

**MESSAGE.**

Curt Lowndes, a graduate of Duke Divinity School and a member of the Gathering Church's Leadership Team (*Formation*), will preach an Advent message about Hope from the genealogy in the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 1:1-17).

*The gathering church*



November 27, 2011  
Isaiah 11:1-10 | Matthew 1:1-17

**HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US**

**TOWNEND**

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	It was my sin that left Him there Until it was accomplished His dying breath has brought me life I know that it is finished
Behold the Man upon a cross, My sin upon His shoulders Ashamed I hear my mocking voice, Call out among the scoffers	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

Written by Stuart Townend ©1995 Thankyou Music (EMI) CCLI 1558110

**O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL**

**KING JOHN/WADE**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels.	<b>O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.</b>
<b>O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,</b>	Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest.

Lyrics by John Francis Wade (1751) and by King John IV of Portugal (Public Domain)

**REFRAIN**

**ADVENT AT THE GATHERING CHURCH.**

**"The Best of All is, God is With Us" Advent Devotional**  
Pick up a copy of the free printed Adult and Children's Advent devotional at the back table and download and share the digital version available at [www.allgather.org/advent/](http://www.allgather.org/advent/).



**Music from the Gathering Church's Christmas Nights (2010).**  
Listen and buy last year's Advent EP at [music.allgather.org](http://music.allgather.org) or iTunes. Great for devotional listening and a great gift from our community.



**GIVING AT THE GATHERING CHURCH.**

**Four ways to give financially:** (1) In the black box on the back table on Sundays, (2) online through Paypal ([www.allgather.org/giving/](http://www.allgather.org/giving/)), (3) by automating a draft through your bank, or (4) by mailing a check to PO Box 16402/Chapel Hill, NC 27516.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: HOPE**

*"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus' Name.*

*On Christ the solid Rock I stand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand"*  
-*"My Hope is Built,"* Edward Mote (1834)

HAPPENING AT THE GATHERING CHURCH ( <a href="http://www.allgather.org/calendar">www.allgather.org/calendar</a> )		
PRESENT BEFORE GOD	CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER	ENGAGED IN THE WORLD
<p><b>GATHERING KIDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:</b> All kids are invited to participate! Practices take place the next couple Sundays after church from 12:15-1:15 in the Music Room at Creekside. The program will happen on the morning of Sunday Dec 11. To get in on the fun, contact Claire Greene (<a href="mailto:bcbroyhill@gmail.com">bcbroyhill@gmail.com</a>).</p> <p><b>SUNDAY PRAYER TEAM:</b> Join the prayer team each Sunday before worship at 9:30am to pray for our church and local communities.</p>	<p><b>MUSIC FROM THE GATHERING CHURCH FREE DOWNTOWN CHAPEL HILL CHRISTMAS CONCERT:</b> Sponsored by the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership, the Gathering Church musicians will play a free outdoor Christmas concert on the corner of Columbia and Franklin St in the courtyard of University Baptist Church. The show is set for Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm, donations benefit IFC.</p> <p><b>SONGS FOR THE SUPPER:</b> A free Lord's Supper music compilation featuring a new original tune from our very own musicians, is available for download at <a href="http://cardiphonia.bandcamp.com">cardiphonia.bandcamp.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>CREEKSIDE CHRISTMAS:</b> Plan to volunteer your time on December 10th from 2 pm - 5 pm when we will provide FREE childcare for Creekside families and have a FUN afternoon of Christmas crafts and games for the children. If you'd like to volunteer your time for December 10th, see <a href="mailto:Paige_Rossman">Paige Rossman</a> and visit <a href="http://www.allgather.org/advent">www.allgather.org/advent</a> for more information and opportunities to serve during this season.</p>
<p><b>COMMUNICATION:</b> To have an announcement included email: <a href="mailto:happenings@allgather.org">happenings@allgather.org</a>. Keep up with the Gathering Church on Twitter (<a href="https://twitter.com/allgather">@allgather</a>) or <a href="https://www.facebook.com/allgather">www.facebook.com/allgather</a>. Check out Music from the Gathering Church: <a href="http://music.allgather.org">music.allgather.org</a> (to stream or buy) or <a href="http://gatheringmusic.tumblr.com">gatheringmusic.tumblr.com</a> (blog).</p>		

**O COME O COME EMMANUEL**

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
 And ransom captive Israel  
 That mourns in lowly exile here,  
 Until the Son of God appear.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
 Who ord'rest all things mightily;  
 To us the path of knowledge show  
 And teach us in her ways to go.

