

# WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

November 28, 2021



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 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 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*

## 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.

To You all hearts are open, Almighty God...

*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.*



## 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: I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,  
and in his word I put my hope.

All: **I wait for the Lord**  
**more than watchmen wait for the morning,**  
**more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

Leader: Israel, put your hope in the Lord,  
for with the Lord is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.

All: **He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.**

Psalm 130:5-8

## 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, the nations rage.  
**The earth shudders.**  
Storms, fires, and violence abound.  
**The people are in distress.**

In the midst of turmoil,  
**In the midst of trouble and need,**  
In the midst of swirling forces  
**We look up.**

So intent on the needs and crises before us,  
**We raise our downward gaze.**  
Shifting away from our worry and despair,  
**We adjust our focus.**  
Heavy-hearted, weighed down by the cares of this life<sup>1</sup>,  
**We release our burdens.**

We look up to the heavens,  
**To signs in the sun, moon, and stars<sup>2</sup>.**

We look up toward the horizon,  
**To the coming dawn,**  
 Because you are our help.  
**Your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness.**  
 Do not let us be put to shame  
**Because we trust in you.**

We stand up and raise our heads;  
**Our redemption is drawing near<sup>3</sup>. Amen.**

### **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  
 Has come to thee, oh Israel!*

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

### **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 plain!  
 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

*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.

Isaiah 49:13-15

## 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."*

## 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.*

### Jesus Paid It All

I hear the savior say, "Thy strength indeed is small  
Child of weakness, watch and pray find in me thine all in all."

*Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.*

Lord, now indeed I find Thy power and thine alone  
Can change the leper's spots and melt the heart of stone.

And when before the throne I stand in Him complete,  
"Jesus died, my soul to save", my lips shall still repeat.

O praise the one who paid my debt  
And raised this life up from the dead!  
O praise the one who paid my debt  
And raised this life up from the dead!

*Elvina M. Hall (1865), John T. Grape (1868), Alex Nifong (2006)*

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



### Thy Mercy, My God

Thy mercy my God is the theme of my song,  
 The joy of my heart, and the boast of my tongue.  
 Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,  
 Hath won my affection and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy, I could not live here.  
 Sin would reduce me to utter despair,  
 But through Thy free goodness, my spirit's revived  
 And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,  
 Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart.  
 Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground  
 And weep for the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own  
 In the covenant love of Thy crucified Son.  
 All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine  
 Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine.

*John Stocker (1776), Sandra McCracken (2001)*

## 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 11:1-9

- <sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
 and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- <sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,  
 the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
 the Spirit of counsel and might,  
 the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
- <sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.



He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea

## SERMON

### “A COMING KING”

*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.

### How Deep the Father's Love

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders.  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished.  
His dying breath has brought me life, I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything; no gifts, no power, no wisdom.  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer;  
But this I know with all my heart, His wounds have paid my ransom.

*Stuart Townend (1995)*

## 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: 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:	\$11,606	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to Date	\$499,892	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Nov. 21)		Hope Chapel
Given to Date	\$480,316	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	[\$19,576]	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.

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Want to connect with others?  
[hopechapelgreensboro.org/community](https://hopechapelgreensboro.org/community)

Visiting with us?  
[hopechapelgreensboro.org/i'm-new](https://hopechapelgreensboro.org/i'm-new)

