



# **WORSHIP GUIDE**

*North Campus | Week of March 11, 2018*

# Order of Worship

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*North Campus - Sunday, March 11, 2018*

## **Welcome**

## **Call to Worship**

*Psalm 113:1-3*

“Praise the Lord/Rejoice”

“10,000 Reasons”

“Solid Ground”

## **Sermon**

*Romans 8:15-17*

*Justin Paslay*

## **Pastoral Prayer**

*Psalm 121:1-2*

## **Offering**

“This I Believe”

“You Never Let Go”

## **Benediction**

*Philippians 1:9-11*

## Call to Worship

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The Scriptural call to worship at the beginning of our service is a reminder that, as we gather, it is God who initiates and reveals Himself to us through His Word, and we respond to Him.

*Praise the Lord!  
Praise, O servants of the Lord,  
praise the name of the Lord!  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
from this time forth and forevermore!  
From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of the Lord is to be praised!*

**Psalm 113:1-3**

## Pastoral Prayer

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*I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
From where does my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.*

**Psalm 121:1-2**

## Offering

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Giving is an act of worship in which we give generously of our substance to further the mission of the church and to bring glory to God.

## Benediction

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*And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

**Philippians 1:9-11**

# Orphans, Adoption and the Heart of the Gospel

by Chelsea Sobolik

Currently, there are approximately 153 million orphaned children worldwide. It's important to note that, quite often, the word "orphan" doesn't necessarily mean that both parents are deceased. In most cases, the parents or a family member is unable to take care of a child, therefore "orphaning" the child. Most of the world's orphaned children actually have at least one living parent, but are living in a developing country where poverty serves as the largest catalyst for orphans. Children thrive best in families, not institutions or orphanages, and every effort should be made by governments and NGO's to equip families to stay together. Unfortunately that can't always happen, and children are in need of a safe, permanent and loving family.

So, what does the orphan crisis look like in our own country? In the United States, there are almost 428,000 children in the foster care system. Approximately 111,820 of those children are eligible for adoption, but nearly one-third (32 percent) of those children will wait over three years before being adopted into a permanent, loving family. The Dave Thomas Foundation estimated that 81.5 million Americans have considered adoption, and if just one in 500 of these adults adopted, every waiting child in the U.S. would have a permanent family.

Getting involved in the welfare of children is one of the clearest ways to demonstrate and live out the gospel—both in a child's life, and to display to the watching world what is most valuable to us. Adoption and child welfare should be viewed like the Great Commission—not everyone is called to go, but everyone is called to make disciples. In the same way, not everyone is called to adopt, but we are commanded to take care of the least vulnerable of the world—and orphans are among the least vulnerable! James 1:27 says that "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction."

Adoption is at the very core of the gospel. John Piper said it well when he taught, "The gospel is not a picture of adoption, adoption is a picture of the gospel." God pursued us when we were helpless and hopeless. He called us to be his sons and daughters, he chose us, gave us his name, gave us an eternal inheritance and, above all else, invites us to call him "Father".



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# The Gospel and Adoption

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The Scriptures present adoption as one of the primary metaphors for becoming a Christian (Gal 4:5, Eph 1:4–5, Rom 8:15). At Hickory Grove, we recognize *adoption* to be one of the clearest pictures of the Gospel. We were once alienated from God, hostile in mind, and without God in the world. However, through faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we can be reconciled as *sons* of God and *co-heirs* with Christ. It follows, then, that Christians would be enthusiastic about adoption and foster care. Our enthusiasm is accentuated by the clear adoption and foster care need in the greater Charlotte area. Equipped with the conviction that children are a blessing from the Lord (Psalm 127:3), we are poised to offer safe, stable, and Godly homes to boys and girls in need of a family. We hope you will be encouraged as we consider our role in effecting Gospel change in our community through adoption and foster care.

## Adoption Resources

These books are available today for purchase in the bookstore:

*The Gospel & Adoption: Gospel for Life Series*

by Russell Moore & Andrew T. Walker

*Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families and Churches*

by Russell Moore

For additional resources, including a list of books, articles, videos, and adoption agencies, visit **[HickoryGrove.org/Adoption](https://HickoryGrove.org/Adoption)**.

**Next Sunday... “The Gospel and Money”**

# The New City Catechism

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The New City Catechism is a modern-day resource aimed at helping children and adults alike learn the core doctrines of the Christian faith using 52 questions and answers. Learn more at [NewCityCatechism.com](http://NewCityCatechism.com).

## Part 1: God, Creation & Fall, Law

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### QUESTION 11

## What does God require in the sixth, seventh, and eighth commandments?

Sixth, that we do not hurt, or hate, or be hostile to our neighbor, but be patient and peaceful, pursuing even our enemies with love. Seventh, that we abstain from sexual immorality and live purely and faithfully, whether in marriage or in single life, avoiding all impure actions, looks, words, thoughts, or desires, and whatever might lead to them. Eighth, that we do not take without permission that which belongs to someone else, nor withhold any good from someone we might benefit.

*For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

**Romans 13:9**

### PRAYER

Faithful Shepherd of Our Souls, you created us to live in love and fellowship on the earth, but we fail in that again and again. May your love rule every relationship so that we walk in purity, putting away lust, covetousness, and greed, for your name’s sake. Amen.

Read the full commentary for this question at [NewCityCatechism.com](http://NewCityCatechism.com).

# Schedule & Announcements

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## Guest Information

If you are a guest, we welcome you and invite you to stop by any Guest Information Area to learn more about Hickory Grove and to get answers to your questions. Be sure to pick up a Guest Information Card, fill it out, and either drop it in the offering plate or leave it at any Guest Information Area.

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## Schedule

### Sunday, March 11

Sunday School: 8:45 AM

Worship: 10:15 AM

HG Kids Choir: 5 PM

HG Students Equip: 5 PM

### Wednesday, March 14

Dinner: 5 PM

Awana: 6:15 PM

Student Worship: 6:30 PM

Pastors' Class: 6:30 PM

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*June 18-21, 6-8:30 PM*

GAME ON! This summer, VBS at Hickory Grove invites kids to gear up and realize God has given them His ultimate playbook! Sign up to volunteer online at [HickoryGrove.org/VBS](http://HickoryGrove.org/VBS).

## THE GOSPEL PROJECT CHRONOLOGICAL

*Sunday School Classes, 8:45 AM*

The Spring quarter of The Gospel Project will focus on "Letters to God's People." Pick up a Sunday School class directory at the Information Desk in the Lobby.

## GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

*Friday, March 30, 6:30 PM, Main Campus*

Join us on Good Friday, as we remember the events leading up to Jesus' death. We will mourn over our sins and glorify in the redemption that is ours through Christ's atoning death on the cross. We will also partake in The Lord's Supper as we "proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

## EASTER SERVICE

*Sunday, April 1, 10:15 AM*

Join us Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior. Sunday School classes will meet at 8:45 AM.

## SECRET CHURCH 2018: CULTS AND COUNTERFEIT GOSPELS

*Friday, April 20, 6:30 PM, Event Center*

During this Secret Church, we will explore the claims of Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and other groups that claim to teach the truth. Cost is \$10. Register at [HickoryGrove.org/SecretChurch](http://HickoryGrove.org/SecretChurch).

