



Hope Chapel

A GOSPEL COMMUNITY FOR THE FLOURISHING OF THE CITY

WORSHIP GUIDE // DECEMBER 6, 2020

THE SECOND 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

Greater Than We Can Imagine *George Romanacce, Eric Grover (2009)*

Every day we'll bless You and praise Your name
And on Your glorious splendor we will dwell.
On Your wondrous works, Lord, we'll meditate
And of Your awesome power we will tell.
We'll speak of Your salvation and Your abundant goodness...

*Because You are greater than we can imagine!
You are too beautiful for us to fathom!
Oh, You are great, and greatly to be praised!*

Every generation shall sing Your worth
And magnify Your mercy and Your grace.
We'll sing about the Savior who came to earth
To bear the sins of those He came to save.
You fill our hearts with wonder, we'll worship You forever...

⤵ WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP // from Psalm 63

Leader: O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**All: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.**

Leader: Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

**All: So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift up my hands.**

ADVENT LITANY

There is a moment
Just before the promise of God -

The promise of goodness -

Comes to pass;

In which we prepare inside ourselves

Space for the Divine to be born.

Why do we sing?

*We sing as a way of
engaging our voices,
imagination, 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.*

Why a "call to worship"?

*Worship is something we
offer to God every day of
our lives in everything that
we do. If we are worship-
ing as we come in the
church doors, why do we
have a Call to Worship?
Implied in the phrase is
the word "corporate."
When we hear the Call to
(corporate) Worship, we
are called by God as one
community to worship
Him together.*

*What is unique about
Sunday is not that we
worship on that day and
not others; it is that we
worship together.*

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".*



The preparation never goes unnoticed;

It always bears fruit.

When we can hear the "Voice of one calling in the wilderness"⁽¹⁾,

We know the "One who is more powerful" is nearby,

The commonwealth of Christ is at hand,

The goodness of God is imminent.

May we hear and be that Voice,

The people who go around preparing the world

For the coming of Christ.

Because Christ has been born in us.

Even when things are difficult,

Even when struggle comes,

Even when we are discouraged,

We are setting our hearts aright;

Bending ourselves toward justice,

Always looking for God's goodness⁽²⁾.

God is not slow about the promise,

As we humans think about time and slowness⁽³⁾.

Let all people be comforted⁽⁴⁾

As we wait for this new earth⁽⁵⁾.

See, the Lord God comes with might!⁽⁶⁾

The Day of Peace approaches.

We feel it in our bodies. **We welcome it in our hearts.**

We speak it with our voices. **We allow ourselves to be comforted**⁽⁴⁾.

Amen.

O Come, Messiah, Come *Isaac Wardell (2009)*

Oh come, oh come Messiah! Oh come our Alleluia!

Oh sing, oh sing Hosanna! Oh come, Messiah, come!

Comfort and joy, Alpha, Omega, He

Sorrow and toil, no longer rulers be.

⤴ SONG OF PRAISE

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.

Advent Litany

Scripture Sources:

(1) *Isaiah 40:3, Mark 1:3*

(2) *Psalm 85:12*

(3) *2 Peter 3:8,9*

(4) *Isaiah 40:1*

(5) *2 Peter 3:13*

(6) *Isaiah 40:10*

This litany was written by

Fran Pratt and used with

permission (<http://www.franpratt.com/>)



*Why do we confess sin?
Worship both draws us to
God and reveals where
we are distant from him.
Throughout Scripture,
when people see or
experience God they are
faced with the reality of
their own brokenness
and shame. Likewise, we
confess our sin, as a com-
munity and individually.*

*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."*

*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

⤴ CONFESSION OF SIN

God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness.
We confess that we have not welcomed the light,
or trusted good news to be good.
We have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst,
expecting little, and hoping for less.

Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light
And walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior...

*** time for silent confession***

⤵ WORDS OF FORGIVENESS // Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

↔ PASSING OF THE PEACE



CELEBRATING GOD

⤴ SONGS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring *Godfrey Thring (1864), Michael Van Patter (2012)*

Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,
came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came for man's redemption,
lowly came on earth to die.
Jesus comes again in mercy,
when our hearts are bowed with care;
Jesus comes again in answer to an earnest, heartfelt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.

Jesus comes in joy and sorrow,
shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us,
glads our hearts, and dries our tears;
Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
bringing news of sins forgiven;
Jesus comes in sounds of gladness, leading souls redeemed to Heav'n;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Now the gate of death is riv'n.

Jesus comes on clouds triumphant,
when the heav'ns shall pass away;
Jesus comes again in glory; let us then our homage pay,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Till the dawn of endless day.

God with Us *Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan (2012)*

You've come to bring peace, to be love, to be nearer to us.
You've come to breathe life, to be light, to shine brighter in us.
Oh Emmanuel, God with us.

*Our Deliverer, You are Savior,
In Your presence we find our strength.
Over everything, our redemption;
God with us, You are God with us.*

You've come to be hope to this world, for Your honor and name.
You've come to take sin, to bear shame and to conquer the grave.
Oh Emmanuel, God with us.

You are here, You are holy,
We are standing in Your glory!

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

*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 resour-
ces—time, talents, posses-
sions—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, offer-
ings 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: con-
tributions made through
Venmo are not receipted
for tax purposes).*



CHANGED BY GOD

⤴ PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Sermon- Todd Jones
Series: Let My People Go
Title: Nine Mighty Acts

*Todd is Hope Chapel's
founding/lead pastor.*

*This sermon is part of a series
on the Old Testament
book of Exodus.
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.**

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.

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:
All bread is gluten-free.



SENT BY GOD

⤴ SENDING SONG

Christ Be All Around Me

David Leonard, Jack Mooring, Leeland Mooring, Leslie Jordan (2015)

As I rise, strength of God go before, lift me up.

As I wake, eyes of God look upon, be my sight.

As I wait, heart of God satisfy and sustain.

As I hear, voice of God lead me on, be my guide.

*Above and below me, before and behind me,
In every eye that sees me, Christ be all around me.*

As I go, Hand of God, my defense, by my side.

And as I rest, breath of God fall upon, bring me peace.

Your life, Your death, Your blood was shed

For every moment, every moment.

↔ COMMUNITY LIFE

⤴ GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERING

⤵ 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

OPERATING BUDGET

Given Last Week: \$24,396

Required to Date \$506,112

(Jan. 1 - Nov 29)

Given to Date \$469,785

Over/[Under] [\$36,327]

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.

**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 bless-
ing. 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 to-
gether in worship of our
one great God.