

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

December 7, 2025



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

“The whole life of the good Christian is holy longing.
This is our life, to be trained by longing.”

- Augustine

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

In Advent, we wait, and hope appears if we truly desire to see it. Maybe it’s in tiny spaces here and there, hidden in the dying grasslike winter wildflowers, but we find it where we can, and exactly as it comes to us, while the days grow dark. We remind ourselves that you can only see the stars when it is dark, and the darker it is, the brighter the light breaking through. And so as the fields outside our windows go to sleep, we stay awake and watch, holding to the belief that God is with us, is close and present, and that we will be healed.

-Anne Lamott
My Advent Adventure (essay)

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.

Almighty God

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open,
Search and know our thoughts and anxious fears.
Wash us in the fountain of Your mercy,
Come with Your light, we cannot hide from You.

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open,
With gratitude we raise our song to You.
Come and fill the praises of Your people,
In grace and truth, You make us new again.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open,
We long for more than what this world provides.
No shallow spring will ever satisfy us,
But Your river deep floods over everything.

Leslie Jordan, David Leonard, Sandra McCracken (2014)

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: Oh Great God, we are gathered here, your people,
seeking out your face and the peace that is found in your presence.

All: Let us dwell always in your presence, and walk in Your peace.

Leader: When humanity opened the door to sin, we were plunged into
darkness and despair. But You, Loving God, have made peace
with us and restored us to grace.

All: For Your infinite mercy and lovingkindness, we thank You.

Leader: You sent your son Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace,
into the world as a human to save and heal Your children
who were lost. The light of peace came into the world.

**All: We who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!**

Leader: We prepare our hearts now and acknowledge that Christ's
work on the cross was the beginning of Your kingdom here on earth.
Your kingdom is a peaceable kingdom, where lion and lamb
may lie down together, where there is neither Jew nor Gentile,
slave nor free, male nor female. We are all one in the peace of Christ.

**All: May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts,
and may we carry the light of peace wherever we go. 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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
Who mourns in lonely exile here
Until the son of God appears.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, oh Israel!

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
Shall come to thee, oh Israel!

O come, thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh.
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, oh Israel!

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
Shall come to thee, oh Israel!

Latin text (c. 12th century),

15th cent. French processional adapted by Thomas Helmore (1854)

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

Isaiah 49:13-15

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).

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.

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!

New Members Join

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.

Tate and Anna Bednarczyk

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).



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.

Dawning Light of Our Salvation


Wendell Kimbrough, Bruce Benedict (2012)




1. Long in dark - ness Is - rael won - dered, Long in mor - tal sha - dows, we
2. He shall raise a might - y Sa - vior; Born of Da - vid's lin - eage, he
3. Je - sus, Lord, and might - y Sa - vior, Da - vid's son and yet his King,



Walked in bon - dage and self pi - ty, Trod in paths of sin and grief.
Comes in cov - 'nant love to claim us From our sins to set us free.
Dawn - ing light of our sal - va - tion, of your sa - ving pow'r we sing!



In the pro - phet's words he told us, Long the God of Is - rael spoke;
Light to those who dwell in dark - ness, Life to those from death who flee;
Stand, O lame and dance, ye bro - ken, Know the Sav - ior's heal - ing grace;



He a - lone in strength would save us From the hands of all our foes.
Joy un - to the Earth, and glad - ness, To our path - ways dawn - ing peace!
Come, O deaf, and hear him sing - ing, Turn, O blind, be - hold his face!



Ev - 'ry val - ley be ex - al - ted! Ev - 'ry moun - tain be made plain. —



Crook - ed ways re - pent and straighten, All cre - a - tion bend in praise. —

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-38 (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.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Sermon

Harrison Holbrook is Hope Chapel's pastor of assimilation & discipleship. 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.

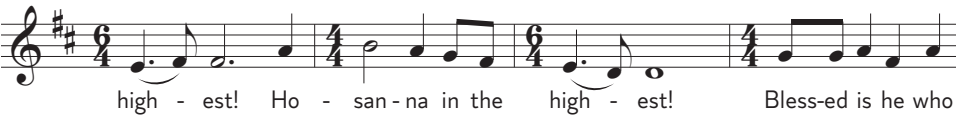
Minister: Lift up your hearts!

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.

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**In Christ Alone**

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song.
 This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
 What heights of love! What depths of peace!
 When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
 My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.
 This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
 'Till on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.
 For every sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;
 Then bursting forth in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again.
 And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost it's grip on me,
 For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me.
 From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
 No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
 'Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend (2001)

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:	\$21,527	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$879,744	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Nov. 30)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$887,149	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	\$7,405	Greensboro, NC 27408

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

Contact

Ashley Donovan, director of youth ministry
ashleydonovan003@gmail.com

Betsy Greer, director of childrens ministry
betsy.greer6@gmail.com

Harrison Holbrook
pastor of discipleship & assimilation
harrison.holbrook@gmail.com

Rosemary Kellam, office manager
rosemaryathope@gmail.com

Luke Kody, facilities manager
luke@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Jodi Koesters, children's ministry assistant
jlkoesters@gmail.com

Erik Rome
pastor of community & mission
erikrome315@gmail.com

Haven Sink, worship coordinator
havensink@gmail.com

Want to connect with others?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/community



Visiting with us?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/im-new



WiFi Network: Hope Chapel Guest
Password: HopeWIFI

Michael Van Patter
director of worship & culture
michaelvanpatter@gmail.com

Elders
elders@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Deacons
hopechapeldeacon@gmail.com

Safeguarding Team
safety@hopechapelgreensboro.org

