

Hopewell Worship Guide for 12/05/21

Call to Worship *Matthew 2:6 & 1 Tim. 3:16*

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel. Proclaim it among the nations. Great indeed is the mystery of godliness: Christ was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, believed on in the world, taken up into glory.”

Invocation: 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 *Malachi 3:1-4*

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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, Clark Emerson – Campus Outreach, 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: *Romans 4:7–8 (ESV)*
“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

New Testament Reading: *Philippians 1:3–11*

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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)