



Hope Chapel

A GOSPEL COMMUNITY FOR THE FLOURISHING OF THE CITY

WORSHIP GUIDE // DECEMBER 2, 2018 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WHAT IS ADVENT?

Advent is a word that means “coming” or “arrival.” It is a four-week period in which the church looks back to Jesus’ first coming as our Savior, and looks forward to his second coming as our Judge. Just as John the Baptist told the Jewish people to “prepare” for the Lord’s coming, we need to encourage each other to be ready for his coming again, when he will fulfill God’s promises and renew all things. Indeed, the kingdom of God will come “on earth as it is in heaven” – the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, the dead in Christ will rise to new life, and every tear will be wiped away. As Isaiah the prophet says, “Prepare the way for the Lord... The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together” (Isaiah 40:3-5).

Since the fourth century, the Church has celebrated this season of Advent, starting on the fourth Sunday before Christmas day. The celebration of Advent helps us focus our attention on Jesus Christ’s birth and ministry as well as his promised return. Throughout the season we are constantly reminded that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world.

REFLECTION

The news of God’s entrance into the world ruled by sin and death is nothing less than astounding. After a long and agonizing silence that seemed never to end, the voice at last is heard in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord. To each and all on this first Sunday of Advent, we bring this announcement: God will come, and his justice will prevail, and he will destroy evil and pain in all its forms, once and forever. To be a Christian is to live every day of our lives in solidarity with those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, but to live in the unshakable hope of those who expect the dawn.

Fleming Rutledge

Advent: the once & future coming of Jesus Christ

CALLED BY GOD

⤴ GATHERING SONG

Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens *Anonymous lyrics (1796), Eric Marshall (2014)*

Praise the Lord! ye heav'ns adore Him;
Praise Him, angels in the height!
Sun and moon, rejoice before Him;
Praise Him, all ye stars of light.

Praise the Lord! for He hath spoken;
Worlds His mighty voice obeyed.
Laws which never shall be broken
For their guidance He hath made.

*All creation join the song of praise!
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways!
And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy all of our days!*

Praise the Lord! for He is glorious;
Never shall His promise fail.
God Has made His saints victorious;
Sin and death shall not prevail.

*All creation join the song of praise!
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways!
And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy all of our days!*

⤵ WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP // Psalm 130:5-8

Leader: I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.

**All: I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

Leader: Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.

All: He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

*Why do we sing?
We sing as a way of
engaging our voices,
imaginings, words,
and desires in the
worship of God.*

*We sing together,
to God and to each other,
because of our calling to
be a people joined
together in Christ.*

An Invitation

*The Call to Worship is
sometimes called the In-
vitation to Worship. As we
shuffle through the doors
on Sunday morning, we
come to a Gospel-feast,
invited by Jesus Christ.
But not only does He offer
the invitation, He also
pays the cost of admission
through His life, death and
resurrection. And so we
are honored guests, wel-
comed in and responding
to this incredible grace.*

*Come, let us worship our
Savior, Jesus Christ!*



LITANY FOR ADVENT WEEK 1: HOPE

God, the nations rage.

The earth shudders.

Storms, fires, and violence abound.

The people are in distress.

In the midst of turmoil,

In the midst of trouble and need,

In the midst of swirling forces

We look up.

So intent on the needs and crises before us,

We raise our downward gaze.

Shifting away from our worry and despair,

We adjust our focus.

Heavy-hearted, weighed down by the cares of this life¹,

We release our burdens.

We look up to the heavens,

To signs in the sun, moon, and stars².

We look up toward the horizon,

To the coming dawn,

Because you are our help.

Your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness.

Do not let us be put to shame

Because we trust in you.

We stand up and raise our heads;

Our redemption is drawing near³. Amen.

⤴ SONG OF RESPONSE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Latin text (c. 12th century), 15th cent. French processional adapted by Thomas Helmore (1854)

O come, O come Emmanuel

And ransom captive Israel,

Who mourns in lonely exile here

Until the son of God appears.

*Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Has come to thee, oh Israel!*

*Advent Litany Scripture
Sources:*

(1) *"But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap." Luke 21:34*

(2) *"And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves..." Luke 21:25*

(3) *"Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Luke 21:28*

Also draws from Psalm 25.

This litany was written by Fran Pratt and used with permission (<http://www.franpratt.com/>)



Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus *Charles Wesley (1744), HYFRDOL (1830)*

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth;
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
by his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine own sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

CLEANSED BY GOD

⤴ CONFESSON OF SIN

Merciful God, always with us, always coming:
We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent.
We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;
we have ignored the promise of your kingdom;
we get distracted by all the busyness of this season.

