

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

November 27, 2022



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

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 news of God’s entrance into the world ruled by sin and death is nothing less than astounding. After a long and agonizing silence that seemed never to end, the voice at last is heard in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord. To each and all on this first Sunday of Advent, we bring this announcement: God will come, and his justice will prevail, and he will destroy evil and pain in all its forms, once and forever. To be a Christian is to live every day of our lives in solidarity with those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, but to live in the unshakable hope of those who expect the dawn.

Fleming Rutledge
*Advent: the once & future
coming of Jesus Christ*

Preparation

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need forgiveness;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
to whoever will come – this church opens wide her doors
and welcomes you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

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.

For the Beauty *Flliott 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

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.



Advent Reading & 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 Inviter, and we respond to His grace!

Leader: I was glad when they said to me,

"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

All: That we may learn God's ways and walk in the light of the Lord.

Leader: The house of the Lord is a house of goodness and peace.

**All: A time is coming when swords will be beaten into plowshares,
and spears into pruning hooks.**

Leader: The house of the Lord is filled with justice and mercy.

**All: A time is coming when wars will cease to the ends of the earth.
Our God is the righteous judge of all nations.**

Leader: The house of the Lord is a house of salvation.

**All: Salvation is near to us, so let us live honorably
and put on the armor of light.**

Leader: The house of the Lord has been firmly established in Christ Jesus.

All: Let us clothe ourselves in Christ, ready and awake for his return.

Leader: Christ is coming to establish the house of the Lord forever.

**All: All nations will stream to the light of Christ.
Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

(Light one advent candle)

Leader: Christ is coming to establish the house of the Lord forever.

All: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

based on Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

Dawning Light of Our Salvation

Long in darkness Israel wandered; long in mortal shadows, we
 Walked in bondage and self-pity, trod in paths of sin and grief.
 In the prophets' words He told us, long the God of Israel spoke;
 He alone in strength would save us from the hands of all our foes.

*Every valley be exalted!
 Every mountain be made plane!
 Crooked ways repent and straighten;
 All creation bend in praise!*

He shall raise a mighty Savior; born of David's lineage, He
 Comes in cov'nant love to claim us from our sins to set us free.
 Light to those who dwell in darkness, life to those from death who flee.
 Joy unto the earth, and gladness, to your pathways dawning peace!

Jesus, Lord, and mighty Savior, David's Son and yet his King,
 Dawning light of our salvation, of your saving pow'r we sing!
 Stand, Oh lame, and dance ye broken, know the Savior's healing grace;
 Come, Oh deaf and hear him singing; turn, Oh blind, behold his face!

Wendell Kimbrough, Bruce Benedict (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.

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

We are not alone. The Bible teaches that Jesus understands what it is to be human. Because He was fully man, He is compassionate and merciful toward us in our sin and failures. But not only can He sympathize with us, Jesus also has set us free from the power of sin by his death and resurrection.

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 compassion 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.

Isaiah 49:13-15

Passing of the Peace

Baptism

Remember your own baptism. As we participate in today's baptism with our vows and affirmation, allow it to be a time of recommitment to the Lord.

If you were baptized as an infant, think about how your baptism was a picture of your utter helplessness before God—how He found you, loved you, and clothed you with righteousness, even before you were able to choose and respond to Him.

If you were baptized as an older child or adult, think about how your baptism was a conscious public profession before people that you would follow Christ. Allow God's covenant to be renewed in your life today.

Hampton Holbrook

daughter of Jordan and Harrison Holbrook

Barocha

The Lord bless you and keep you,
the Lord make His face shine upon you
And give you peace, and give you peace,
And give you peace forever.

The Lord be gracious to You.
The Lord turn His face towards you,
And give you peace, and give you peace,
And give you peace forever.

Michael Card (1998)

Songs of Praise & Thanksgiving

Christ Our Hope In Life and Death

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.

What is our only confidence? That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand? What comes, apart from His command?

And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;

O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.

Where is His grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial?

Who sends the waves that bring us nigh unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

Unto the grave, what shall we sing? "Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"

And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him.

There we will rise to meet the Lord, then sin and death will be destroyed,

And we will feast in endless joy, when Christ is ours forevermore.

Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Jordan Kauflin, Matt Merker, Matt Papa (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, or give through Venmo to @HopeChapel (note: contributions made through Venmo are not receipted for tax purposes).*



God with Us *Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan (2012)*

Prayer of Renewal

Church, City, World. Corporate prayer is an essential part of the worship and work of God's people. We pray for specific needs— naming and sometimes lamenting the brokenness in the world— mindful to ask a powerful and merciful help for the Church, the city, the world, and for one another.

The leader will end each section of the prayer by saying "Lord, in Your mercy..." and the congregation responds with "...Hear our prayer".

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 9:1-7

¹ But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Sermon

“Get Ready!”

Harrison Holbrook is Hope Chapel's associate pastor of assimilation & discipleship. This sermon is part of a series called "The Greatest Story", where we are surveying the entire Bible using The Jesus Storybook Bible as a framework. 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.

Isaiah 9

The people walking in darkness
 Have seen a great light,
 For those who dwell in the land of shadows
 On them a light has shone.

The people walking in darkness
 Have seen a great light,
 For those who dwell in the land of shadows
 On them a light has shone.
 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
 The government shall be upon his shoulder.

*He will be wonderful counselor, mighty god,
 everlasting father, prince of peace.
 He will be wonderful counselor, mighty god,
 everlasting father, prince of peace.*

His kingdom of peace, it will never end;
 He begins and sustains it forever.
 With justice and righteousness in his hand,
 The passion of God for his sons and daughters.

Michael Van Patter (2015)

Sending Song

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)

Community Life

Blessing & Sending

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.

Minister: Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, shine upon you,
Scatter the darkness from before your path,
And make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
And the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Be among you, and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Financial Update

Given Last Week:	\$11,879	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to Date (Jan. 1 - Nov. 20)	\$549,900	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
Given to Date	\$569,951	Hope Chapel
Over/[Under]	\$20,051	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.

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Want to connect with others?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/community

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

