

# WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

December 12, 2021



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

“Look up, you whose gaze is fixed on this earth, who are spellbound by the little events and changes on the face of the earth. Look up to these words, you who have turned away from heaven disappointed. Look up, you whose eyes are heavy with tears and who are heavy and who are crying over the fact that the earth has gracelessly torn us away. Look up, you who, burdened with guilt, cannot lift your eyes. Look up, your redemption is drawing near. something different from what you see daily will happen. Just be aware, be watchful, wait just another short moment. Wait and something quite new will break over you: God will come.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer  
*God Is In the Manger*

One of the essential paradoxes of Advent: that while we wait for God, we are with God all along, that while we need to be reassured of God’s arrival, or the arrival of our homecoming, we are already at home. While we wait, we have to trust, to have faith, but it is God’s grace that gives us that faith. As with all spiritual knowledge, two things are true, and equally true, at once. The mind can’t grasp paradox; it is the knowledge of the soul.

Michelle Blake

## GATHERING SONG

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

### Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;  
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth;  
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;  
by His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;  
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by Thine own sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

*Charles Wesley (1744), HYFRDOL (1830)*

## WELCOME

*We're glad you are here. If you are visiting with us, please take a moment to fill out a "Connect Card", available in a seat-back near you or online using this QR code. We would love the chance to connect with you and help you know more about our community.*



## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Created and Called. We believe that God created humans to be in relationship with Him, and to worship Him as their Creator. But it's more than that. He is also a loving Father who is calling, or inviting His children to come near. God's is both the Creator and the Invitor, and we respond to His grace!*

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.

Psalm 34:1-3

## ADVENT LITANY

*Advent Litany Scripture Sources: (1) Zeph 3:14-15, (2) Phil 4:4, (3) Zeph 3:17 This litany was written by Fran Pratt and used with permission (<http://www.franpratt.com/>)*

God, one of the best things about the way you made things,  
And the most challenging for us,  
Is that joy is always available.  
Returning to love is always an option,  
Even in the midst of turmoil;  
Even in distress.

We know that we always have access to joy  
By choosing to be in the present moment,  
To practice gratitude,  
To pay attention,  
To be mindful,  
To surrender.

When we become awake to you, God,  
We open the door to joy;  
We open the door to your constant loving acceptance,  
And to the gladness of your presence.

Sing aloud, and shout!  
 Rejoice and exult with all your heart! <sup>1,2</sup>  
 The LORD has taken away the judgments against us,  
 And has turned away our enemies <sup>1</sup>.

God rejoices over us with gladness.  
 God renews us in love.  
 God exults over us with loud singing <sup>3</sup>.  
 We share in the joy of God.

### O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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.

*Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
 Has come to thee, oh Israel!*

*Latin text (c. 12th century), 15th cent. French processional adapted by Thomas Helmore (1854)*

### O Tidings of Comfort and Joy

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.

*Traditional English Carol (18th cent) and Melody*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*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 community and individually.*

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

*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 humankind—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).*

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.

Matthew 1:21

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

*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."*

## CHILDREN'S READING & SONG

## SONGS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

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

### Continuously

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.

*Sandra McCracken (2016)*

## GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERING

*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 receipted for tax purposes).



## God with Us

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!

*Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan (2012)*

## SCRIPTURE READING

*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.*

## DEUTERONOMY 18:15-19

<sup>15</sup> "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen; to him you shall listen. <sup>16</sup> This is in accordance with everything that you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, 'Do not let me hear the voice of the Lord my God again, and do not let me see this great fire anymore, or I will die!' <sup>17</sup> And the Lord said to me, 'They have spoken well. <sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them everything that I command him. <sup>19</sup> And it shall come about that whoever does not listen to My words which he speaks in My name, I Myself will require it of him.

## ISAIAH 55:6-11

<sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while He may be found;  
Call upon Him while He is near.  
<sup>7</sup> Let the wicked abandon his way,  
And the unrighteous person his thoughts;  
And let him return to the Lord,  
And He will have compassion on him,  
And to our God,  
For He will abundantly pardon.  
<sup>8</sup> “For My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord.  
<sup>9</sup> “For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways  
And My thoughts than your thoughts.  
<sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
And do not return there without watering the earth  
And making it produce and sprout,  
And providing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;  
<sup>11</sup> So will My word be which goes out of My mouth;  
It will not return to Me empty,  
Without accomplishing what I desire,  
And without succeeding in the purpose for which I sent it.

## SERMON

### “A COMING PROPHET”

*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 an Advent series based in the Old Testament book of Isaiah. For past sermons, please visit our website. For past sermons, please visit our website.*

## COMMUNION

*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.*

## COMMUNION LITANY

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. Amen.

### 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. Amen.

### 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. Amen.

**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.

**O Savior of Our Fallen Race**

O Savior of our fallen race, O Brightness of the Father's face,  
 O Son who shared the Father's might before the world knew day or night,  
 O Jesus, very Light of light, our constant star in sin's deep night:  
 Now hear the prayers Your people pray throughout the world this holy day.

Remind us Lord of life and grace how once, to save our fallen race,  
 You put our human vesture on and came to us as Mary's son.  
 Today, as year by year its light brings to our world a promise bright  
 One precious truth outshines the sun: salvation comes from You alone.

For from the Father's throne You came, His banished children to reclaim;  
 And earth and sea and sky revere the love of Him who sent You here.  
 And we are jubilant today, for You have washed our guilt away.  
 O hear the glad new song we sing on this, the birth of Christ our King!

O Savior of our fallen race, the world will see Your radiant face  
 For You who came to us before will come again and all restore.  
 Let songs of praise Your name adorn, O Christ, Redeemer, virgin-born  
 Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore. Alleluia!

*Original Text: Christe Redemptor Omnium, Latin Office Hymn (circa 6th century)  
 Translated by Gilbert E. Doan, Jr (1930-), Adapted by Kristyn Getty  
 Music: Keith Getty (2011)*

**SENDING SONG**

**Be Thou My Vision**

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
 Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;  
 Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,  
 Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word,  
 I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord.  
 Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;  
 Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;  
 Thou mine inheritance, now and always!  
 Thou and Thou only first in my heart;  
 High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
 May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun!  
 Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
 Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

*Dallan Forgaill (8th century), Irish folk melody*

## COMMUNITY LIFE

### BLESSING & SENDING

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.**

2 Thessalonians 3:16

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

Given Last Week:	\$22,097	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to Date	\$521,164	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Dec. 5)		Hope Chapel
Given to Date	\$528,818	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	\$7,654	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.

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