Forgive us, God. Now, in the quiet of our hearts,
we ask you to make us ready for his coming...

*** time for silent confession***

*We are not alone.
The Bible teaches that Jesus understands what it is to be human (and Advent is a beautiful reminder of that). Because He was fully man, He is compassionate and merciful toward us in our sin and failures. But not only can He sympathize with us, Jesus also has set us free from the power of sin by his death and resurrection.*



Ⓣ WORDS OF FORGIVENESS // Isaiah 49:13-15

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted. But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

Ⓣ PASSING OF THE PEACE

CELEBRATING GOD

Ⓣ SONGS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

You Alone Can Rescue *Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman (2008)*

Who, oh Lord, could save themselves, their own soul could heal?
Our shame was deeper than the sea, Your grace is deeper still.

*You alone can rescue, You alone can save,
You alone can lift us from the grave.
You came down to find us, led us out of death,
To You alone belongs the highest praise.*

You, oh Lord, have made a way, the great divide You heal.
For when our hearts were far away, Your love went further still,
Yes, your love goes further still.

We lift up our eyes, lift up our eyes, You're the Giver of Life...

Beauty of the Lord *Jared Anderson (2004)*

Jesus Your love has come one step closer,
I will trust that You will never let me go.
Jesus Your love has won me over,
All my trust has found no other.

*I will declare the beauty of the Lord,
Nothing compares to the beauty of the Lord.
Jesus Your love takes my breath away,
Now I'm living everyday for the beauty of the Lord.*

Why is it called "Words of Forgiveness?" There's a reason we don't call this element "The Forgiveness of Sins." As Protestants, we truly believe that there is only one mediator between God and human-kind—Jesus Christ (1 Tim 2:5). Therefore, no pastor or priest can offer God's pardon...this is the work of Christ alone, given freely by and directly from Him! Therefore, we are assured that as we confess our sins and put our faith in Jesus Christ, He indeed does pardon us. Our pastors and leaders in worship merely offer this good news as it is proclaimed in Scripture (see 1 John 1:9).

The "passing of the peace": As recipients of God's grace, we gladly receive peace from Him. In response to His grace, we also extend that grace to one another with a handshake or a hug. Traditionally, Christians have greeted one another during this time in the service with the phrase, "May the peace of Christ be with you" and receive back the greeting "And also with you."

Responding to grace: After being reminded of God's lavish grace and love toward us, we respond by celebrating with singing.



Church, City, World
Corporate prayer is an essential part of the worship and work of God's people. We pray for specific needs- naming and sometimes lamenting the brokenness in the world- mindful to ask a powerful and merciful help for the Church, the city, the world, and for one another.

The leader will end each section of the prayer by saying "Lord, in Your mercy..." and the congregation responds with "...Hear our prayer".

What do we do during the Scripture Reading?
Because the Word of God is one of the chief means through which God has chosen to speak to us, it is a principle and direct way we "hear from God" in worship. The public reading of Scripture, then, is a sacred act that deserves our full attention and focus. Especially in our age, we must discipline ourselves to listen to readings for longer periods of time, for God's Word is food for our soul.

Todd is Hope Chapel's founding/lead pastor. For past sermons, please visit our website.

This sermon is part of our Advent series. For past sermons, please visit our website.

CHANGED BY GOD

⤴ PRAYER OF RENEWAL

⤵ SCRIPTURE READING // Colossians 3:18 - 4:6

²³When [Zechariah's] time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵ "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

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."

Sermon- Todd Jones

Series: The Hidden Characters of Advent

Title: Elizabeth



Ⓢ GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERING

A Child Will Lead Us All *The Orchardist (2017)*

The kingdom's coming as a seed,
Smaller than the eye can see,
From wanting eyes to set us free, kingdom come.

The kingdom's coming as the rain
To wash away our castles vain
And cleanse the burdened heart from stain, kingdom come.

The kingdom's coming as a word
The wisest man has never heard,
And foolish lips will speak the cure, kingdom come.

The kingdom's coming as a song,
Mournful dirge and anthem strong
To cheer the ones who sing it wrong, kingdom come.

A child will lead us all home

The kingdom comes from far away,
The kingdom has no place to stay;
To all who open up the door, kingdom come.

The kingdom's coming to the poor,
Sons and daughters of the Lord,
And all that's lost will be restored, kingdom come.

The kingdom's coming as a feast,
The finest wine for all the least;
We'll taste the broken bread of peace, kingdom come.

The kingdom's coming slow and true,
Till every inch has been made new
And it will ask your life of you, kingdom come.

