

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

December 19, 2021



the FOURTH 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

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us
 O long-sought With-ness for a world without,
 O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
 Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name
 Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,
 O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
 Be folded with us into time and place,
 Unfold for us the mystery of grace
 And make a womb of all this wounded world.
 O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
 O tiny hope within our hopelessness
 Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
 To touch a dying world with new-made hands
 And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

O Emmanuel
 Malcolm Guite

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.

Angels, We Have Heard On High

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!"

Traditional French carol (circa 1862)

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: 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.

Psalm 72:18-19

ADVENT LITANY

Scripture References: (1) Luke 2:10, (2) Luke 2:11, (3) Titus 2:11, (4) Isaiah 9:4, (5) Isaiah 9:2, (6) Isaiah 9:3, (7) Isaiah 9:6, (8) Luke 2:7, (9) Isaiah 9:6, (10) Isaiah 9:7, (11) Luke 2:20, (12) Luke 2:14. This litany was written by Fran Pratt and used with permission. (<http://www.franpratt.com/>)

And now...Now the angel has brought us good news of great joy,
Which shall be for all people ⁽¹⁾.

Now the incarnation of God has arrived ⁽²⁾,
Sharing in the Divine Image.
Now the grace of God has appeared,
Bringing salvation to all ⁽³⁾.

Now the reality of heaven has arrived;
We participate in its progress:
Lifting the yoke of burdens,
Breaking the rod of the oppressor ⁽⁴⁾,
Shining a great light into deep darkness ⁽⁵⁾,
Multiplying joy ⁽⁶⁾.

For Mary has given birth to her child ⁽⁷⁾,
And he is most wonderful and wise,
Authoritative and kind,
Powerful and peaceful ⁽⁸⁾.

And the spirit of that Child, that Authority, is born in our hearts,
Empowering us to establish peace,
Foster justice,
And uphold righteousness in the earth ⁽⁹⁾.
We join with multitudes of angels,
With fields and shepherds,
With skies full of stars,
With rejoicing and singing: ⁽¹⁰⁾
Glory to God in the highest heaven,
And on earth, peace! ⁽¹¹⁾

Amen.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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.

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

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

Joy Has Dawned

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!

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend (2004)

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.

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

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).

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.

Romans 8:38-39

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."

NEW MEMBERS JOIN

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.

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Sing we the song of Emmanuel; this the Christ who was long foretold.
 Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem, promise of dawn now our eyes behold.
 God Most High in a manger laid, lift your voices and now proclaim;
 Great and glorious, Love has come to us, join now with the hosts of heaven!

Come we to welcome Emmanuel, king who came with no crown or throne.
 Helpless He lay, the Invincible, maker of Mary, now Mary's son.
 O what wisdom to save us all; shepherds, sages, before Him fall.
 Grace and majesty, what humility, come on bended knee, adore Him!

Go spread the news of Emmanuel, joy and peace for the weary heart.
 Lift up your heads, for your King has come,
 sing for the Light overwhelms the dark.
 Glory shining for all to see. Hope alive, let the gospel ring.
 God has made a way, He will have the praise, tell the world, His name is Jesus!

Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Stuart Townend, Keith Getty (2015)

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, or give through Venmo to @HopeChapel (note: contributions made through Venmo are not receipted for tax purposes).



Go Tell It On the Mountain

While shepherds kept their watching
 O're silent flocks by night
 Behold throughout the heavens
 There shone a holy light.

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
 Over the hills and everywhere!
 Go tell it on the mountain
 That Jesus Christ is born!*

Down in a lowl manger
 Our humble Christ was born,
 And God sent us salvation
 On blessed Christmas morn!

Refrain: traditional spiritual (19th century)

Verses: John Work, Jr (1940)

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.

LUKE 24:13-35

¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹ And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be

condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

SERMON

“JESUS: PROPHET, PRIEST AND KING”

Harrison Holbrook is visiting as candidate for our Associate Pastor position. He recently graduated from Covenant Seminary in St Louis with masters degrees in Divinity and Counseling. Prior to that, Harrison interned with Reformed University Fellowship. He is a UNC and Page HS alumni. Harrison is married to Jordan and they have a daughter, Walden, and a second child due in April.

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 Come, All You Unfaithful

O come, all you unfaithful, come, weak and unstable;
Come, know you are not alone.

O come, barren and waiting ones, weary of praying, come;
See what your God has done.

*Christ is born, Christ is born
Christ is born for you*

O come, bitter and broken, come with fears unspoken;
Come, taste of His perfect love.

O come, guilty and hiding ones, there is no need to run;
See what your God has done.

He's the Lamb who was given, slain for our pardon,
His promise is peace *for those who believe*.

So come, though you have nothing; come, He is the offering
Come, see what your God has done

Bob Kauflin and Lisa Clow (2020)

SENDING SONG

Joy to the World

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.

Isaac Watts (1719), Lowell Mason (1836), ANTIOCH tune

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:	\$10,027	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to Date	\$531,800	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Dec. 12)		Hope Chapel
Given to Date	\$538,845	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	\$7,045	Greensboro, NC 27408

Online giving is available on our website: www.hopechapelgreensboro.org/give
 We also accept donations via Venmo: @HopeChapel.

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Want to connect with others?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/community

Visiting with us?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/i'm-new

