



Hope Chapel

A GOSPEL COMMUNITY FOR THE FLOURISHING OF THE CITY

WORSHIP GUIDE // DECEMBER 1, 2019 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

Almighty God *Leslie Jordan, David Leonard, Sandra McCracken (2014)*

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open,
Search and know our thoughts and anxious fears.
Wash us in the fountain of Your mercy,
Come with Your light, we cannot hide from You.

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open,
With gratitude we raise our song to You.
Come and fill the praises of Your people,
In grace and truth, You make us new again.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open,
We long for more than what this world provides.
No shallow spring will ever satisfy us,
But Your river deep floods over everything.

⤵ 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

We enter into this first Sunday of the Advent season, turning our attention to You, God. We acknowledge the darkness that is within us, and that permeates the world. **Father, forgive us.**

We acknowledge the suffering, tragedy, and pain by which humanity is afflicted, which seems at times to overwhelm us.

Draw near to us, Oh God.

We consider the mystery of your ways, that you might choose to send our Savior as an innocent baby and not as a warrior or a king; as one who humbly accepted suffering and humiliation and called it glory.

Our hope is in Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

We choose in this moment to focus our attention on HOPE; the hope of Jesus Christ and all his coming represents for suffering people, the hope for restoration of all that is broken in the world, the hope of new life and resurrection. **Hope is the light we wish to see by.**

Grant, Oh God, that when he comes, Christ may find us waiting in expectation, our souls quieted, our hearts soft and open.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

In Christ all things are made new, and we look forward to the day our hope is fulfilled, each heart reconciled, the work of Christ completed in all the earth. **Our hope is in Jesus Christ, the Messiah.**

Amen.

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

⤴ SONG OF RESPONSE

Come Light Our Hearts *Sandra McCracken (2012)*

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait,
For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait,
Truly our hope is in You, truly our hope is in You.

O Lord of life, our only hope,
Your radiance shines on all who look
To You in the dark, Emmanuel come, come light our hearts.

O Joy above all other loves,
In you we find more than enough
We come as we are, O heal and restore; come light our hearts.



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!*

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer,
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Desire of nations, bind,
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

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 humankind—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.

CHANGED BY GOD

⤴ PRAYER OF RENEWAL

⤵ SCRIPTURE READING // Genesis 22:1-14

¹ After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."



Sermon- Todd Jones
Series: What Are You Waiting For?
Title: Up the Mountain

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.

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)*

⬆️ GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERING

Hallelujah! Christ Is Coming Nelson Koscheski, Ryan Flanigan (2019)

The first Advent broke darkness' sway,
Christ's birth made night as bright as day;
When Jesus spoke the truth was known,
When Jesus walked the way was shown,
When Jesus died all death was slain,
When Jesus rose 'twas life's refrain.

*Hallelujah! Christ is coming
Lord, we wait for you*

Yet still the dark with light contends:
Until the Lord Most High descends
His people bear their cross of pain,
His people from the world abstain,
His people thirst for wisdom still,
His people seek his kingdom's will

He will return to end the fight,
To banish all the powers of night;
When Christ returns our hope is sealed,
When Christ returns the world is healed,
When Christ returns he is the prize,
When Christ returns the dead will rise.



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

Be Thou My Vision *Dallan Forgaill (8th century), Irish folk melody*

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always!
Thou and Thou only first in my heart;
High King of heavne, my treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

↻ 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

OPPERATING BUDGET

Given Last Week:	\$6,556
Required to Date (Jan. 1 - Nov. 24)	\$399,923
Given to Date	\$430,027
Over/[Under]	\$30,104

ROOTED FOR RENEWAL 2021

Goal:	\$900,000
Pledged:	\$461,611
Needed:	\$438,389
Given to date:	\$131,745

Gifts can be placed in the offering
plate on Sundays or mailed to:

Hope Chapel
908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Greensboro, NC 27408

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