A child will lead us all home

What's the offering all about? The offering is a way for Christians to support the mission and ministry of the church. Christians offer a sacrificial portion of their resources—time, talents, possessions—as an act of faith and gratitude in response to God's grace. While many at Hope Chapel make their regular contributions through online giving and automated bill pay, offerings are a part of our worship service as an opportunity for the regular, proportionate and generous giving of the resources God has given us.

If you are a guest, please feel no obligation to give. Giving is for the members and regular attenders who desire to give to God and His church so that we can be a blessing to Him and our community in even greater ways.

Ways to give:
*You may drop a check or cash in the offering plate, give **online** at hopechapelgreensboro.org/give, or give through **Venmo** to @HopeChapel. (note: contributions made through Venmo are not receipted for tax purposes)*



What Is Communion?

What we do during communion isn't merely a symbolic act or a remembrance—it's more than that.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 teaches us that we are actually communing with Christ Himself as we partake of the elements. We mysteriously "participate in the body and blood" of Jesus. As we take communion, let us remember that Christ is spiritually present in a special way for us in this sacrament. Let's enjoy the feast!

If you are not a follower of Jesus or are not prepared to share in the meal, please feel free to not participate and instead spend this time in prayer ("Prayers for Reflection" are included in this worship guide).

We hope this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the church.

PLEASE NOTE:
Gluten-free bread is available in both serving lines.

Ⓣ COMMUNION

Minister: The Lord be with you. All: and also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts. All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Minister: And now we give you thanks because Christ was born a child into a line of broken and sinful people, a royal house lying in ruins.

In righteousness he will judge the world, as the one who gives us himself—his body and his blood—for our righteousness and peace and for the rebuilding of his kingdom.

All: And so we gladly thank you, joining our voices with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, who forever sing to the glory of your Name.

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Minister: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.

All: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

*** Institution of the elements ***

Minister: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Minister: As our Savior taught us, so we pray,

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, the power,

and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Savior of the Nations, Come *Ambrose (4th cen.) and Martin Luther (1523),*

trans. by Seerveld Enchiridia, Erfurt, 1524, arr. Bruce Benedict

Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.



Not by human power or seed did the woman's womb conceive,
Only by the Spirit's breath was the Word of God made flesh.

From the Father forth He came soon returning to the same.
Captive leading death and hell; let the song of triumph swell!

Christ laid down his majesty, passed through dark Gethsemane;
Though he left his Father's home, Christ now sits on God's own throne.

Christ in glory intercede for your creature's suffering need.
Let your resurrecting power soon complete the victory hour.

Praise to you, O Lord, we sing. Praise to Christ, our newborn King!
With the Father, Spirit, one, let your lasting kingdom come.

PRAYERS FOR REFLECTION

Prayer for those searching

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and my Lord.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and faithfully follow you in life.

Prayer for renewal and commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism, to love God and neighbor, and to a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, to pursue forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace, and to live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

Guides for prayer:

If you are not a follower of Jesus or are not prepared to share in the meal, please feel free to not participate and instead, to spend this time in prayer. The prayers provided here may serve as a good place to start.



SENT BY GOD

⤴ SENDING SONG

None But Thee *John Fellows, Eric J. Marshall (2011)*

Jesus, mighty King of Heaven, Thou, O Lord, our guide shall be.
Thy commission we rely on, we will follow none but Thee.

As an emblem of Thy passion and Thy victory o'er the grave,
We who know Thy great salvation are baptized now beneath the wave.

*Fall on us, O Holy Lord,
Our hearts, Oh King, are only Yours!
By your grace we live, and we will follow none but Thee,
Will follow none but Thee!*

Fearless of the worlds despising, we the ancient path pursue.
Buried with our Lord and rising to a life divinely new.

Sin shall never be our master, captives of Thy blessed grace.
Offering our lives hereafter, we resolve to seek Thy face.

↻ COMMUNITY LIFE

⬇ BLESSING & SENDING // 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Minister: Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace
at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

What is the benediction?
Benediction is a word with Latin origin (*bene* = "well," and *dicere* = "to speak"); a benediction is a word which "speaks wellness/goodness" to us, therefore properly understood as a blessing. The benediction in worship has ancient roots, going back to the worship of God's people in the Temple. When we utilize the benediction in our worship, we connect ourselves with an ancient practice of God's people and join with them together in worship of our one great God.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Given Last Week:	\$10,051	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to Date (Jan. 1 - Nov 25)	\$332,008	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
Given to Date	\$389,804	Hope Chapel
Over/[Under]	\$57,796	1825 Spring Garden St Greensboro, NC 27403

Online giving is available on our website: www.hopechapelgreensboro.org/give
We also accept donations via Venmo: @HopeChapel.