

# **WORSHIP GUIDE**

**Hope Chapel Greensboro**

**May 3, 2026**



**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

## 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.*

## 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 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)*

## 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 59:16-17

*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: I will sing of your strength,  
in the morning I will sing of your love;  
for you are my fortress,  
my refuge in times of trouble.

All: **You are my strength, I sing praise to you;  
you, God, are my fortress,  
my God on whom I can rely.**

## 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 God, we have sinned.  
We have sinned in what we have thought and said,  
in the wrong we have done  
and the good we have not done.

We have sinned in ignorance;  
We have sinned in weakness;  
We have sinned through our own deliberate fault.

We repent and turn to you.  
Forgive us, for the sake of our merciful Savior Jesus,  
and renew our lives to the glory of your name:  
The name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit...

*\*\* 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.

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:9-11

## Passing of the Peace

*The "passing of the peace":* As recipients of God's grace, we gladly receive peace from Him. In response to His grace, we also extend that grace to one another with a handshake or a hug. Traditionally, Christians have greeted one another during this time in the service with the phrase, "May the peace of Christ be with you" and receive back the greeting "And also with you."

## New Members Join

## 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](http://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.*

### 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)*

## 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.*

### **Philippians 1:27-30** (ESV)

p.921 IN CHURCH BIBLE

<sup>27</sup> Only let your manner of life be worthy[h] of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,<sup>28</sup> and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.<sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,<sup>30</sup> engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

## Sermon

### **“The Hardest Gift”**

*Erik Rome is Hope Chapel’s pastor of community & mission. This sermon is part of a series on the New Testament book of Philippians. 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

### *Confession of Faith: Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth;  
 And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried.  
 He descended into hell.  
 The third day he rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended into heaven,  
 and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### *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: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Minister: It is right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere  
to give thanks to You, O Lord. Therefore with angels and  
archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we magnify  
Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and 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: Sanctify this bread and wine,  
and use these elements to communicate to us  
the mercy of your Son,  
that we might be enabled to submit our lives to you.

**All: Grant that this sacrament would empower us  
to die to ourselves, and live for your glory,  
now and forever, amen.**

Minister: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

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

Minister: Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us.

**All: Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

### ***Preparation for the Table***

#### ***The Feast***

**This Table Is Yours**

Am I a stranger among my own,  
 Is this a place where I can be known?  
 What do I have to hide just to belong?  
 Is this my table? am I alone?

I see you, stranger, among your own;  
 No reputation, without a home.  
 Touching the leper, throwing no stones.  
 Come to my table; you're not alone.

*This table is yours, this table is mine;  
 Christ breaks the bread and pours the wine.  
 So we lift the cup and we join the feast; God's holy mystery.*

Jesus, he cried out while on the tree:  
 O god forgive them, they cannot see.  
 His love forsaken, his mercy meek,  
 Yet at this table, we know Christ's peace.

Mary in mourning went to the tomb,  
 Her heart was broken; the stone was too.  
 She saw an angel, claimed Jesus raised,  
 The body's gone now, don't be afraid.

Hallelujah! hallelujah!  
 With open hands and broken hearts,  
 Lord, we lift our prayers and we join the feast;  
 God's holy mystery.

*Matt Maher, David Gungor, Paul Zach (2025)*

**Prayer after Communion**

Minister: Brothers and sisters,  
 since the Lord has fed us at his Table,  
 let us praise God's holy name with heartfelt thanksgiving!  
 Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**All: and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**

Minister: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

**All: and forget not all God's benefits,**

Minister: who forgives all your iniquity,

**All: who heals all your diseases.**

Minister: Who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all,  
and will also give us all things with him.

**All: Therefore we praise you, God,  
with our hearts and our voices, now and forevermore. 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.

## Sending Song

### Faithful One

Faithful One, we lift our praise  
toward Your light we turn our gaze.  
The weight of sin is bearing down,  
we need Your grace to save us now.

*Faithful One, Faithful One,  
You never fail, You never fail, You never fail to raise the sun,  
Faithful One, Faithful One,  
You never fail, You never fail, not my will, but Yours be done.*

God of Grace I long to live  
by the peace You freely give.  
When lesser things seduce my eyes,  
Lord, break my heart and make me wise.

Ancient love has brought to bear  
kinship with the royal heir.  
You broke the bread, You poured the wine,  
now I am Yours and You are mine.

*Randall Goodgame (2014)*

## Community Life

### Blessing & Sending

2 Corinthians 13:14

*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 grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: Amen.**

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Financial Update

Given Last Week:	\$10,987	Gifts can be placed in the offering plate on Sundays or mailed to: Hope Chapel 908 N. Josephine Boyd St Greensboro, NC 27408
Required to date: (Jan. 1 - April 26)	\$354,380	
Given to date:	\$330,623	
Over/[Under]	[\$23,756]	

**Building Fund: \$233,561 of \$320k goal**

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



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[hopechapelgreensboro.org/community](https://hopechapelgreensboro.org/community)



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