

Hopewell Worship Guide for 12/26/21

Call to Worship *Daniel 2:20–22* Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.

Invocation: O LORD, our foes are many and many rise up against your people. They say, ‘There is no salvation for us in God.’ But you, O Yahweh, are a shield about us, our glory and the lifter of our heads. We cry to you oh Yahweh and you answer us from your holy hill. We lay down, sleep, and awake because you sustain us Yahweh. We will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against us all around. Arise Yahweh, save us our God. For you strike our enemies on the cheek, you break the teeth of the wicked. Salvation belongs to Yahweh, your blessing be on your people. We worship you God, - Father, Son, and Spirit, One God, Now and Forever. Amen (Psalm 3)

Old Testament *Psalm 111 Praise the Lord!*

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
² Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. ³ Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. ⁴ He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful. ⁵ He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. ⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations. ⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; ⁸ they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. ⁹ He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name! ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Adoration: *You are good, and your steadfast love endures forever. Your steadfast love is great toward us, and your faithfulness endures to all generations. You have proclaimed your name: The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving*

iniquity and transgression and sin. And this, your name, is our strong tower. You are good and do good, good to all; and your mercy is over all that you have made. But truly God is in a special manner good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. O that you would make all your goodness pass before us, that we may taste and see that the Lord is good, and your steadfast love may be always before our eyes. Behold, these are but the outskirts of his ways, and how small a whisper do we hear of God! But the thunder of his power who can understand? The Almighty – we cannot find him; he is great in power, in justice and abundant righteousness; he is exalted far above all blessing and praise.

Confession: *We have not had the rule which we ought to have had over our own spirits, which have therefore been like a city broken into and left without walls. We have been quick in our spirits to become angry, and anger has lodged in our bosoms. And when our spirits have been made bitter, we have spoken rashly with our lips, and have been guilty of that clamor and bitterness which should have been put far from us. Our life has not been free from love of money, nor have we learned in whatever situation we are to be content. Who can say that he is clean from that love of money which is the root of all kinds of evil, that covetousness which is idolatry? We have sought great things for ourselves when you have said, “Seek them not.” We have set our minds on the things of the flesh more than the things of the Spirit, and have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence, and have fattened our hearts in a day of slaughter. We have made provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires, even those passions which wage war against our souls; and in many instances, we have acted as if we had been lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. When we eat and when we drink, do we not eat for ourselves and drink for ourselves?*

Petition: *Lord, let your Spirit teach us all things and bring to our remembrance all that you have said to us, that the word of Christ may dwell richly in us in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. Lord, grant that we may pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it; and may we hold fast to the word that has been preached to us, and not believe in vain. Lord, make us ready and competent in the Scriptures, that we may be competent, equipped for every good work; and, being well trained for the kingdom of heaven, may we, like a good master of a house, bring out of our treasure what is new and what is old.*

Thanks: *We bless you that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself, not counting their trespasses against them, and that you have entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. That you have yourself made him for a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples; that he was consecrated and sealed, and sent into the world; and that the Father who sent him did not leave him alone, for he always did the things that are pleasing to him. Glory be to God in the highest, for in and through Jesus Christ there is on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased. In this the love of God was made manifest, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. We thank you that you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.*

Intercession: *We desire in our prayers to remember those who are in prison for the testimony of Jesus, as in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since we also are in the body. O send from on high and rescue them from those who hate them, and bring them out into a broad place. O let not the scepter of wickedness rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous should stretch out their hands to do wrong. Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in days of old, as in the generations of long ago, and make the depths of the sea a way for the redeemed of the Lord to pass over. Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, arise now, O LORD, and place them in the safety for which they long. O strengthen the endurance and faith of your suffering saints, that they may wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. O let the year of your redemption come, and the year of recompense for the cause of Zion. O that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion; and when the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad. O let not the downtrodden turn back in shame, but let the poor and needy praise your name. Lord, arise and have pity on Zion, and let the time to favor her, the appointed time, come; indeed, let the LORD build up Zion and appear in his glory. Lord, regard the prayer of the destitute and do not despise their prayer. O Lord GOD, please cease: How can Jacob stand, for he is so small? O make your face to shine upon that part of your sanctuary, which is desolate, for your own sake, O Lord. Let the groans of the prisoners come before you, and according to your great power, preserve those who for your name's sake are doomed to die. Let those whose teachers have been removed, again see their teachers, though they have the bread of adversity and the water of affliction*

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: *1 John 1:9* If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

New Testament Reading: *Luke 2:41–52*

⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Benediction:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26