

# WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

December 15, 2024



**The Third 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

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

# Gathering Songs

Hope Chapel kids

## 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

Psalm 67:3-5

*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.*

Leader: All: Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
 let all the peoples praise you!  
 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
 for you judge the peoples with equity  
 and guide the nations upon earth.

All: Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
 let all the peoples praise you! Amen.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 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 joy.*

God, one of the best things about the way you made things,

**And the most challenging for us,**

Is that joy is always available.

**Returning to love is always an option,**

Even in the midst of turmoil;

**Even in distress.**

We know that we always have access to joy

**By choosing to be in the present moment,**

To practice gratitude,

**To pay attention,**

To be mindful,

**To surrender.**

When we become awake to you, God,  
**We open the door to joy;**  
We open the door to your constant loving acceptance,  
**And to the gladness of your presence.**

Sing aloud, and shout!  
**Rejoice and exult with all your heart** <sup>1 2!</sup>  
The LORD has taken away the judgments against us,  
**And has turned away our enemies** <sup>1</sup>.

God rejoices over us with gladness.  
**God renews us in love.**  
God exults over us with loud singing <sup>3</sup>.  
**We share in the joy of God. Amen.**

<sup>1</sup> Zephaniah 3:14,15, <sup>2</sup> Philippians 4:4, <sup>3</sup> Zephaniah 3:17

### **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

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, O Israel!*

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

## **Song of Praise**

### **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)*

## 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  
 cleanse us from our sin,  
 and restore to us the joy of our salvation,  
 for Jesus' sake...

*\*\* time for silent confession \*\**

## Words of Forgiveness

Matthew 1:21

*We are not alone.* The Bible teaches that Jesus understands what it is to be human. Because He was fully man, He is compassionate and merciful toward us in our sin and failures. But not only can He sympathize with us, Jesus (being fully God) also has set us free from the power of sin by his death and resurrection.

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.

## Passing of the Peace

## 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.*

### 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)*

## 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).*



### 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)*

## Scripture Reading

### Zechariah 12 and 13:1 (ESV)

*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>121</sup>The oracle of the word of the Lord concerning Israel: Thus declares the Lord, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him: <sup>2</sup>“Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. <sup>3</sup>On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it. <sup>4</sup>On that day, declares the Lord, I will strike every horse with panic, and its rider with madness. But for the sake of the house of Judah I will keep my eyes open, when I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. <sup>5</sup>Then the clans of Judah shall say to themselves, ‘The inhabitants of Jerusalem have strength through the Lord of hosts, their God.’

<sup>6</sup>“On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, like a flaming torch among sheaves. And they shall devour to the right and to the left all the surrounding peoples, while Jerusalem shall again be inhabited in its place, in Jerusalem.

<sup>7</sup> “And the Lord will give salvation to the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not surpass that of Judah. <sup>8</sup> On that day the Lord will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of the Lord, going before them. <sup>9</sup> And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. <sup>11</sup> On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. <sup>12</sup> The land shall mourn, each family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; <sup>13</sup> the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves; <sup>14</sup> and all the families that are left, each by itself, and their wives by themselves.

<sup>13:1</sup> “On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

## **Sermon**

### **“The Coming King”**

*Harrison Holbrook is Hope Chapel’s pastor of assimilation & discipleship. This sermon is part of an Advent sermon series on the Old Testament book of Zechariah. 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!**

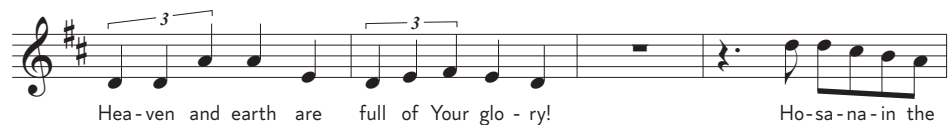
Minister: And now we give you thanks because Christ was born a child  
 into a line of broken and sinful people,  
 a royal house lying in ruins.  
 In righteousness He will judge the world,  
 as the one who gives us himself—his body and his blood—  
 for our righteousness and peace  
 and for the rebuilding 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...**

