

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

December 3, 2023



First Sunday of Advent

Preparation

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.

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.

Joy to the World

Hope Chapel Childrens Choir

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

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: 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.

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.

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

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

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.

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).



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)

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.

Hebrews 8:1-8

Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,² a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord set up, not man.³ For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer.⁴ Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law;⁵ who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "See," He says, "that you make all things by the pattern which was shown to you on the mountain."⁶ But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, to the extent that He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

Hebrews 9:1-12

^{9:1} Now even the first covenant had regulations for divine worship and the earthly sanctuary.² For a tabernacle was equipped, the outer sanctuary, in which were the lampstand, the table, and the sacred bread; this is called the Holy Place.³ Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Most Holy Place,⁴ having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, Aaron's staff which budded, and the tablets of the covenant;⁵ and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the atoning cover; but about these things we cannot now speak in detail.

⁶ Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle, performing the divine worship,⁷ but into the second, only the high priest enters once a year, not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.⁸

The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing,⁹ which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience,¹⁰ since they relate only to food, drink, and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.

¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things having come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made by hands, that is, not of this creation;¹² and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all time, having obtained eternal redemption.

Hebrews 10:19-25

^{10:19} Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, through His flesh,²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let's approach God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.²³ Let's hold firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;²⁴ and let's consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds,²⁵ not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Sermon

"The Temple"

Jim Osborne is a practicing physician and founding member/elder of Hope Chapel. Since 2008, he has been a regular part of the teaching team at Hope.

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.

Hallelujah! Christ Is Coming

The first Advent broke darkness' sway,
 Christ's birth made night as bright as day;
 When Jesus spoke the truth was known,
 When Jesus walked the way was shown,
 When Jesus died all death was slain,
 When Jesus rose 'twas life's refrain.

*Hallelujah! Christ is coming
 Lord, we wait for You!*

Yet still the dark with light contends:
 Until the Lord Most High descends
 His people bear their cross of pain,
 His people from the world abstain,
 His people thirst for wisdom still,
 His people seek His kingdom's will.

He will return to end the fight,
 To banish all the powers of night;
 When Christ returns our hope is sealed,
 When Christ returns the world is healed,
 When Christ returns he is the prize,
 When Christ returns the dead will rise.

Nelson Koscheski, Ryan Flanigan (2019)

Sending Song

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 plane!
 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)

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:	\$8,389	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$686,905	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Nov. 26)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$661,885	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	[\$25,019]	Greensboro, NC 27408

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

Contact

Harrison Holbrook, associate pastor
harrison.holbrook@gmail.com

Michael Van Patter, director of worship arts
michael@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Betsy Greer, director of childrens ministry
betsy@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Ashley Donovan, director of youth ministry
youth@hopechapelgreensboro.org

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

Rosemary Kellam, office manager
rosemaryathope@gmail.com

Haven Sink, worship coordinator
haven@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Luke Kody, facilities manager
luke@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Elders
elders@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Deacons
deacons@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Want to connect with others?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/community

Visiting with us?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/i'm-new

