

Hopewell Worship Guide for 9/20/20

Call to Worship

Psalm 111: 2, 3, 5

“Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.”

Invocation: Father Most High, whose dwelling place is beyond the heavens, O Lord Incomparable, far beyond of loftiest thoughts, Gather us together in the name of Jesus whom the angels adore as the Son of the Most High, for his name is above every name. Lead us in our worship, that all we do might be undertaken at your bidding, filled with your grace, directed by your wisdom, informed by your truth, and accomplished to your glory. Through Christ, our Lord, whom with you and the Holy Spirit, O Father, we constantly bless and glorify. One Eternal God, age after age. Amen

Old Testament *Ezekiel 33:7–11*

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

¹⁰“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

These prayer components are pulled from Matthew Henry’s Method of Prayer, a method of prayer that helps us pray the Bible. <http://www.matthewhenry.org>

Adoration: *In you, O LORD, do we take refuge; let us never be put to shame; indeed, let none who wait for you be put to shame. For God alone our souls wait in silence; from him comes our salvation: He only is our rock and our salvation! In him is our glory, our might, and our refuge; and our hope is from him. When no refuge remains to us, and no one cares for our souls, we cry to you, O LORD, “You are our refuge, our portion in the land of the living.” Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God We will trust in your*

steadfast love, O God, forever and ever, and will wait for your name, for it is good, in the presence of the godly. We have hoped in your word; O remember your word to your servants, in which you have made us hope.

Confession: *You have struck us down, but we have felt no anguish; we have refused to take correction and have made our faces harder than rock, and the rod has not driven the folly out of our hearts. You have disciplined us with the rod of men and with the stripes of the sons of men, yet we have not turned to him who struck us, nor have we inquired of the LORD of hosts. When some have been overthrown as Sodom and Gomorrah were, we have been as brands plucked out of the burning; yet we have not returned to you, O LORD. And when your hand has been lifted up, we have not seen it. We have not kept the terms of the covenant that we have made before you; but as traitors, we have betrayed. Did we not say, “We would not transgress, we would not offend anymore?” We did, and yet we have returned with the dog to its own vomit; we have returned to folly after God has spoken peace.*

Petition: *Lord, give us to grow with a growth that is from God; to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; to hold to our way; and, having clean hands, to grow stronger and stronger. Let our path be as the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. We have not yet obtained, nor are we already perfect; Lord, grant that therefore, forgetting what lies behind, we may strain forward to what lies ahead, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Be like the dew to us, that we may blossom like the lily and take root like the trees of Lebanon; that our shoots may spread out and our beauty may be like the olive. And let the sun of righteousness rise upon us with healing in its wings, that we may go out leaping like calves from the stall.*

Thanks: *We thank you for the crown of life which God has promised to those who love him; the inheritance imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for us. That having here no lasting city, we are encouraged to seek the better country, that is, the heavenly one; the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. That we are in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, has promised; and that all true believers, through grace, have eternal life abiding in them. We must bless God for the striving of his Spirit with us, and the admonitions and checks of our own consciences. We bless you that you have not given us up to a debased mind; that our consciences are not seared; I that you have not said concerning us, “They are joined to idols, leave them alone”; but that your Spirit is yet contending with us. We thank you for the work of the law written on our hearts, our own consciences also bearing witness, and our own conflicting thoughts accusing or excusing us.*

Intercession:

Ministries Hopewell Supports: Word of Grace Church, Roddey & Becky Caughman, Michael & Tricia Lee – Panama, Kevin & Jan Rutledge - Germany, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Hope House, Reformed University Fellowship, Palmetto Women's Center,

Lord's Prayer: Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

Assurance of Pardon: *Colossians 2:13–14* And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

New Testament Reading: *Romans 13:1-10* Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Benediction: May the Lord send you help from His sanctuary and grant you support from on High, May grace and peace be to you from the God Who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age. Ps 20:2; Gal. 1:3