- ⁷In distress you called, and I delivered you;
I answered you in the secret place of thunder;
I tested you at the waters of Meribah. *Selah*
- ⁸Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!
- ⁹There shall be no strange god among you;
you shall not bow down to a foreign god.
- ¹⁰I am the Lord your God,
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.
- ¹¹“But my people did not listen to my voice;
Israel would not submit to me.
- ¹²So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts,
to follow their own counsels.
- ¹³Oh, that my people would listen to me,
that Israel would walk in my ways!

- ¹⁴ I would soon subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes.
- ¹⁵ Those who hate the Lord would cringe toward him,
and their fate would last forever.
- ¹⁶ But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat,
and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

Sermon

How to Worship God: Singing God's Pleadings

Harrison Holbrook is Hope Chapel's pastor of assimilation & discipleship. 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 81

Today we remember what the Lord has done;
 Today we remember the Lord has delivered us.
 Oh He set us free, He brought us relief— it's time to feast.

We labored all our days, bound in chains.
 You called to us in love, Lord, and we heard you say,
 Put down your baskets, lay down your sheaths— it's time to feast!

*Sing aloud to God, our strength,
 Shout for joy to the God of Ages.
 Raise a song and make a joyful sound
 To the God of our salvation!*

When we were in the desert, thirsty and dry,
 You led us to the water, and You have satisfied.
 With the sweetest of honey, and the finest of wheat, it's time to feast.

Open your mouth, open your mouth,
 Taste and see that the Lord is good!
 Open your mouth, open your mouth,
 Come to the feast, Oh the Lord is good!

Amanda Strayer (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.

Known and Loved

God, You were there from my beginning,
For I was crafted by Your hands;
You see my hopes and hesitations,
My days are written in Your plan.

If You have seen my weakest moments
And still You love me even then,
I need no greater confirmation
That God, Your goodness has no end.

*I come to Jesus, lay down my weakness,
No need for hiding, here in His light.
This truth I treasure, my peace forever,
Is being known and loved by Him.*

I trust with Jesus, it is finished
For He has paid my every debt;
No need to pull it all together,
For what is broken He will mend.

Though I can't see the path before me,
I know the One who knows the way.
And as I walk, His hand will guide me
Until I see Him face to face.

Tiarne Tranter, Jaywan Maxwell, Fiona Aghajanian (2022)

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

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:	\$9,762	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$623,952	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Aug. 24)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$661,819	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	\$38,667	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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hopechapelgreensboro.org/community



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