

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

November 30, 2025



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

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

We preach not one advent only of Christ, but a second also, far more glorious than the former. For the former gave a view of His patience; but the latter brings with it the crown of a divine kingdom. For all things, for the most part, are twofold in our Lord Jesus Christ: a twofold generation: one of God, before the ages; and one, of a virgin, at the close of the ages; His descents twofold: one, the unobserved, like rain on a fleece; and a second, His open coming, which is to be. In His former advent, He was wrapped in swaddling clothes in the manger; in His second, He covers Himself with light as with a garment. In His first coming, He endured the cross, despising shame; in His second, He comes attended by a host of angels, receiving glory. We rest not upon His first advent only, but look also for His second. And as at His first coming, we said, "Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord," so will we repeat the same at His second coming; that when with angels we meet our Master, we may worship Him and say, Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord."

- Cyril of Jerusalem

Preparation

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

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.

Savior of the Nations, Come

Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here Your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human power or seed did the woman's womb conceive,
Only by the Spirit's breath was the Word of God made flesh.

From the Father forth He came soon returning to the same.
Captive leading death and hell; let the song of triumph swell!

Christ laid down his majesty, passed through dark Gethsemane;
Though He left His Father's home, Christ now sits on God's own throne.

Christ in glory intercede for Your creature's suffering need.
Let Your resurrecting power soon complete the victory hour.

Praise to You, O Lord, we sing. Praise to Christ, our newborn King!
With the Father, Spirit, one, let Your lasting kingdom come.

*Ambrose (4th cen.) and Martin Luther (1523),
trans. by Seerveld Enchiridia, Erfurt, 1524, arr. Bruce Benedict*

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

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 worshipping 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.

This advent reading was written by Fran Pratt and used with permission.

Leader: We enter into this first Sunday of the Advent season,
turning our attention to You, God.
We acknowledge the darkness that is within us,
and that permeates the world.

All: Father, forgive us.

Leader: We acknowledge the suffering, tragedy, and pain by which humanity
is afflicted, which seems at times to overwhelm us.

All: Draw near to us, Oh God.

Leader: We consider the mystery of your ways, that you might choose to send
our Savior as an innocent baby and not as a warrior or a king; as one
who humbly accepted suffering and humiliation and called it glory.

All: Our hope is in Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

Leader: We choose in this moment to focus our attention on hope;
the hope of Jesus Christ and all his coming represents for suffering
people, the hope for restoration of all that is broken in the world,
the hope of new life and resurrection.

All: Hope is the light we wish to see by.

Leader: Grant, Oh God, that when he comes, Christ may find us waiting
in expectation, our souls quieted, our hearts soft and open.

All: We wait in hope for the Lord.

Leader: In Christ all things are made new, and we look forward to the day
our hope is fulfilled, each heart reconciled, the work of Christ
completed in all the earth.

All: Our hope is in Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Amen.

PSALM 86:9-10

Leader: All the nations you have made
shall come and worship before you, O Lord;
and shall glorify your name.

All: For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

Song of Praise

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)

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

Ephesians 2:8-9

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.

Passing of the Peace

Why is the Greeting put after our Words of Forgiveness? The book of 2 Corinthians reminds us that part of God's goal in reconciling Himself to us was that we might likewise be reconciled with one another. But for healing and wholeness to take place in our relationships (which is what the Greeting enacts as we acknowledge one another in the peace of our Lord), we must first know the healing of our relationship with God through Christ. God's pardon of us sets us free to love and forgive one another without reservation or qualification!

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.

Hallelujah, Christ Is Coming

Nelson Kocheski, Ryan Flanigan, Marty Reardon (2019)



1. The first ad-vent broke dark-ness' sway, Christ's birth made night as bright as day.
2. Yet still the dark with light con-tends. Un - til the Lord Most High des-cends:
3. He will re-turn to end the fight, to ban-ish all the pow'r of night.



