



Hope Chapel

A GOSPEL COMMUNITY FOR THE FLOURISHING OF THE CITY

WORSHIP GUIDE // DECEMBER 15, 2019 THE THIRD 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

In Advent, we wait, and hope appears if we truly desire to see it. Maybe it’s in tiny spaces here and there, hidden in the dying grasslike winter wildflowers, but we find it where we can, and exactly as it comes to us, while the days grow dark. We remind ourselves that you can only see the starts when it is dark, and the darker it is, the brighter the light breaking through. And so as the fields outside our windows go to sleep, we stay awake and watch, holding to the belief that God is with us, is close and present, and that we will be healed.

-Anne Lamott

Advent is an invitation to plunge into the deep, dark waters of our worst world, knowing that when we resurface for air, we will encounter the hopeful, hovering Spirit of God. For when we dive into the depths of our worst world, we reach a critical point at which parties and pageants no longer satiate our longing for hope - and we are liberated by this realization. Indeed, the light of true hope is found in the midst of darkness.

-Christena Cleveland

*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!*

CALLED BY GOD

⤴ GATHERING SONG

O Tidings of Comfort and Joy *Traditional English Carol (18th cent) and Melody*

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name,
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
And bring to Him your offering by giving Him your praise.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

⤵ WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP // Psalm 34:1-3

Leader: I will extol the LORD at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.
I will glory in the LORD;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

**All: Glorify the LORD with me;
let us exalt his name together.**



LITANY FOR ADVENT WEEK 3: JOY

God of heaven and earth, you sent your angels as messengers
to your servants, bringing news of comfort and joy,
of your plan to heal a world gone astray...

...Bringing news of Emmanuel, God-With-Us.

To Mary, you sent a message of your favor.
You chose her to carry and give birth to Jesus, the Son of the Most High.

**My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
From now on all generations will call me blessed.**

To Joseph the angel gave assurance that Mary's son was from God,
and should be named Jesus...

...Because he would save us from our sins.

To shepherds among their flocks, angels brought good news
of great joy that will be for all people.

A Savior has been born to us; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

To Kings from the east, a star rose signifying the birth of Jesus.
When they saw the star they were overjoyed,
and they bowed down and worshiped the Christ Child,
offering costly gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**We worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords,
and lay all our treasures at His feet.**

You have brought us joy through Your Son, the Messiah.

A Savior who is Christ the King.

⤴ 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.

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



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.

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 mankind—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."

Emmanuel, Emmanuel *Mark Altrogge (2006)*

We have come today to worship, we have come to praise the One
Who came down into our darkness, born a lowly virgin's son.
You who did not come with splendor, pomp and strength and majesty;
You who came to us in weakness, born to us in poverty.

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
In You alone we hope and trust;
Jesus, Savior, God with us, Emmanuel.*

We were blind and lost and godless, wandering a trackless waste,
Then hope arose, a glorious beacon, like the star the wise men chased.
Down from heaven came a Savior, born a child, so small and frail,
Taking up our pain and troubles, conquering where we had failed.

You who with a word created sun and moon and seas and sand,
Lay there sleeping in a manger, cradled by Your mother's hand.
You who made the mighty forests would lie down upon a tree;
Fastened there with nails for sinners, would bleed and die to set us free.

CLEANSED BY GOD

⤴ CONFESSON OF SIN

Almighty God who inhabits eternity
but dwells with those who are of a humble and contrite spirit:
before you and our Lord Jesus Christ we confess our sins.
We have ignored the presence of your Spirit.
We have failed to look for the return of our Savior and Judge.
We have been blind to your coming
in the suffering of the hungry, the exiled,
the destitute, the sick, and the imprisoned.
In your great goodness put away our offenses
and cleanse us from our sin, for Jesus' sake...

*** time for silent confession***

⤵ WORDS OF FORGIVENESS // Matthew 1:21

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.

↔ PASSING OF THE PEACE

↔ NEW MEMBERS JOIN



CELEBRATING GOD

⤴ SONGS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

Arise, My Soul, Arise *Charles Wesley (1742), Kevin Twit (1996)*

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears;
The bleeding sacrifice, on my behalf appears;
Before the throne my Surety stands, before the throne my Surety stands,
My name is written on His hands.

*Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Shake off your guilty fears and rise!*

He ever lives above, for me to intercede;
His all redeeming love, His precious blood, to plead;
His blood atoned for every race, His blood atoned for every race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

My God is reconciled; His pardoning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear.
With confidence I now draw nigh, with confidence I now draw nigh,
And "Father, Abba, Father," cry.

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Stuart Townend, Keith Getty (2015)

Sing we the song of Emmanuel;
This the Christ who was long foretold.
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem,
Promise of dawn now our eyes behold.
God Most High in a manger laid,
Lift your voices and now proclaim;
Great and glorious, Love has come to us,
Join now with the hosts of heaven!

Come we to welcome Emmanuel,
King who came with no crown or throne.
Helpless He lay, the Invincible,
Maker of Mary, now Mary's son.
O what wisdom to save us all,
Shepherds, sages, before Him fall.
Grace and majesty, what humility,
Come on bended knee, adore Him!

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



Go spread the news of Emmanuel,
Joy and peace for the weary heart.
Lift up your heads, for your King has come,
Sing for the Light overwhelms the dark.
Glory shining for all to see.
Hope alive, let the gospel ring.
God has made a way, He will have the praise,
Tell the world, His name is Jesus!

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

Continuously Sandra McCracken (2016)

I will hold your right hand, right beside you, my word is true
I am continuously, continuously with you.
Though your flesh and heart may fail, I will hold you in veil,
I am continuously, continuously with you.

*Rest in my love as you sleep tonight,
Rest in the song that mercy sings,
Your shield and strength, all through the fight
I will be your covering.*

I'll be your shelter where e'r you go,
When you wonder I'll bring you home.
I am continuously, continuously with you.



CHANGED BY GOD

⤴ PRAYER OF RENEWAL

⤵ SCRIPTURE READING // Malachi 3:16 - 4:6

^{3:16} Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name. ¹⁷ "They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸ Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

^{4:1} "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

⁴ "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵ "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

Sermon- Daniel Northrup
Series: What Are You Waiting For?
Title: Four Hundred Years

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.

Daniel is Hope Chapel's associate pastor for youth, outreach, and assimilation.

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



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.**



Advent Hymn Christy Nockels (2016)

Christ whose glory fills the skies, Christ the Everlasting Light,
Son of Righteousness arise and triumph o'er these shades of night.

Come Thou long awaited one in the fullness of Your Love,
And loose this heart bound up by shame and I will never be the same.

So here I wait in hope of You, oh my soul's longing through and through.
Dayspring from on high be near and daystar in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn, until Your love in me is born
And joyless is the evening sun until Emmanuel has come.

So here I wait in hope of You, oh my soul's longing through and through!
Dayspring from on high be near and daystar in my heart appear.

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

Go Tell It On the Mountain *African-American spiritual (19th century)*

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
Over silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born.
And God sent us salvation
On blessed Christmas morn'.

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.

↻ 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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

OPPERATING BUDGET

Given Last Week:	\$15,984
Required to Date (Jan. 1 - Dec. 8)	\$416,941
Given to Date	\$456,608
Over/[Under]	\$39,667

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.