



HICKORY GROVE
BAPTIST CHURCH

W O R S H I P G U I D E

Mallard Creek Campus (North) | Week of December 23, 2018

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Call to Worship

“My Soul Magnifies The Lord”

Luke 1:46-50

“O Come Let Us Adore Him”

Sermon

Titus 2:11-14

Prayer

Hebrews 10:19-22

Offering

“He Who Is Mighty”

“Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery”

Benediction

1 Peter 1:3-5

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Scriptural call to worship at the beginning of our service is a reminder that, as we gather, it is God who initiates and reveals Himself to us through His Word, and we respond to Him.

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

Luke 1:46-50

PASTORAL PRAYER

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10:19-22

OFFERING

Giving is an act of worship in which we give generously of our substance to further the mission of the church and to bring glory to God.

BENEDICTION

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5

CHRISTMAS

What is Christmas?

From the very beginning, God promised that He would save His people from their sins. For years, God's people waited for their promised Savior to come until, at last, God kept His promise! Christians around the world celebrate this day as Christmas.

Here is how it happened:

Many years ago, God sent the angel Gabriel with a message for a young woman in the city of Nazareth named Mary. **Gabriel told Mary she was going to give birth to a Son and she was to call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.** This was no ordinary baby!

While Mary was pregnant with Jesus, the Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, announced that everyone must travel to their hometown for a census. So, Mary and Joseph left Nazareth and traveled to a town called Bethlehem.

While they were there, the time came for her to give birth to Jesus. However, the town was too crowded, so Mary had her baby in a place where animals were kept. She wrapped Him swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.

In a nearby field, there were shepherds keeping watch over their flock by night. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to them in blinding light and the shepherds were terrified. The angel said: **"Fear not! I have very good news for you! Today, in the town of Bethlehem, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, was**

born. You will find him wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Suddenly, a great number of angels appeared, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

When the angels disappeared, the shepherds went straight to Bethlehem to find Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus, lying in a manger, just as God promised. After the shepherds left, they went and told everyone what they had seen and heard, praising God for what He had done.

Like those shepherds, some 2,000 years ago, Christians today are still praising God for what He did. **Christmas is a celebration of God sending His Son, Jesus, into the world to save His people from their sins.**

How can I teach my child more about Christmas?

As a parent, God has called you to be the primary disciple-maker in your child's life.

Here is a way you can teach your child about Christmas. One way is to read the Bible story together. Read as a family either Matthew's account in Matthew 1:18-2:12 or Luke's account in Luke 2:1-20.

BIBLE READING PLANS

As we begin to look to the new year, it is a great time to plan how you can read the Bible daily. Here are 5 suggested plans that Hickory Grove makes available in print and online.

M'Cheyne (One-Year)

Each day has two passages from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament, and one from either the Psalms or the Gospels. In one year, you read the Old Testament once and the New Testament and Psalms twice.

Read the Bible For Life (One-Year Chronological)

This plan has been organized to flow in chronological order. Since exact dating of some materials or events is not possible, the chronology simply represents an attempt to give the reader the general flow and development of the full story of the Bible.

Every Day in the Word (One-Year)

Daily Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs readings.

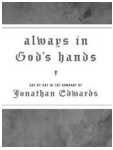
Getting Started (40-Day)

If you are new to the Bible and are looking for suggestions on where to start, this plan will give you an overall understanding of what the Bible is all about.

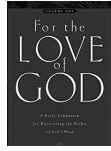
Systematic Theology Study Bible (30-Day)

This plan not only introduces you to systematic theology as a whole, but also demonstrates how specific doctrines connect to the very words of Scripture.

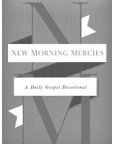
RECOMMENDED DAILY DEVOTIONALS



*Always in God's Hands:
Day by Day in the Company
of Jonathan Edwards*
by **Owen Strachan**



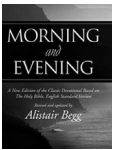
*For the Love of God, Volume 1:
A Daily Companion for Discovering
the Riches of God's Word*
by **D.A. Carson**



New Morning Mercies
by **Paul Tripp**



*For the Love of God, Volume 2:
A Daily Companion for Discovering
the Riches of God's Word*
by **D.A. Carson**



Morning and Evening
by **Charles H. Spurgeon**

THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

QUESTION 51

What hope does everlasting life hold for us?

Scripture Reading: *Revelation 21:1-4*

It reminds us that this present fallen world is not all there is; soon we will live with and enjoy God forever in the new city, in the new heaven and the new earth, where we will be fully and forever freed from all sin and will inhabit renewed, resurrection bodies in a renewed, restored creation.

PRAYER

Eternal God, we eagerly await the fullness of your kingdom. We long for every tear to be dried. We groan for the day when we no longer struggle against the flesh. Let the sure hope of everlasting life give us courage to face the trials of this life. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Guest Information

If you are a guest, we welcome you and invite you to stop by any Guest Information Area to learn more about Hickory Grove and to get answers to your questions. Be sure to pick up a Guest Information Card, fill it out, and either drop it in the offering plate or leave it at any Guest Information Area.

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Schedule

Sunday, December 23

Sunday School: 8:45 AM
Worship: 10:15 AM

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Services:
Harris: 4 PM
Mallard Creek: 5:15 PM
Church offices closed

Tuesday, December 25

Church offices closed

Wednesday, December 26

No Evening Activities

Sunday, December 30

Regular Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Monday, December 24

Harris Campus (Main) - 4 PM

Mallard Creek Campus (North) - 5:15 PM

DISCOVER HG

Sunday, January 20, 8:45 AM

Find out more about Hickory Grove through our new members class.

Register at HickoryGrove.org/DiscoverHG.

HICKORY GROVE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL: OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, January 24, 12 PM and 6 PM

Come and gather important information about admissions, hear from our Head of School and administrators who will share the mission and vision of HGCS, and tour our campus. Call 704-531-3589 to register.

ADOPTION PARENTING CLASS

Beginning Wednesday, January 16

Harris Campus

The class will cover adoption education, behavior management ideas, connection with resources for parents, and cultivating a relationship and support between the parents. Register online at HickoryGrove.org/Adoption.

