



# Hope Chapel

A GOSPEL COMMUNITY FOR THE FLOURISHING OF THE CITY

WORSHIP GUIDE // NOVEMBER 29, 2020

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

THOU SON OF THE Most High, Prince of Peace, be born again into our world. Wherever there is war in this world, wherever there is pain, wherever there is loneliness, wherever there is no hope, come, thou long-expected one, with healing in thy wings.

Holy Child, whom the shepherds and the kings and the dumb beasts adored, be born again. Wherever there is boredom, wherever there is fear of failure, wherever there is temptation too strong to resist, wherever there is bitterness of heart, come, thou blessed one, with healing in thy wings.

Saviour, be born in each of us who raises his face to thy face, not knowing fully who he is or who thou art, knowing only that thy love is beyond his knowing and that no other has the power to make him whole. Come, Lord Jesus, to each who longs for thee even though he has forgotten thy name. Come quickly. Amen.

Frederick Buechner  
*The Hungering Dark*

# CALLED BY GOD

## ⤴ GATHERING SONG

**For the Beauty** *Follitt Pierpoint (1864), Conrad Kocher (1838), William Monk (1861)*

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.

*Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
this, our hymn of grateful praise.*

For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light...

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild...

For Yourself, best gift divine,  
to the world so freely given,  
Word Incarnate, God's design:  
peace on earth and joy in heaven...

## ⤵ WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP // Psalm 9:1-2

Leader: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;  
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

**All: I will be glad and exult in you;  
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.**

## ADVENT LITANY

There is a moment,  
**As when fire kindles brushwood**  
Or heat brings water to a boil <sup>(1)</sup>,  
**When the character of God is revealed.**

*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.*

*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 moment is subtle,

**But the change is lasting:**

One thing destroyed,

**Another transformed.**

This destruction of old ideas about God

**And creation of new ones -**

A shift powerful enough to quake mountains <sup>(2)</sup>;

**Profound enough to darken the sun and moon <sup>(3)</sup>.**

A new day stirs on the horizon.

**A new future emerges from humanity's trauma <sup>(4)</sup>.**

Like the watched pot that eventually - hallelujah - boils <sup>(1)</sup>,

**You, God, work for those who wait for you <sup>(5)</sup>**

We need the old ways to go,

**The reign of all but Christ to fall away,**

For the bread of tears to be our food no more <sup>(6)</sup>

**For systems of inequity and injustice to be destroyed.**

Amidst everything that is crumbling,

**The power of God stirs to save us <sup>(7)</sup>.**

We know the Day is coming -

**Strengthen us, oh God, to the end <sup>(8)</sup>.**

For this moment we watch, work, and wait:

**The coming of Christ in the hearts of humankind <sup>(4)</sup>. 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

**Everlasting God** *Brenton Brown, Ken Riley (2005)*

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,

We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord. (x2)

Our God You reign forever,

Our hope, our strong Deliverer.

*You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God,*

*You do not faint, You won't grow weary.*

*You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need,*

*You lift us up on wings like eagles.*

*Advent Litany*

*Scripture Sources:*

(1) Isaiah 64:2

(2) Isaiah 64:3

(3) Mark 13:24

(4) Mark 13:25,26

(5) Isaiah 64:4

(6) Psalm 80:5

(7) Psalm 80:2

(8) 1 Corinthians 1:8

*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."*

# CLEANSED BY GOD

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## ⤴ CONFESSION 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\*\**

## ⤵ 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 com-  
passion 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

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## ⤴ SONGS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

**Wonderful, Merciful Savior** *Dawn Rodgers, Eric Wyse (1989)*  
Wonderful, Merciful Savior, Precious Redeemer and Friend.  
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men?  
Oh, you rescue the souls of men.

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace,  
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost their way,  
Oh, we've hopelessly lost the way.

*You are the One that we praise! You are the One we adore!  
You give the healing and grace our hearts hunger for,  
Oh, Our hearts always hunger for.*



Almighty, Infinite Father, faithfully loving your own.  
Here in our weakness you find us falling before your Throne,  
Oh, we're falling before your Throne.

**Come Thou Fount** *John Wyeth (1813), Robert Robinson (1758)*

Come Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace.  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above,  
Praise His name-- I'm fixed upon it-- name of God's redeeming love.

Hither to Thy love has blessed me, Thou hast brought me to this place,  
And I know Thy hand will bring me, safely home by Thy good grace.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wondering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O to grace, how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be.  
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wondering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wonder, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

## CHANGED BY GOD

### ⤴ PRAYER OF RENEWAL

### ⤵ SCRIPTURE READING // Exodus 7:1-13

<sup>1</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, "See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. <sup>2</sup> As for you, you shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall speak to Pharaoh that he let the sons of Israel go out of his land. <sup>3</sup> But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that I may multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. <sup>4</sup> When Pharaoh does not listen to you, I will lay My hand on Egypt and bring out My armies, My people the sons of Israel, from the land of Egypt by great judgments. <sup>5</sup> Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I extend My hand over Egypt and bring out the sons of Israel from their midst." <sup>6</sup> So Moses and Aaron did this; as the Lord commanded them, so they did. <sup>7</sup> And Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three, when they spoke to Pharaoh.

<sup>8</sup> Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, <sup>9</sup> "When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, 'Work a miracle,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh, so that it may turn into a

*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 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](http://hopechapelgreensboro.org/give), or give through **Venmo** to @HopeChapel (note: contributions made through Venmo are not accepted for tax purposes).



*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.*

*Jim Osborne is a practicing physician and founding member/elder of Hope Chapel. Since 2008, he has been a regular part of the teaching team at Hope.*

*This sermon is part of a series on the Old Testament book of Exodus. For past sermons, please visit our website.*

serpent."<sup>10</sup> So Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh, and so they did, just as the Lord had commanded; and Aaron threw his staff down before Pharaoh and his servants, and it turned into a serpent.<sup>11</sup> Then Pharaoh also called for the wise men and the sorcerers, and they too, the soothsayer priests of Egypt, did the same with their secret arts.<sup>12</sup> For each one threw down his staff, and they turned into serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed their staffs.<sup>13</sup> Yet Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.

**Sermon-** Jim Osborne

Series: Let My People Go

Title: Moses and Aaron Before Pharaoh

## ⬇️ 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

**All Must Be Well** *Mary Bowly Peters (1847), Matthew Smith (2007)*

Through the love of God our Savior, all will be well.  
Free and changeless is His favor, all is well.  
Precious is the blood that healed us, perfect is the grace that sealed us,  
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us, all must be well.

Though we pass through tribulation, all will be well.  
Ours is such a full salvation, all is well.  
Happy still in God confiding, fruitful if in Christ abiding,  
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding, all must be well.

We expect a bright tomorrow; all will be well.  
Faith can sing through days of sorrow, all is well.  
On our Father's love relying, Jesus every need supplying,  
Yes in living or in dying, all must be well.

## ↻ 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.**

### *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

## OPERATING BUDGET

Given Last Week:	\$10,122
Required to Date (Jan. 1 - Nov 22)	\$495,568
Given to Date	\$445,389
Over/[Under]	[\$50,179]

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](http://www.hopechapelgreensboro.org/give)  
We also accept donations via Venmo: @HopeChapel.