

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

April 5, 2026



Easter Sunday

Reflections

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognize the Gardener standing there.
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply
'They took my love away, my day is night'
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

Easter Dawn, Malcolm Guite

The message of Easter is that God's new world has
been unveiled in Jesus Christ and that you're now
invited to belong to it.

N. T. Wright
Surprised by Hope

Where he sat in a room apart
from all he had ever known,
alone in Easter morning light,
I read him the story of Magdalene
grieving at the tomb alone,
and the appearing Gardener:
"Why weepest thou? Whom
seekest thou?" From far in absence,
in silence, he heard me. "That
is a beautiful story," he told me.

- Wendell Berry

"From beginning to end, the Holy Scriptures testify
that the predicament of fallen humanity is so seri-
ous, so grave, so irremediable from within, that
nothing short of divine intervention can rectify it."

Fleming Rutledge
The Crucifixion

Break the box and shed the nard;
Stop not now to count the cost;
Hither bring pearl, opal, sard;
Reck not what the poor have lost;
Upon Christ throw all away:
Know ye, this is Easter Day.

Build His church and deck His shrine,
Empty though it be on earth;
Ye have kept your choicest wine—
Let it flow for heavenly mirth;
Pluck the harp and breathe the horn:
Know ye not 'tis Easter morn?

Gather gladness from the skies;
Take a lesson from the ground;
Flowers do ope their heavenward eyes
And a Spring-time joy have found;
Earth throws Winter's robes away,
Decks herself for Easter Day.

Beauty now for ashes wear,
Perfumes for the garb of woe,
Chaplets for dishevelled hair,
Dances for sad footsteps slow;
Open wide your hearts that they
Let in joy this Easter Day.

Seek God's house in happy throng;
Crowded let His table be;
Mingle praises, prayer, and song,
Singing to the Trinity.
Henceforth let your souls always
Make each morn an Easter Day.

Gerard Manley Hopkins
Easter

You can't conceive, my child, nor can I or anyone,
the appalling strangeness of the mercy of God.

Graham Greene, *Brighton Rock*

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.*

Prelude

“Sekstur from Vendsyssel - The Peat Dance”

Traditional, arranged by Danish String Quartet

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

based on 1 Peter 1:3-5

An Invitation. The Call to Worship is sometimes called the Invitation to Worship. As we shuffle through the doors on Sunday morning, we come to a Gospel-feast, invited by Jesus Christ. But not only does He offer the invitation, He also pays the cost of admission through His life, death and resurrection. And so we are honored guests, welcomed in and responding to this incredible grace. Come, let us worship our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Leader: Christ, who died, lives again! Alleluia!

All: **Alleluia!**

Leader: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: **He has given us new life and hope.
He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

Leader: God has claimed us as his own.

All: **He has brought us out of darkness.
He has made us light to the world.**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Songs of Praise

We sing as a way of engaging our voices, bodies, 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.

Hallelujah to the Risen King

Let us praise the Risen Christ,
Who conquered sin through sacrifice!
Death of death and hope of life;
Hallelujah to the Risen Christ!

Michael Van Patter (2021)

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Charles Wesley (1739), Lyra Davidica (1708)

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.

When, at times, we deny You,
Lord, please forgive us.

When the risks of discipleship are high,
and we are nowhere to be found:
Lord, please forgive us.

When we wash our hands of responsibility:
Lord, please forgive us.

When we cast our lot with powerful oppressors
and seek to buy freedom with silver:
Lord, please forgive us.

When fear keeps us from witnessing to Your truth,
or our love of autonomy keeps us from believing it:
Lord, please forgive us.

In the bright light of Easter morning, O God,
our sin is exposed,
and Your grace is revealed.

Tender God,
raise us in Your love so that, with joy,
we may witness to Your awesome deeds,
in the name of Jesus, the risen one.

*** time for silent confession of sin ***

Words of Forgiveness based on 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

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).

Leader: This is what the Lord says:

"Death is swallowed in victory.

O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?"

For sin is the sting that results in death.

All: But thank God! He has given us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: In Christ, our sins are forgiven, death has no grip on us,
and we will share in His victory.

All: Thanks be to God!

Leader: Christ is Risen!

All: He is Risen indeed!

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.

Rise, My Soul, the Lord Is Risen

Rise my soul the Lord is risen, come behold the empty grave.
See the place where darkness laid Him, sing for only hope remains.
Hallelujah, praise forever, death defeated and life restored;
By that great immortal power Christ is risen, arise my soul!

Rest my soul the Lord is risen, love's redeeming work is done.
Now the Father sees His children as He sees His sinless Son.
O the wonder, O the glory, that same favor is now my own!
Shame behind me, grace before me; Christ is risen, arise my soul!

Peace my soul, the Lord is risen, come and have your hope renewed,
For this trial is brief and fleeting, tears will turn to glory soon.
Shout with joy and sound the triumph, let the music of heaven roar;
Let the boast of death be silent, Christ is risen, arise my soul!

Rise my soul for I am risen, seated now with Christ my Lord;
As my life belongs to heaven, fear shall hold its sway no more.
Onward, upward, t'ward the treasure, filled with courage and endless hope,
For this truth is mine forever, Christ is risen arise my soul!

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa (2024)

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).*



Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us,
How high the mountain I could not climb.
In desperation I turned to Heaven
And spoke Your name into the night.
Then through the darkness, Your loving kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul.
The work is finished, the end is written;
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of angels stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame.
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven;
The King of kings calls me His own.
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever,
Jesus Christ my living hope.

