

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

December 28, 2025



The First Sunday After Christmas Day

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

*O God, by your power may we, with all the saints,
comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth
of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,
so that we may be filled with your fullness. Amen.*

—based on Ephesians 3:18-19

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.*

This Is Amazing Grace

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder?
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

*This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,
That You would take my place, that You would bear my cross.
You laid down Your life that I would be set free.
Oh, Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me!*

Who brings our chaos back into order?
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of Glory, the King of Glory.
Who rules the nations with truth and justice?
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!

Josh Farro, Jeremy Riddle, Phil Wickham (2012)

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 68:1-4, 8

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 awaits you, our God, in Zion;
to you our vows will be fulfilled.
You who answer prayer, to you all people will come.
When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.
Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!
We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.

All: **The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;
where morning dawns, where evening fades,
you call forth songs of joy.**

Song 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)

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.

Heavenly Father, we confess
we dishonor You by our words, thoughts and deeds.

Depending on our own strength we stumble;
proclaiming our own goodness we sin;
glorying in our own righteousness we corrupt everything we touch.

We turn from You, and desire lasting satisfaction
from the things of this world.

We pray now, forgive us our many sins,
cleanse the darkness from our lives,
turn our faces toward you.

In the name of Your most precious son, Jesus Christ, we pray...

*** 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.

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)

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)

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

Ephesians 4:1-16 (ESV)

P.918 IN CHURCH BIBLE

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.

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸ Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Sermon

“The Church”

Jim Osborne is a retired physician and a founding member and elder at 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: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to the Lord!

Minister: And now we give you thanks because Christ was born a child
 into a line of broken and sinful people,
 a royal house lying in ruins.
 In righteousness He will judge the world,
 as the one who gives us himself—his body and his blood—
 for our righteousness and peace
 and for the rebuilding of His kingdom.

**All: And so we gladly thank you,
 joining our voices with Your people on earth
 and all the company of heaven,
 who forever sing to the glory of Your Name...**

Sanctus *Patrick Schlabs (2011)*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might.

Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry! Ho - san - na in the

high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord, Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Prayer of Approach

Minister: We do not presume to come to this Your table,
O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in Your abundant and great mercies.

**All: We are not worthy so much as to gather up
the crumbs under Your table;
but You are the same Lord
whose character is always to have mercy.**

Minister: Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of Your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink His blood,
so that our sinful bodies may be made clean by His body,
and our souls washed through His most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us.

All: Amen.

Words of Institution

Minister: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us. Alleluia.

All: Alleluia!

Minister: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
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: O Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, Emmanuel,
 We thank you that in this holy meal,
 You renew your promises within us,

**All: Empower us by your Spirit to witness and to serve,
 And send us out as your disciples. 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.

Grace Upon Grace

In every station new trials and troubles
 Call for more grace than I can afford.
 Where can I go but to my dear Savior,
 And mercy that pours from boundless stores?

*Grace upon grace, every sin repaired,
 Every void restored, you will find him there.
 In every turning He will prepare you with grace upon grace.*

He made a way for the fallen to rise
 Perfect in glory and sacrifice.
 In sweet communion my need He supplies
 He saves and keeps and guards my life.

To thee I run now with great expectation
 To honor you with trust like a child.
 My hopes and desires seek a new destination
 And all that You ask Your grace will provide.

Sandra McCracken (2005)

Sending Song**Oh Give Thanks (Psalm 107)**

We were wand'ring in the desert with our souls so starved and weak.
 We were hungry for a homeland we did not know how to seek.
 But we lifted up our voices to the only One who hears;
 And the God of mercy came and brought us near.

We were locked out of the garden, and our backs bent down with pain.
 In the shadow of death's darkness, we were slaves to sin and blame.
 Then we cried out in our labor to the only One who hears,
 And the God of mercy wiped away our tears.

*Oh give thanks to the LORD for His love endures forever!
 We were wandering and lost, and our Father brought us home,
 To a safe dwelling place, to a feast of joy and laughter.
 Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!*

We were fools in our rebellion, with our hunger strike of pride.
 We were sick and growing closer to the death we should have died.
 Then he heard of our condition, and he called us by our names;
 And the God of glory took away our shame.

We were far out on the ocean, making wealth and chasing dreams,
 But the waves of great destruction brought us tremb'ling to our knees.
 Then we cried like drunken sailors to the only One who hears,
 And the God of comfort took away our fears.

Wendell Kimbrough (2016)

Community Life

Blessing & Sending

Minister: The Lord bless you and keep you;
 The Lord make his face to shine upon you
 And be gracious to you;
 The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

All: Amen.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Financial Update

Given Last Week:	\$31,087	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$934,728	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Dec. 14)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$976,400	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	\$41,672	Greensboro, NC 27408

Online giving is available on our website: www.hopechapelgreensboro.org/give
 We also accept donations via Venmo: @HopeChapel.

We have a goal of paying off our mortgage by March 2026. To make a donation toward this effort, please use this link and specific "building fund."



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Want to connect with others?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/community



Visiting with us?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/im-new



WiFi Network: Hope Chapel Guest
Password: HopeWIFI

