

Hopewell Worship Guide for 12/19/21

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: O LORD, The nations rage against you, they plot in vain. Kings and rulers set themselves and take counsel together against You and Your Anointed. They seek to break their bonds apart and cast their cords off. But You laugh at them and hold them in derision. You will speak in wrath and terrify them with you fury. For you have set your king on Zion, your holy hill. You have decreed that Jesus is your Son, your only begotten one. To Him the nations are given as his heritage, the ends of the earth are his possession. You will break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel. We are wise to Serve you with fear, to rejoice with trembling. We kiss the Son that we may not perish in the way. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him. With The Son, we worship you Father, Son, and Spirit, One God, Now and Forever. Amen (Psalm 1)

Old Testament *Micah 5:1–5a*

¹ Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek. ² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he shall be their peace.

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 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.*

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: *Psalm 51:2, 7* 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 1:39–55*

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

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)