

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

December 17, 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 3rd Sunday of Advent

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.

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

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

Leader: God of heaven and earth,
You sent Your angels as messengers to Your servants,
bringing news of comfort and joy,
of Your plan to heal a world gone astray...

All: **...Bringing news of Emmanuel, God-With-Us.**

Leader: To Mary, you sent a message of your favor.
 You chose her to carry and give birth to Jesus,
 the Son of the Most High.

**All: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
 From now on all generations will call me blessed."**¹

Leader: To Joseph the angel gave assurance that Mary's son was from God,
 and should be named Jesus...

All: ...Because He would save us from our sins.²

Leader: To shepherds among their flocks,
 angels brought good news of great joy that will be for all people.

All: A Savior has been born to us; He is the Messiah, the Lord.³

Leader: To Kings from the east, a star rose signifying the birth of Jesus.
 When they saw the star they were overjoyed,
 and they bowed down and worshiped the Christ Child,
 offering costly gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**All: We worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords,
 and lay all our treasures at His feet.**⁴

Leader: You have brought us joy through Your Son, the Messiah.

All: A Savior who is Christ the King.

References: ¹ Luke 1:46-48; ² Matthew 1:21; ³ Luke 2:8-14; ⁴ Matthew 2:1-12

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.

Sandra McCracken (2012)

From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable

From the squalor of a borrowed stable,
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith;
To the anguish and the shame of scandal
Came the Savior of the human race.
But the skies were filled with the praise of heaven,
Shepherds listen as the angels tell
Of the Gift of God come down to man
At the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners,
Humble servant in the Father's hands,
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit,
Filled with mercy for the broken man.
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain,
Joys and sorrows that I know so well;
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again -
I will follow my Immanuel!

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal,
He was lifted on a cruel cross;
He was punished for a world's transgressions,
He was suffering to save the lost.
He fights for breath, He fights for me,
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell;
And with a shout our souls are free -
Death defeated by Immanuel!

Now He's standing in the place of honour,
Crowned with glory on the highest throne,
Interceding for His own beloved
'Til His Father calls to bring them home!
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds
Hope of heaven, by His love compelled;
And the Bride will run to her Lover's arms,
Giving glory to Immanuel!

Stuart Townend (1999)

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.

Almighty God who inhabits eternity
but dwells with those who are of a humble and contrite spirit:
before You and our Lord Jesus Christ we confess our sins.

We have ignored the presence of Your Spirit.

We have failed to look for the return of our Savior and Judge.

We have been blind to Your coming
in the suffering of the hungry, the exiled,
the destitute, the sick, and the imprisoned.

In Your great goodness put away our offenses
and cleanse us from our sin, for Jesus' sake...

*** time for silent confession***

Words of Forgiveness

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

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."

New Members Join

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.

Good Christians, All Rejoice

Good Christians, all rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today,
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today; Christ is born today.

Good Christians, all rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now you hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this.
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this.

Good Christians, all rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save,
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save; Christ was born to save.

*Medieval Latin Carol, 14th Century.; tr. John Mason Neale
Traditional German Carol, 14th Century (IN DULCI JUBILO)*

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)

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 14:20-21

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.

²⁰ And on that day there shall be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "Holy to the Lord." And the pots in the house of the Lord shall be as the bowls before the altar. ²¹ And every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holy to the Lord of hosts, so that all who sacrifice may come and take of them and boil the meat of the sacrifice in them. And there shall no longer be a trader in the house of the Lord of hosts on that day.

Sermon

"Two Kinds of Holiness"

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

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

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring, came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came for man's redemption, lowly came on earth to die.

Jesus comes again in mercy, when our hearts are bowed with care;
Jesus comes again in answer to an earnest, heartfelt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.

Jesus comes in joy and sorrow, shares alike our hopes and fears;
 Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us, glads our hearts, and dries our tears;

Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, bringing news of sins forgiven;
 Jesus comes in sounds of gladness, leading souls redeemed to Heav'n;
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Now the gate of death is riv'n.

Jesus comes on clouds triumphant, when the heav'ns shall pass away;
 Jesus comes again in glory; let us then our homage pay,
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Till the dawn of endless day.

Godfrey Thring (1864), Michael Van Patter (2012)

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:	\$8,573	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$716,135	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Dec. 10)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$699,615	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	[\$16,519]	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/i'm-new