*Hallelujah, praise the one who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain, there's salvation in Your name,
Jesus Christ, my living hope!*

Then came the morning that sealed the promise,
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the roaring lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me.
Jesus, Yours is the victory!

Brian Johnson, Phil Wickham (2017)

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

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.

Matthew 28:1-10 (ESV)

p.784 IN CHURCH BIBLE

¹ Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he[a] lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Sermon

"He's Not Here, He's Risen!"

Erik Rome is Hope Chapel's pastor of community & mission. For past sermons, please visit our website.

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 to the Lord.**

Minister: It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, but chiefly are we bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of your son Jesus Christ our Lord; for He is the true Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world; who by His death has destroyed death, and by His rising to life again has won for us everlasting life.

All: Therefore we praise You, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of Your Name:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might!
 Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest! (x3)
 And blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Greg LaFollette (2018)

Prayer of Approach

Minister: Holy and gracious Father:

In Your infinite love You made us for Yourself;
and when we had sinned against You and become subject
to evil and death, You, in your mercy, sent Your only son
Jesus Christ into the world for our salvation.

By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary He became flesh and
dwelt among us. In obedience to Your will, He stretched out His
arms upon the Cross and offered Himself once for all,
that by His suffering and death we might be saved.

By His resurrection He broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell
and Satan under His feet. As our great high priest, He ascended
to Your right hand in glory, that we might come with confidence
before the throne of grace.

Words of Institution***Prayer of Consecration***

Minister: Together, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Minister: O Lord, from You we receive these gifts.

Sanctify them by Your Word and Holy Spirit to be
for Your people the body and blood of Your son Jesus Christ.

Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy
Sacrament, and be made one body with Him,
that He may dwell in us and we in Him.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection
under Your Christ, and bring us with all Your saints into the
joy of Your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face
to face. All this we ask through Your son, Jesus Christ:

**All: By Him, and with Him, and in Him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is Yours, Almighty Father,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Fraction

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

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Minister: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you
and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All: Thanks be to God.

Preparation for the Table

The Feast

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.

Easter Greeting

Faithful women sought Him weeping, weeping at the break of dawn,
Sought their Lord where He lay sleeping, in the love of hearts forlorn.
Life for death that wondrous morning; joy for sorrow, faith for fear.
For their tears the Angel's greeting: "Christ is risen! He is not here."

Loved apostles, scarce believing in His triumph o'er the grave,
Hear the tale amid their grieving, hasten eager to the cave;
Find the folded grave-clothes lying, death's unloosed and shattered chain,
Find Him gone, death's power defying, from the tomb thus sealed in vain.

*Christ is risen! risen, sister!
Brother, Christ is risen indeed!*

Mary comes, a refuge seeking for her mourning and her pain.
Lo! a well-known voice is speaking. Lo! the Master calls her name.
For her grief, a glad reunion, living Teacher, dear reward;
For her tears the glorious mission: to announce the risen Lord!

For her tears, a glad reversing of the tragedy of old.
Glorious tidings now rehearsing, for the tale in Eden told.
Woman's voice, that tale supplying, brought in death by Satan's lie,
Woman's voice is now replying, "Christ is risen! We shall not die!"

Saints, your cross in patience bearing, mourners stained with many tears,
Sinners, tempted to despairing; everyone is welcome here.
Christ is risen! bring your sadness, come and join the joyous throng.
Faithful hearts will find their gladness, joining in the Easter song.

*Words trans. from Greek: Rev. Phipps Onslow
Music: Michelle Raybourn, Mikey Rodgers (2023)*

Prayer after Communion

Minister: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and everliving God, we thank You for feeding us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of Your son, our Savior, Jesus Christ; and for assuring us, through this Sacrament, of Your favor and goodness towards us: that we are true members of the mystical body of Your son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of Your everlasting kingdom. And we humbly ask You, heavenly Father, to assist us with Your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all the good works that You have prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Benevolence Offering

Sending Song

Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed

How can it be, the One who died, has born our sin through sacrifice
To conquer every sting of death? Sing, sing hallelujah.

For joy awakes as dawning light when Christ's disciples lift their eyes.
Alive He stands, their Friend and King; Christ, Christ He is risen.

*Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Oh, sing hallelujah.
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed;
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.*

Where doubt and darkness once had been,
They saw Him and their hearts believed.
But blessed are those who have not seen, yet, sing hallelujah.

Once bound by fear now bold in faith,
 They preached the truth and power of grace.
 And pouring out their lives they gained life, life everlasting.

The power that raised Him from the grave now works in us to powerfully save.
 He frees our hearts to live His grace; go tell of His goodness.

Ed Cash, Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty (2012)

Community Life

Blessing & Sending

from Hebrews 13:20

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 peace,
 who raised to life the Great Shepherd of the sheep,
 make us ready to do His will in every good thing,
 through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Financial Update

Given Last Week:	\$11,229	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$270,996	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - March 29)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$236,474	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	[\$34,521]	Greensboro, NC 27408

Building Fund: \$229,689 of \$320k goal

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



Online giving is available on our website: www.hopechapelgreensboro.org/give

We also accept donations via Venmo: @HopeChapel.

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Want to connect with others?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/community



Visiting with us?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/im-new



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