

Hopewell Worship Guide for 12/20/20

Call to Worship *Isaiah 7:14* Stand in awe before the Lord for, “the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Invocation: Let us pray: Almighty God, Most Gracious Father, whose love is constantly ready to receive us, You are God, God alone, Our God! We come before you in humility, troubled by how often we ignore you, troubled by how we have failed our neighbors, our family and our friends. Receive us in the name of Jesus your Son, that we may be renewed by your grace, that we may be established in faithfulness toward you, that we be restored in the love of family and friends. For to you, O God Almighty, be all glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever more. Amen.

Old Testament *2 Samuel 7:8–16*

⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’ ”

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: *The heavens, even the heavens are yours, and all their hosts. The earth is yours and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein. In your hand are the depths of the earth, and the heights of the mountains are yours also: The sea is yours, for you made it, and your*

hands formed the dry land. Every beast of the forest is yours, and the cattle on a thousand hills. You are therefore a great God, and a great King above all gods. In your hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind. Your dominion is an everlasting dominion, and your kingdom endures from generation to generation: You do according to your will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay your hand or say to you, “What have you done?” or “Why have you done that?” We know, O God, that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. Power belongs to you; and with you nothing is impossible. All authority is yours, both in heaven and on earth. You kill, and you make alive; you wound, and you heal; and there is none that can deliver out of your hand. What you have promised you are able also to perform.

Confession: *We have been as fig trees planted in the vineyard, and you have come many years seeking fruit from us but have found none; and therefore we might justly be cut down and thrown into the fire for using up the ground: You have come looking for grapes, but behold wild grapes; for we have been empty vines bringing forth fruit to ourselves. We have known the right thing to do, but have failed to do it. We have hidden our Master’s money, and therefore deserve the doom of the wicked and slothful servant. We have been unfaithful stewards who have wasted our Lord’s possessions; for one sinner destroys much good. Often there has been money in our hands to buy wisdom, yet we have had no sense to; or like the fool our heart has been inclined to the left. Our youth and dawn of life were vanity, and we have brought our years to an end like a sigh. We have not known or improved the day of our visitation; have not prepared bread in summer nor gathered food in harvest, though we have had chiefs, officers, and rulers. We are slow of heart to understand and believe; and though by this time we ought to be teachers of others, we are yet to learn the basic principles of the oracles of God: we have need of milk, and cannot bear solid food. We have done away with the fear of God and hindered meditation before God; we have not called upon your name, nor roused ourselves to take hold of you. We have come to you as your people come, and have sat before you as your people sit, and have heard what you have said, when our hearts at the same time have been set after gain. And thus have we brought the torn and the lame and the sick for sacrifice; have presented to our God that which we would not have presented to our governor; and have vowed and sacrificed to the Lord what is blemished, when we had in our flock a male.*

Petition: *The Lord of peace himself give us peace, all peace, at all times in every way: That peace which Jesus Christ has left with us, which he gives to us; such a peace as the world can neither give nor take away; such a peace as that our hearts may not be troubled or afraid. Let the effect of righteousness in our souls be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. Speak peace to your people, to your saints, and let them not turn back to folly. O create the fruit of the lips, Peace, peace to those who are far off and to those who are near; and restore comfort to your mourners. Where the sons of peace are, let your peace find them out and rest upon them. Let us hear of your steadfast love and taste that you are good, for in you do we trust. Let the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus; and let that peace rule in our hearts, to which we have been called. May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope*

Thanks: *Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. You make us lie down in green pastures; you feed us beside the still waters. You prepare a table before us in the presence of our enemies; you anoint our head, and our cup overflows. It may be we were sent out with no moneybag or knapsack, but did we lack anything? Nothing, Lord. The lamp of God has shone upon our head, and by his light we have walked through darkness, and the friendship of God has been upon our tent. You have richly provided us with everything to enjoy, and have brought plentifully into our hands. Many a time we have eaten and been filled, and have delighted ourselves in your great goodness. When we remember all the ways that the LORD our God has led us for so many years in this wilderness, we must here set up a stone and call it Ebenezer, for till now the LORD has helped us.*

Intercession: *Lord, let your Spirit be poured out upon your churches from on high, and then the wilderness shall become a fruitful field; then justice shall return to the righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it. Let what remains be put into order, and let every plant that is not of our heavenly Father's planting be rooted up. Let the Lord whom we seek come to his temple like a refiner's fire and fullers' soap, and let him purify the sons of Levi and all the seed of Israel, and refine them like gold and silver, that they may bring offerings of righteousness to the LORD, pleasing offerings to the LORD as in the days of old, as in former years. Let religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, flourish and prevail everywhere: that kingdom of God among men, which is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. O revive this work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make it known; and let these times be times of reformation.*

Ministries Hopewell Supports: Roddey & Becky Caughman, Michael & Tricia Lee – Panama, 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: *Psalm 51:2, 7* ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

New Testament Reading: *Luke 1:26–38*

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Benediction: Now may He who is the mystery of godliness, He who appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, and taken up in glory; May He humble you under His mighty hand that He may lift you up in due time. (1 Tim 3:16; 1 Peter 5:6)