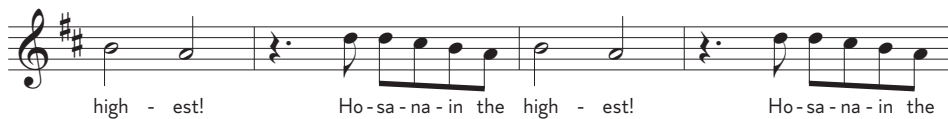
**Hosanna in the Highest** Greg LaFollette (2018)



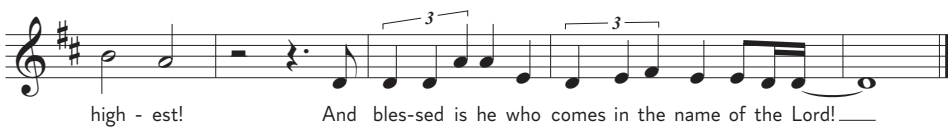
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might.



Hea-ven and earth are full of Your glo - ry! Ho-sa-na-in the



high - est! Ho-sa-na-in the high - est! Ho-sa-na-in the



high - est! And bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! \_\_\_\_

**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 Hm, 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,  
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.**

**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.

## 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.

# Sending Song

Jesus Came the Heavens Adoring *Stuart Townend (1999)*

1. Je - sus \_\_\_ came \_\_\_ the heav - 'ns a - dor - ing,  
 2. Je - sus \_\_\_ comes \_\_\_ to hearts \_\_\_ re - joic - ing,  
 3. Je - sus \_\_\_ comes \_\_\_ on clouds \_\_\_ tri - um - phant,

came with \_\_\_ peace \_\_\_ from realms on \_\_\_ high; \_\_\_  
 bring - ing \_\_\_ news \_\_\_ of sins \_\_\_ for - giv'n. \_\_\_  
 when the \_\_\_ heav'n's shall pass \_\_\_ a - way; \_\_\_

Je - sus \_\_\_ came \_\_\_ for man's \_\_\_ re - demp - tion,  
 Je - sus \_\_\_ comes \_\_\_ in sounds \_\_\_ of glad - ness,  
 Je - sus \_\_\_ comes \_\_\_ a - gain \_\_\_ in glo - ry,

low - ly \_\_\_ came \_\_\_ on earth \_\_\_ to die. \_\_\_  
 lead - ing \_\_\_ souls \_\_\_ re - deemed \_\_\_ to heav'n. \_\_\_  
 let us \_\_\_ then \_\_\_ our ho - mage pay (to chorus). \_\_\_

Je - sus \_\_\_ comes \_\_\_ a - gain \_\_\_ in mer - cy,  
 Je - sus \_\_\_ comes \_\_\_ in joy \_\_\_ and sor - row,

when our \_\_\_ hearts are bowed with \_\_\_ care; \_\_\_  
 shares a - like \_\_\_ our hopes \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ fears; \_\_\_

Je - sus \_\_\_ comes \_\_\_ a - gain \_\_\_ in an - swer  
 Je - sus \_\_\_ comes, \_\_\_ we e're \_\_\_ be - falls \_\_\_ us,

to an \_\_\_ hon - est heart - felt prayer. \_\_\_  
 glads our \_\_\_ hearts \_\_\_ and dries \_\_\_ our tears. \_\_\_

Al - le - lu - iah! \_\_\_ Al - le - lu - iah! \_\_\_

Comes to save \_\_\_ us from \_\_\_ des - pair. \_\_\_  
 Now the gate \_\_\_ of death \_\_\_ is riv'n. \_\_\_  
 'Til the dawn \_\_\_ of end - less day! \_\_\_

## 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:  | \$15,829  | Gifts can be placed in the offering |
| Required to date: | \$787,283 | plate on Sundays or mailed to:      |
| (Jan. 1 - Dec. 8) |           | Hope Chapel                         |
| Given to date:    | \$834,970 | 908 N. Josephine Boyd St            |
| Over/[Under]      | \$47,687  | 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.

## Contact

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

Rosemary Kellam, office manager  
rosemaryathope@gmail.com

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

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

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

Michael Van Patter  
director of worship & culture  
michael@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Haven Sink, worship coordinator  
haven@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Luke Kody, facilities manager  
luke@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Elders  
elders@hopechapelgreensboro.org

Deacons  
hopechapeldeacon@gmail.com

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

Visiting with us?  
[hopechapelgreensboro.org/visitor](https://hopechapelgreensboro.org/visitor)