When Je - sus spoke the Truth was known. When Je - sus walked the Way was shown.
His peo - ple bear their cross of pain, his peo - ple from the world ab - stain,
When Christ re - turns our hope is sealed. When Christ re - turns the world is healed.



When Je - sus died all death was slain. When Je - sus rose 'twas life's re - frain.
his peo - ple thirst for Wis - dom still, his peo - ple seek his King - dom's will.
When Christ re - turns he is the prize. When Christ re - turns the dead will rise.



Hal - le lu - jah! Christ is com - ing. Lord, we wait ____ for you. ____



Hal - le lu - jah! Christ is com - ing. Lord, we wait ____ for you. ____ We wait for you. ____

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

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)

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 our powerful and merciful God for 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

Luke 1:5-24 (ESV)

P.803 IN CHURCH BIBLE

***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.*

⁵ In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah,[a] of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for

Sermon

Erik Rome is Hope Chapel's pastor of community & mission. This sermon is part of a series on the book of Jonah, where we learn God's mission and heart for the world, and how we are to join that mission. For past sermons, please visit our website.

Notes:

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

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

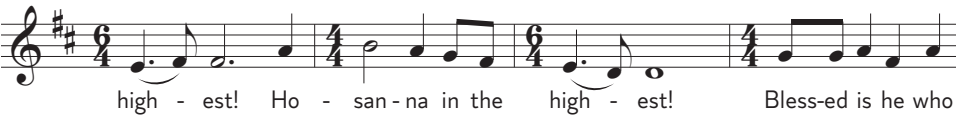
Minister: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to the Lord!

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...**

Sanctus *Patrick Schlabs (2011)*



Prayer of Approach

Minister: We do not presume to come to this Your table,
O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in Your abundant and great mercies.

**All: We are not worthy so much as to gather up
the crumbs under Your table;
but You are the same Lord
whose character is always to have mercy.**

Minister: Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of Your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink His blood,
so that our sinful bodies may be made clean by His body,
and our souls washed through His most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us.

All: Amen.

Words of Institution

Minister: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us. Alleluia.

All: Alleluia!

Minister: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Take these in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on Him in your hearts by faith,
and drink, remembering that Christ's blood
has been shed for you!

*Preparation for the Table**The Feast**Prayer after Communion*

Minister: O Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, Emmanuel,
 We thank you that in this holy meal,
 You renew your promises within us,

**All: Empower us by your Spirit to witness and to serve,
 And send us out as your disciples. 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 than 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.

Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night, Your people's everlasting light;
Oh Christ Redeemer of us all, we pray You hear us when we call.

Thou, grieving that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe,
Hast found the healing, full of grace, to cure and save our ruined race.

When this old world drew on toward night
You came, but not in splendor bright;
Not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At Your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
All things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven shall call You Lord.

O Thou, whose coming is with dread to judge the living and the dead,
Preserve us from the ancient foe, while still we dwell on earth below.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One;
Praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.

*9th century Latin hymn
Translated by John Mason Neale, b.1818
Tune is 'Sarum Plainsong, Mode IV'*

Sending Song**Your Labor Is Not in Vain**

Your labor is not in vain,
Though the ground underneath you is cursed and stained;
Your planting and reaping are never the same,
But your labor is not in vain.

Your labor is not unknown,
Though the rocks they cry out and the sea it may groan.
The place of your toil may not seem like a home
But your labor is not unknown.

*For I am with you, I am with you.
I am with you, I am with you
For I have called you, called you by name,
Your labor is not in vain.*

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
 The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth,
 For all that is old will at last be made new:
 The vineyards you plant will bear fruit.

The houses you labored to build
 Will finally with laughter and joy be filled.
 The serpent that hurts and destroys shall be killed
 And all that is broken be healed.

Wendell Kimbrough, Paul Zach, Isaac Wardell (2017)

Community Life

Blessing & Sending

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:	\$15,639	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$816,416	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Nov. 23)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$865,622	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	\$4,206	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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hopechapelgreensboro.org/visitor

