

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

January 4, 2025



The Second Sunday After Christmas

Preparation

*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.

To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things he has done!
 So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
 Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
 And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
 O come to the Father through Jesus the Son
 And give him the glory, great things he has done!*

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
 And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
 But purer and higher and greater will be
 Our joy and our wonder, when Jesus we see.

Fanny Crosby, W. Howard Doane (1875)

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

Romans 11:33-36

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: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
 How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
 "For who has known the mind of the Lord,
 or who has been his counselor?"
 "Or who has given a gift to him
 that he might be repaid?"

**All: For from him and through him and to him are all things.
 To him be glory forever.**

Amen. Let us worship our God and Maker!

Song of Praise

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.

Merciful Father,

You remember that we are but flesh.

Our life is as a breath, and our days like a passing shadow.

We confess our faithless fears and anxieties,
our complaining and our inconstancy.

We have not looked for Your image in the face of others,
or trusted your Good News to be good.

We have turned away from the suffering of the hungry,
the exiled, and the oppressed.

We have sought our own comfort
and have been slow to share with others the light of the Gospel.

Have mercy upon us, and forgive us all our sins
for the sake of Him who was born for us and our salvation,
that from this time forward we may serve You
in thankfulness, through Jesus Christ our Lord...

*** time for silent confession ***

Song of Lament

"Practicing" lament: A simple definition of Biblical lament is that it is a prayer of complaint to the Lord. On any particular Sunday you may not feel a personal need to lament. Perhaps you have had an encouraging week and arrive to worship full of joy and thanksgiving. That's wonderful! There are still at least two very practical reasons to engage in this part of worship: First, remember that we are worshipping as a community and there are others in the room (and in the broader family of believers) who are burdened this morning. You can lament with them. Second, there will be times in the future where you will find yourself in need of this language. We practice together so that we can access prayers of lament when those times come.

Father of Lights

Father of Lights, God of unchanging good,
I cannot stop weeping at what you've done;
Broken my trust, hand that allowed this hurt,
Nothing is safe, even you, unsure.

*How could I love you? Oh, how can I talk like that?
 You had to watch your boy die in anguish.
 Giving your love for me, yet I can't help but ask,
 Where were you, Lord, when I needed you most?
 You didn't come, and now I don't know what to do.*

Father of life, press your implanted word
 Deep in the places of ruptured earth.
 Sovereign of peace, gentle as I lash out,
 Notice the whispers amid the shouts.

I believe! That's why I sorrow.
 You're my heart, where else can I go?
 You know I can't understand the sufferings of your gracious plan;
 Hold me close or I will let go.

Father of fire, Spirit who gave me birth,
 Knowing I'd blame you, you loved me first.
 You are so full, needing no praise from me,
 beckon my soul to drink.

Nathan Partain (2024)

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.*

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:16-17

Passing of the Peace

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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).*



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.*

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.

*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.*

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)

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

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (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.

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

Sermon

“Unswervingly Gospel Centered”

Harrison Holbrook is serves as pastor of assimilation & discipleship. This sermon is part of a series on the Distinctive of Hope Chapel. For past sermons, please visit our website.

We are trusting God to shape us into a people who are...

Unswervingly Gospel Centered. We believe wholeheartedly in the life-giving authority of Scripture as our infallible, inerrant source of truth, wisdom, and beauty. In it, we encounter the central act of God in history, the “good news” of the gospel: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. His gospel alone provides the answer to all of our deepest longings—for love, forgiveness, belonging, and purpose. Every part of our community life, service, growth, and mission is founded upon and empowered by this gospel truth.

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.

Oh the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
 Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.
 Underneath me, all around me is the current of Your love.
 Leading onward, leading homeward to Your glorious rest above.

*Oh the deep, deep love; all I need and trust
 Is the deep, deep love of Jesus.*

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread His praise from shore to shore;
 How He came to pay our ransom through the saving cross He bore.
 How He watches o'er His loved ones, those He died to make His own.
 How for them He's interceding, pleading, now, before the throne.

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, far surpassing all the rest.
 It's an ocean full of blessing in the midst of every test.
 Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, Mighty Savior, precious Friend,
 You will bring us home to glory where Your love will never end.

Samuel Trevor Francis (1875), Bob Kauflin (2008)

Sending Song**There Is One Gospel**

There is one Gospel on which I stand for all eternity;
 It is my story, my Father's plan, the Son has rescued me.
 Oh what a gospel, oh what a peace, my highest joy and my deepest need,
 Now and forever He is my light, I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

There is one Gospel to which I cling, all else I count as loss;
 For there, where justice and mercy meet, He saved me on the cross.
 No more I boast in what I can bring, no more I carry the weight of sin,
 For He has brought me from death to life, I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

There is one Gospel where hope is found, the empty tomb still speaks,
 For death could not keep my Savior down, He lives and I am free.
 Now on my Savior, I fix my eyes; my life is His and His hope is mine.
 For He has promised I, too, will rise— I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

And in this Gospel the church is one, we do not walk alone;
 We have His Spirit as we press on, to lead us safely home.
 And when in glory still I will sing of this old story that rescued me,
 Praise to my Savior, the King of life, I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Jonny Robinson and Rich Thompson (2022)

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!

Year-End Financial Update

Given Last Week:	\$25,178	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$953,056	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Dec. 31)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$1,045,346	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	\$92,290	Greensboro, NC 27408
Building Fund:		\$100,560
Benevolence Offering:		\$4,062
Family Room Gift Cards:		\$2,875

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

