

Hopewell Worship Guide for 1/3/21

Call to Worship *Isaiah 49:13* Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

Invocation: Let us pray: Father, God of all consolation, patient, long-suffering, whose love is revealed in the sacrifice of your Son, whose well-beloved Son we behold as the Lamb of God. Have mercy upon us, for the sake of the most Precious Lamb. Have mercy upon us for we behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Have mercy upon us in the name of the Lamb, who was slain and lives forever more. To you, O Father, be all glory, and to the Son who offered himself, and to the Spirit, the all-consuming fire. One Redeeming God Forever. Amen.

Old Testament *Psalms 148*

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! ² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts! ³ Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! ⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! ⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he commanded and they were created. ⁶ And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away. ⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps, ⁸ fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word! ⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! ¹⁰ Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds! ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! ¹² Young men and maidens together, old men and children! ¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven. ¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the Lord!

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: *You have established your throne in the heavens, and it is a throne of glory, high and lifted up; and before you the seraphim cover their faces. And it is in compassion to us that you hold back the face of that throne and spread a cloud over it. You make your messengers winds, and your ministers a flaming fire. Thousands of thousands of them minister to you, and myriads of myriads stand before you, to do your pleasure. They are mighty ones who obey the voice of your word. And we have come by faith and hope and holy love into a spiritual communion with that innumerable company of angels in festal*

gathering and the spirits of the righteous made perfect, even to the assembly of the firstborn, in the heavenly Jerusalem.

Confession: *We have put far from us the day of disaster; and in our prosperity have said, "We shall never be moved," as if tomorrow will be like this day, great beyond measure. We have encouraged our souls to relax, to eat and drink and be merry, as if we had goods laid up for many years, when perhaps this night our souls may be required of us. We have been ready to set our hope on the uncertainty of riches, more than on the living God; to say to the gold, "You are our hope," and to the fine gold, "You are our confidence." When you have disciplined us, and we were disciplined, we have been like an untrained calf; and though our own folly has brought our way to ruin, yet our heart has raged against the LORD; and thus, in our distress we have become yet more faithless to the LORD. We have either despised the LORD's discipline or been weary of his reproof; and if we faint in the day of adversity, our strength is small. We have said in our alarm, "We are cut off from your sight"; and, "The LORD has forsaken us, our Lord has forgotten us"; as if God would never again be favorable, Psalm 77:7 (ESV) as if he had forgotten to be gracious and had in anger shut up his compassion. This has been our infirmity.*

Petition: *Now may the God of peace himself sanctify us completely, and may our whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls us is faithful; he will surely do it. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit away from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. Write your law on our hearts and put it within us, that we may be letters from Christ, written by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts; that the law of our God being in our heart, none of our steps may slip; and that we may delight to do your will, O God; may delight in the law of God in our inner being. O that we may become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which we desire to be committed, as into a mold, that our whole soul may be leavened by it; and that we may not be conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewal of our mind; may not be conformed to the passions of our former ignorance, but as obedient children, may be holy in all our conduct, as he who called us is holy.*

Thanks: *We bless you for the assurance we have that Jesus is a teacher come from God, since no one could do those signs that he did unless God was with him. That you have in these last days spoken to us by your Son, whose teaching was not his, but his who sent him; and he spoke as one having authority; and that we are encouraged to come*

and learn from him, because he is gentle and lowly in heart, and in learning of him we will find rest for our souls. We bless you that he has left us an example, so that we might follow in his steps, in that he committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth; and when he was reviled, he did not revile in return; and his food and drink was to do the will of his Father, in that he was holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners. O that we may be armed with the same way of thinking, and that as he was, so also may we be in this world; and that we may walk in the same way in which he walked. We bless you that the works which he did bear witness about him, that the Father has sent him; that by his power the blind received their sight, the lame walked, lepers were cleansed, the deaf heard, the dead were raised up, and the poor had good news preached to them, and even winds and sea obeyed him, for which we glorify the God of Israel. Doubtless this was the Son of God.

Intercession: *You, LORD, rule over the nations: Who will not fear you, O King of the nations? You sit on the throne, giving righteous judgment; judge the world therefore with righteousness, and judge the peoples with uprightness. Lord, hasten the time when you will make wars cease to the end of the earth; when nation shall no more lift up sword against nation, nor kingdom against kingdom, but swords shall be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, and they shall not learn war anymore. Make kings foster fathers, and their queens nursing mothers, to the Israel of God. And in the days of these kings, let the God of heaven set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, even the kingdom of the Redeemer. And whatever purposes there are in men's minds, Lord, let your purposes stand, and fulfill the plans of your heart to all generations*

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: *2 Peter 3:9* The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

New Testament Reading: *Hebrews 2:10–18*

¹⁰ For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹² saying,

“I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.”

And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Benediction: Now may the God Who tends and spares us and well knows our feeble frame; Our Father who gently bears us and rescues us from our foes, Establish you like Mt. Zion, which cannot be moved but abides forever. Ps 125:1