



Hope Chapel

A GOSPEL COMMUNITY FOR THE FLOURISHING OF THE CITY

WORSHIP GUIDE // DECEMBER 20, 2020

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.*

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.*



Advent Litany
Scripture Sources:

⁽¹⁾ Luke 1:26

⁽²⁾ Luke 1:30

⁽³⁾ Luke 1:31

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

⊕ ADVENT LITANY

There is a moment
When the spinning of the earth
And the twinkling of stars
And the rushing of winds
And all movement
And all buzzing
And all frenzy
Stops.

In a shift heralded by angels ⁽¹⁾
Things are never again the same.
Life is disrupted.
No turning back.

This is a moment we can't ignore.
One thing is asked of us:
Only to say Yes
To bearing a new reality into being.

If we are paying attention,
We can notice when the angel approaches:
"Do not be afraid
For you have found favor with God" ⁽²⁾

Will we, like Mary, give consent to the disruption
Of the goodness of God,
Of the redemption of creation,
Of the Making Whole of all things?
Will we consent to allow ourselves
To conceive and bear the image of God to the world? ⁽³⁾

We tend to our hearts and our egos,
We organize our priorities,
We align our intentions,
We cultivate our thoughts and actions;
So that when the opportunity comes
Our whole being will be YES. 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".*



⤴ **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**

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!"

CLEANSED BY GOD

⤴ **CONFESSION 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.

*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.*

** time for silent confession**



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."

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

(continued on next page)



Ⓣ 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.

Ⓣ GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERING

Ⓣ PASSING OF THE PEACE

CELEBRATING GOD

Ⓣ SONGS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

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!"

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 2:8-14

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

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 hopechapel-greensboro.org/give, or give through **Venmo** to **@HopeChapel** (note: contributions made through Venmo are not receipted for tax purposes).*

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



Sermon- Todd Jones
Series: Let My People Go
Title: Good News of Great Joy

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

*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

Joy to the World *Isaac Watts (1719), Lowell Mason (1836), ANTIOCH tune*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

⤵ 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

OPERATING BUDGET

Given Last Week:	\$10,271
Required to Date (Jan. 1 - Dec. 13)	\$527,200
Given to Date	\$489,828
Over/[Under]	[\$37,312]

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.*