

# WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

December 10, 2023



*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.*

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

## Preparation

*O God, by your power may we, with all the saints, comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that we may be filled with your fullness. Amen.*

—based on Ephesians 3:18-19

## Gathering Song

*We sing as a way of engaging our voices, bodies, 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.*

### 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!*

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.

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.

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

## 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

*During the Second Sunday of Advent we light the "Peace" candle, remembering how Christ came into the world to bring true and lasting peace.*

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.

**All: But You, loving God, have made peace with us  
and restored us to grace.**

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

### Come Light Our Hearts

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait,  
For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait,  
Truly our hope is in You, truly our hope is in You.

O Lord of life, our only hope,  
Your radiance shines on all who look  
To You in the dark, Emmanuel come, come light our hearts.

O Joy above all other loves,  
In You we find more than enough  
We come as we are, O heal and restore; come light our hearts.

## Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Sing we the song of Emmanuel; this the Christ who was long foretold.  
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem, promise of dawn now our eyes behold.  
God Most High in a manger laid, lift your voices and now proclaim;  
Great and glorious, Love has come to us, join now with the hosts of heaven!

Come we to welcome Emmanuel, king who came with no crown or throne.  
Helpless He lay, the Invincible, maker of Mary, now Mary's son.  
O what wisdom to save us all; shepherds, sages, before Him fall.  
Grace and majesty, what humility, come on bended knee, adore Him!

Go spread the news of Emmanuel, joy and peace for the weary heart.  
Lift up your heads, for your King has come,  
sing for the Light overwhelms the dark.  
Glory shining for all to see. Hope alive, let the gospel ring.  
God has made a way, He will have the praise,  
tell the world, His name is Jesus!

*Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Stuart Townend, Keith Getty (2015)*

## 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

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
 The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.  
 They feast on the abundance of your house,  
 and you give them drink from the river of your delights.  
 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

Psalm 36:7-9

## Passing of the Peace

*What is 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."*

## Baptism

### Malcolm Kale

son of Erin and Griffin Kale

*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.*

### 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

*Responding to grace: After being reminded of God's lavish grace and love toward us, we respond by celebrating with singing.*

### Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous mystery in the dawning of the King,  
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come;  
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery: He the perfect Son of Man.  
In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.  
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man;  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery: Christ the Lord upon the tree;  
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.  
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold  
Bringing many sons to glory; grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death the God of life;  
But no grave could e'er restrain Him: Praise the Lord; He is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope!  
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes!

*Matt Boswell, Michael Bleecker, Matt Papa (2013)*

## 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).*



## 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

John 14:1-6

**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.*

<sup>1</sup> "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

## Sermon

### “Home”

*Jonah Hooper is Campus Minister at Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Winston Salem State University. He is Shadeeya’s husband and dad to Neriah and Jonah. This sermon is part of a series called “Images of Heaven,” in which we are considering different Biblical pictures of the New Creation. 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.**

### **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.

### Home

When my bones ache, my heart breaks,  
And I can't take anymore, where can I turn?  
When I'm alone, feel unknown,  
And I have nowhere to go, where can I turn?  
Oh, I lift my eyes up to the heavens, where my help is strong and sure;  
And in Your grace I find my place, I am finally home.

When the day's done, I'm undone,  
And there's no one to hear me call, where can I turn?  
When I'm a mess, I'm anxious,  
And there's no rest to be found, where can I turn?  
Oh, I lift my eyes up to the heavens, where my hope is strong and sure;  
And in Your grace I find my place, I am finally home.

When I'm faithless, You are faithful, when I'm failing, You have never failed;  
When I'm failing, Your steadfast love never lets me go.  
With a grace that's never ending and a mercy that's unbending  
You are holding onto me never letting go, never let me go.

*Justin Ruddy, Bobby Krier (2011)*

## Sending Song

### Once In Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall:  
With the poor, and meek, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;  
 For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,  
 And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

*Cecil Alexander (1848), Henry Gauntlett (1849)*

## 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:	\$29,157	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$701,520	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Dec. 3)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$691,042	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	[\$10,477]	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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Visiting with us?  
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