

## Hopewell Worship Guide for 12/06/20

### 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:** Let us pray: Great You are, O lord, and greatly to be praised; great is Your power, and Your wisdom is infinite. You would we praise without ceasing. You call us to delight in Your praise, for You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts find not rest until we rest in You; to whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit all glory, praise, and honor be ascribed, both now and forevermore. Amen.

### Old Testament *Isaiah 40:1-11*

40 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup> A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” <sup>6</sup> A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup> Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” <sup>10</sup> Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup> He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

*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 are the King of ages, immortal, invisible. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God; the same yesterday and today and*

*forever. Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away; but you are the same, and your years have no end. You are God and do not change; therefore we are not consumed. Are you not from everlasting, O LORD our God, our Holy One? You are the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth, who does not faint or grow weary, whose understanding is unsearchable.*

**Confession:** *Every intention of the thoughts of our heart is evil, only evil, and that continually, and it has been so from our youth. O how long have those wicked thoughts lodged within us! Like the devising of folly, those thoughts are sin. From within, out of the heart, come evil thoughts, which devise evil on the bed, and carry the heart with the fool's eyes to the ends of the earth. But God is not in all our thoughts; it is well if he is in any of them. Of the Rock that bore us, we have been unmindful and have forgotten the God who gave us birth: We have forgotten him days without number, and our hearts have gone after worthlessness and become worthless. Our inward thought having been that our houses should continue forever; this, our way, is the path of those who have foolish confidence. We have set our minds on things beneath, which should have been set on things above, where our treasure is, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; these are the things which we should seek. We have paid regard to vain idols and forsaken our hope of steadfast love; have forsaken the fountain of living waters, for cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water. We have trampled the head of the poor into the dust of the earth, and have been anxious concerning what we shall eat and what we shall drink and what we shall wear, the things after which the Gentiles seek. We have lifted up our souls to what is false, and set our eyes on that which is nothing; have looked at the things that are seen, which are temporal, but the things that are eternal have been forgotten and postponed*

**Petition:** *Being justified by faith, let us have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and through him let us have access into that grace in which believers stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Be not a terror to us, for you are our refuge in the day of disaster. In Christ Jesus let us, who once were far off, be brought near by the blood of Christ; for he himself is our peace, who has broken down the dividing wall of hostility between us, that he might reconcile us to God through his cross, thereby killing the hostility, and so making peace. Through him, therefore, let us, who have made ourselves strangers and aliens, become fellow citizens with the saints and members*

*of the household of God. You have no wrath: would that you had thorns and briars to battle? You would burn them up together; yes, you would burn them up together; but you have encouraged us to lay hold of your protection, that we make peace, and have promised that we shall make peace. O let us therefore agree with you and be at peace, that thereby good may come to us. Heal us, and we shall be healed; save us, and we shall be saved, for you are our praise. Do not be angry with us forever but revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you. Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation*

**Thanks:** *When perhaps there has been but a step between us and death, and when we have felt that we have received the sentence of death, and have been ready to say, "In the middle of our days we must depart; we are consigned to the gates of Sheol for the rest of our years"; yet in love you have delivered our lives from the pit of destruction and cast all our sins behind your back. When the snares of death have encompassed us and the pangs of Sheol have laid hold on us, we have called on the name of the LORD and have found that gracious is the LORD, and righteous, yes, our God is merciful; we have been brought low, and he has saved us, and has delivered our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from stumbling. We will therefore walk before the LORD in the land of the living*

**Intercession:** *Our heart's desire and prayer to God for the gospel-Israel is that it may be saved. Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem. Peace be within her walls and security within her towers. For our brothers and companions' sake, we will now say, "Peace be within her." O that we may see the prosperity of the gospel-Jerusalem all the days of our life and peace upon Israel. And that, thus, we may have reason to answer the messengers of the nations, saying, "The LORD has founded Zion, and in her the afflicted of his people find refuge." Save your people, O Lord, and bless your heritage; be their shepherd and carry them forever. Give strength to your people, and bless your people with peace; cover them with favor as with a shield. Grace be with all who love the Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible; for you know those who are yours, and give to all who name the name of Christ to depart from iniquity. We pray for all who believe in Christ, that they may all be one; and since there is one body and one Spirit and one hope that belongs to our call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, give to all Christians to be of one heart and one way. Let the word of the Lord in all places speed ahead, and let it be honored*

**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:** *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, by 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:** *Mark 1:1-8*

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, <sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' " <sup>4</sup> John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**Benediction:** From the God Most High, Whose ways are mercy and truth, Who leads you to his heavenly throne. May He preserve your life according to His promise; Keep you from all harm, and watch over your life. Psalm 119:107; 121:7