

# WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

December 5, 2021



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

Christians are people who wait. We live in liminal time, in the already and not yet. Christ has come, and he will come again. We dwell in the meantime. We wait. But in my daily life I’ve developed habits of impatience - of speeding ahead, of trying to squeeze more into my cluttered day. How can I live as one who watches and waits for the coming kingdom when I can barely wait for water to boil?

Tish Harrison Warren  
*Liturgy of the Ordinary*

The English language allows us to make a distinction between future and Advent. The future is simply that which grows out of the past. Advent means that something radically new comes to meet us...ready to break into our world and turn everything upside down. This is the Advent faith.

Lesslie Newbigin

## 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.*

### Hail to the Lord's Anointed

*Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!*

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,  
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes in succor speedy to those who suffer wrong,  
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong.

To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in His path to birth.

The tide of time shall never His covenant remove.  
His Name shall stand forever, that Name to us is Love.

*James Montgomery (1821), Sandra McCracken (2012)*

## 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: 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.**

from Psalm 63

## ADVENT LITANY

*Advent Litany Scripture Sources: (1) Luke 21:34, (2) Luke 21:25, (3) Luke 21:28  
 Also draws from Psalm 25. This litany was written by Fran Pratt and used with permission  
 (<http://www.franpratt.com/>)*

God, it's easy for us to get bogged down  
**In our to-do lists,**  
 The problems we must solve,  
**The needs we must meet,**  
 The expectations we put upon ourselves,  
**The crises we must manage --**  
 And forget that beneath everything  
**There is the hum of beauty.**

Beneath dust and decay,  
**There is a sheen of value.**  
 Beneath disease and distress,  
**There is a sparkle of wisdom.**  
 Beneath the appearance of death,  
**There is the glimmer of rebirth.**  
 Beneath the cloak of sorrow and affliction,  
**There is the endless beauty of the glory from God.**

Awaken us, oh God, to the beauty beneath,  
**The beauty that confronts us**  
 With your presence and power,  
**Your plan and purpose.**

We know that by the tender mercy of our God,  
**The dawn from on high will break upon us,**  
 And the beauty of God will overwhelm our senses.  
**May we be alert, and looking for it. Amen.**

### **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)*

### **Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring**

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.

*Godfrey Thring (1864), Michael Van Patter (2012)*

## 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 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

*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).*

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.

Ephesians 2:8-9

## 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.*

### You Are With Me

My heart is heavy and tired in this valley.  
Mountains grow higher and higher, but I can't find You.  
I'll keep lifting my eyes, I know You're with me.

I hear Your voice when You cry, "Comfort! Comfort!"  
Sorrow may last for a night, but in the morning  
Your joy breaks in with the night, I know You're with me.

*I know You're with me and You are for me,  
You've been behind me, You go before.  
You walk beside me, through darkest valleys.  
I know You are with me.*

You led me here where it's dry, out in the desert.  
You bring these bones back to life, You put together.  
You sing a song of delight, I know You're with me.

*Leslie Jordan, Sandra McCracken (2020)*

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



### Goodness of God

I love You Lord, oh Your mercy never fails me;  
All my days I've been held in Your hands.

From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head  
I will sing of the goodness of God.

*All my life You have been faithful. All my life You have been so, so good!  
With every breath that I am able, I will sing of the goodness of God.*

I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire.  
In darkest nights, You are close like no other.  
I've known You as a father, I've known You as a friend;  
I have lived in the goodness of God.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me  
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me  
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You everything  
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

*Jenn Johnson, Jason Ingram, Ben Fielding, Ed Cash, Brian Johnson (2018)*

## 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.*

### ISAIAH 53:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Who has believed what he has heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

<sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
and no beauty that we should desire him.

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

<sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned—every one—to his own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he opened not his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he opened not his mouth.

<sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment he was taken away;  
and as for his generation, who considered  
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people?

<sup>9</sup> And they made his grave with the wicked  
and with a rich man in his death,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;  
he has put him to grief;  
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,  
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;  
the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

<sup>11</sup> Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,  
make many to be accounted righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,  
because he poured out his soul to death  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

## SERMON

### “A COMING PRIEST”

*Todd Jones is Hope Chapel's founding/lead pastor. This sermon is part of an Advent series based in the Old Testament book of Isaiah. 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.

**Hallelujah! Christ Is Coming**

The first Advent broke darkness' sway,  
 Christ's birth made night as bright as day;  
 When Jesus spoke the truth was known,  
 When Jesus walked the way was shown,  
 When Jesus died all death was slain,  
 When Jesus rose 'twas life's refrain.

*Hallelujah! Christ is coming  
 Lord, we wait for you*

Yet still the dark with light contends:  
 Until the Lord Most High descends  
 His people bear their cross of pain,  
 His people from the world abstain,  
 His people thirst for wisdom still,  
 His people seek his kingdom's will

He will return to end the fight,  
 To banish all the powers of night;  
 When Christ returns our hope is sealed,  
 When Christ returns the world is healed,  
 When Christ returns he is the prize,  
 When Christ returns the dead will rise.

*Nelson Koscheski, Ryan Flanigan (2019)*

**SENDING SONG**

**The Power of the Cross**

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day:  
 Christ on the road to Calvary.  
 Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then  
 Nailed to a cross of wood.

*This, the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us;  
Took the blame, bore the wrath— we stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see the pain written on Your face,  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.  
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed  
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath  
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.  
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;  
"Finished!" the vict'ry cry.

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,  
For through Your suffering I am free.  
Death is crushed to death; life is mine to live,  
Won through Your selfless love.

*Keith Getty, Kristen Getty (2005)*

## 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:	\$26,405	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to Date	\$510,528	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Nov. 28)		Hope Chapel
Given to Date	\$506,721	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	[\$3,807]	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.

## CONTACT

Todd Jones, lead pastor  
todd@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Michael Van Patter, dir. worship arts  
michael@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Betsy Greer, dir. childrens discipleship  
betsy@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Cullen Capehart, youth intern  
cullen@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Haven Sink, worship coordinator  
haven@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Diane Cashion, business admin  
diane@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Andy Dovan, facilities manager  
andy@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Elders  
elders@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Deacons  
deacons@hopechapelgreensboro.org

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