**CHORUS****TRADITIONAL**

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
 Our spirits by thine advent here;  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.

**CHORUS**

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
 All peoples in one heart and mind;  
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
 And be Thyself our King of Peace.

**CHORUS**

Lyrics from 12<sup>th</sup> Century Latin Chant and Music from 15<sup>th</sup> Century French Processional (Public Domain)

**WELCOME.**

Welcome to the Gathering Church. We are a church that is focused on doing three things well: being present to God in worship, being connected to each other in community, and being engaged in the world by serving and sharing God's love. Thank you for gathering this morning to worship the Lord.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH.**

Each week during the season of Advent (the four weeks that lead up to Christmas), we celebrate Christ's coming as the Light of the World by lighting candles. Each candle signifies an aspect of the mounting expectation for the arrival of Israel's, and our, Savior: Hope, Love, Joy, & Peace.

**YOU NEVER LET GO****REDMAN**

Even though I walk through the valley  
 Of the shadow of death  
 Your perfect love is casting out fear  
 And even when I'm caught in the middle  
 Of the storms of this life  
 I won't turn back, I know you are near

And I can see a light that is coming  
 For the heart that holds on  
 A glorious light beyond all compare  
 And there will be an end to these troubles  
 But until that day comes  
 We'll live to know You here on the earth

*And I will fear no evil, for my God is with me  
 And if my God is with me  
 Whom then shall I fear?  
 Whom then shall I fear?*

**Oh no, You never let go  
 Through the calm and through the storm  
 Oh no, You never let go  
 In every high and every low  
 Oh no, You never let go  
 Lord, You never let go of me**

**PRECHORUS****CHORUS**

Yes, I can see a light that is coming  
 For the heart that holds on  
 And there will be an end to these troubles  
 But until that day comes  
 Still I will praise You, still I will praise You

**CHORUS**

Written by Matt Redman ©2005 Thankyou Music CCLI# 4674166

**HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION**

How firm a foundation  
 Ye saints of the Lord,  
 Is laid for your faith in His excellent word.  
 What more can he say,  
 Than to you he hath said;  
 To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee,  
 Oh be not dismayed  
 For I am thy God, And will still give thee aid.  
 I strengthen thee, help thee,  
 And cause thee to stand,  
 Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

Written by John Rippon (1787) Public Domain

**RIPPON/TRADITIONAL**

When through fiery trials  
 Thy pathway shall lie,  
 My grace all-sufficient shall be thy supply.  
 The flame shall not hurt thee,  
 I only design  
 Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus  
 Hath leaned for repose,  
 I will not, I will not desert to His foes.  
 That soul, though all Hell  
 Should endeavor to shake  
 I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

**MIGHTY TO SAVE****FIELDING/MORGAN**

Everyone needs compassion,  
 A love that's never failing  
 Let mercy fall on me  
 Everyone needs forgiveness,  
 The Kindness of a Savior  
 The Hope of nations

So take me as you find me,  
 All my fears and failures  
 Fill my life again  
 I give my life to follow, everything I believe in  
 Now I surrender

**REFRAIN**

**My Savior, He can move the mountains,  
 My God is mighty to save,  
 He is mighty to save  
 Forever, Author of salvation,  
 He rose and conquered the grave  
 Jesus conquered the grave**

*Shine your light and let the whole world see  
 We're singing, for the glory of the risen King, Jesus  
 Shine your light and let the whole world see  
 We're singing for the glory of the risen King, Jesus*

**REFRAIN**

*Shine your light...*

Written by Ben Fielding/Reuben Morgan © 2006 Hillsong Publishing/Integrity Music Inc. CCLI# 3591782

**KIDS' DISMISSAL & PASSING OF THE PEACE.**

As the children are dismissed to participate in Gathering Kids activities, find someone you don't know, welcome them, and exchange a sign of Christ's welcome and peace.

**COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS****WESLEY/PRICHARD**

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.

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 all sufficient merit,  
 Raise us to Thy glorious throne

Written by Charles Wesley (1745) and Rowland Prichard (1830) (Public Domain)