



Hope Chapel

A GOSPEL COMMUNITY FOR THE FLOURISHING OF THE CITY

WORSHIP GUIDE // DECEMBER 22, 2019
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CALLED BY GOD

Ⓢ GATHERING SONG

Joy Has Dawned Keith Getty, Stuart Townend (2004)

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation.
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
But a humble gift of love; Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels
As the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast, vulnerable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story.
Gold, a King is born today! Incense, God is with us.
Myrrh, His death will make a way, and by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heaven, given as a ransom.
Reconciling God and man, Christ our mighty Champion!
What a Savior, what a Friend, what a glorious mystery.
Once a babe in Bethlehem now the Lord of history!

Ⓣ WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP // Psalm 72:18-19

Leader: Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel,
Who alone does marvelous deeds.

**All: Praise be to his glorious name forever;
May the whole earth be filled with his glory.**

*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 4: LOVE

Leader: Creator God, we have celebrated the hope, peace, and joy that come from You. And now we celebrate Love, which is from You, and is Your very nature.

All: God is Love.

Leader: You formed the universe out of the void, and breathed life into your creatures, all because of your great love.

**All: In You, we live and move and have our being.
We exist because of Your love.**

Leader: Humanity rejected You. But because of your love you made a way to restore us to relationship with Yourself.

All: Love made a way. That love is Jesus Christ.

Leader: Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God-With-Us. Born of a virgin girl in a stable, laid in a manger, Jesus entered the world in humility and compassion.

All: Jesus lived, was crucified, died, and was resurrected from death, all for love. Love has conquered death.

Leader: It is his example we live by: self-sacrificing love. And we know that "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs..."

**All: "... Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
It always protects, always trusts, always hopes,
always perseveres. Love never fails."**

Leader: May our hearts be illumined with the light of Love....

All: And may we share Your love wherever we go. Amen.

*What's with the arrows?
Throughout the worship
guide you will notice
arrows pointing up, down,
and side-to-side. These
are a reminder that our
liturgy is a dialogue—it's
relational. God speaks,
we respond. We extend
peace to one another.
God provides sustenance
to us from his Word and
at his Table. This morning,
God invites you into this
holy "dance".*

① SONGS 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.



Angels, We Have Heard On High

Traditional French carol (circa 1862)

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains:
"Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?
"Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
"Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

CLEANSSED BY GOD

⤴ CONFSSION OF SIN

God: You are Light,
And in you there is no darkness at all.
We confess that in us, there is much darkness.
Our prayers are infrequent,
Our love inconsistent,
Our obedience incomplete.

Gracious God, forgive our sin.
Illumine our darkness.
Help us live in the Light of your truth and your Presence,
For our good and your glory.

** time for silent confession**

⤵ WORDS OF FORGIVENESS // Romans 8:38-39

I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

↻ PASSING OF THE PEACE

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 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).



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)*

CELEBRATING GOD

Ⓢ SONGS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

Hark the Herald Angels Sing *Charles Wesley (1739), Felix Mendelssohn (1840)*

Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled".
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies.
With the angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Ⓢ GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERING

What Child Is This? *W. Chatterton Dix (b. 1837), tune is GREENSLEEVES*

What Child is this who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.



CHANGED BY GOD

⤴ PRAYER OF RENEWAL

⤵ SCRIPTURE READING // Luke 2:22-35

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

Sermon- Todd Jones

Series: The Hidden Characters of Advent

Title: Herod

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.



Ⓣ 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.

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.

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.



*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.

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

Begin And Never Cease *The Oh Hellos (2013)*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night all seated on the ground
the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled minds,
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring, to you and all mankind!"

O tidings of comfort and joy...

"To you in David's town this day is born of David's line
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:
the Heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed
and meanly wrapped in swathing bands and in a manger laid"

Noel! Noel! Noel! Noel! Born is the King of Israel!

O come, let us adore Him!

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

"All glory be to God on high and to the earth be peace!
good will henceforth from God to man: begin and never cease!"

↔ 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

Given Last Week:	\$8,157	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to Date (Jan. 1 - Dec 15)	\$425,450	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
Given to Date	\$464,765	Hope Chapel
Over/[Under]	\$39,315	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.

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.