

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**11:00 AM DECEMBER 17, 2017**

614 Griffis Street, Cary, NC 27511  
(919) 467-8700

[www.carypresbyterian.org](http://www.carypresbyterian.org)

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Gathering Chime

### Prelude

*Peace*

(Song: 'Come O Come Emmanuel' written and recorded by Dan Loewen;  
Painting: Daniel Giesbrecht; Video production by Dan Loewen Creative:  
Level Ground Mennonite Church, Abbotsford, BC.)

### Welcome and Announcements

(Please sign the Welcome Book and pass it to your neighbor.)

### Congregational Introit *Hope is a Star*

Fogg

*(When invited, please join the choir in singing the refrain)*

***When God is a child there's joy in our song.***

***The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.***

### \*Call to Worship

***(\* Please stand as you are able.)***

One: The Promised One of God brings good news to the oppressed and binds up the broken hearted.

**All: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

One: The Promised One of God proclaims liberty to captives and release to prisoners.

**All: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

One: The Promised One of God comforts all who mourn and gives a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

Rejoicing always, praying without ceasing, holding fast to what is good.

**All: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

### \*Hymn

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

No. 106

### \*Call to Confession

## \*Prayer of Confession

One: Merciful God you love justice;

**All: why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing  
and every form of evil?**

One: You have given us the gift of your Spirit;

**All: why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us?**

One: You have given us the words of the prophets  
and the Word himself;

**All: why, then, do we despise and ignore what we  
have heard from you?**

One: You have sent the light into the world;

**All: why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light?  
Forgive us. Restore us. Till and tend us as your  
garden till your righteousness and praise spring  
up, for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray.**

*Silent Confession*

## \*Response to Confession

*For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits (refrain) No. 89*



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

CCLI #: 3015474

## \*Words of Assurance

One: In Jesus Christ, the Lord has done great things for us!  
Even if we have gone out in tears,

**All: God brings us home shouting for joy.  
Thanks be to God: we are forgiven!**

**\*Response of Praise**

*He Came Down*  
(Please sing stanza twice)

No. 137

He came down that we may have peace he  
came down that we may have peace he came down that we may  
have peace hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Leader: Why did he come?

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with several triplet markings. The lyrics are: 'He came down that we may have peace he came down that we may have peace hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.' A 'Leader' part asks 'Why did he come?'.

CCLI #: 3015474

**\*Sharing the Peace**

One: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you,

**All: and also with you.**

One: Let us share that peace with one another.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**New Testament Reading** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 NT, p. 205

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Special Music** *Mary Did You Know?* Julie Henry, Carolyn Clark

**Sermon** *Present Tense Advent* Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**All:** In Christ God gave us a glimpse of the new creation he has already begun and will surely finish.  
We do not know when the final day will come.  
In our time we see only broken and scattered signs that the renewal of all things is under way.  
We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world, the church, or our own lives.  
But we see Jesus as Lord.  
As he stands at the center of our history, we are confident he will stand at its end.  
He will judge all people and nations.  
Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation.  
There will be no more tears or pain.  
All things will be made new.  
The fellowship of human beings with God and each other will be perfected.

**\*Hymn** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* No. 87

**Time with Our Children**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles: Peace**

Youth Fellowship Coordinator Search Team

One: Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning,

**All:** we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us.

Show us the creative power of hope.

Teach us the peace that comes from justice.

Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

**Hymn**    *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (v. 3)*    No. 85



3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si-ah: let the  
light ban-ish dark-ness. Lift your heads and  
lift high the gate-way for the King of glo-ry.

CCLI #: 3015474

**Offering of Tithes and Gifts**

**Offertory Anthem** *Arise and Shine! Your Light Has Come!* arr. Martin  
Chancel Choir

*Arise and shine! Your Light has come,  
For God has sent the Promised One.  
Arise and shine! Your Light has come.  
Declare the works that the Lord has done.  
Sing, shout, be jubilant all the earth.  
Sing of our merciful King's birth.*

*From out of darkness we have light,  
For God has danced into our night.  
Rejoice, rejoice, the heavens reply,  
For our redemption draweth nigh.  
Angels and people with joy may sing,  
All for to praise the King of kings.*

*People, arise and shine! Your Light has come,  
For God has sent the Promised One.  
Walk in the light of the Lord.  
Walk in the light and rejoice for a Savior is born.*

*Arise and shine! Your Light has come.  
Declare what the Lord has done.  
Sing, shout, be jubilant all the earth.  
Sing of our merciful King's birth.*

**\*Doxology** *Gloria (from 'Angels We Have Heard on High')* No. 113  
***Gloria in excelsis Deo!***  
***Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

**\*Prayer of Dedication**  
**Gracious God, teach us to give thanks in all  
circumstances, for you are always with us.  
Thank you for the privilege of sharing what we  
have with others, of giving ourselves away in love  
and of receiving the gifts that others share with us.  
With our whole being, spirit and soul and body,  
we rejoice in you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**Prayers of Joy and Concern and the Lord's Prayer**  
Hymnal, p. 35

*Lord in your goodness: **Hear our praise;**  
Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.***

**\*Hymn** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* No. 100

**\*Benediction**

**\*Response** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (refrain)* No. 100

***My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.***

**\*Postlude** *Toccata in E Minor* Pachelbel

After worship, the Officer of the Day will be available at the Chancel steps to answer any questions for visitors and CPC members.

Today's Officer of the Day (11:00): Kim Riffle

**Today's Service Participants (11:00)**

**Minister:** Rev. Lori Pistor, Rev. Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

**Director of Music:** Ed Yasick

**Choir:** Chancel Choir

**Special Music:** Julie Henry, Carolyn Clark

**Youth Fellowship Coordinator Search Team:** Emma Anderson,

Betsy Bowdish, Summer Bohm, Reed Boswell,

Renée Clark, Louis Lambe, Lori Pistor

**Children's Worship Leader:** TBD

**Acolyte:** Matalie Bohm

**Lay Reader:** Jim Conrad

**Bus Driver:** Troy Burton

**Sound:** Joey Bartholomew

**Counters:** Alger Faber and Brian Short

**Christmas Gifts for Staff**

CPC is blessed with a wonderful and devoted staff.

This Sunday, December 17,

we are collecting monetary gifts for the staff.

There will be small envelopes in the friendship pads for the gifts.

Place the envelopes in the collection plate or drop off checks in Barbara Carew's box in the office.

Please be sure to write "staff gift" in the memo line.

**A Service of Lament and Hope  
this afternoon at Glenaire Chapel, 4:00 p.m.**

*This shared service of Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian, Glenaire, and Cary Presbyterian recognizes that for many, the holidays are laden with as much sorrow as joy.*

*Come hear again familiar words of our abiding faith and a reminder that the persistent light of Christ still shines even in the darkest areas of our lives.*

## Announcements and Opportunities

**Sunday School is in recess December 24 and 31** Come to worship!  
Classes resume January 7, 2018.

**Advent Coloring Posters (like the posters for Lent) are available in the Narthex and Library.** We're using markers for these so finishing should be faster. Enjoy the coloring experience in preparation during Advent!

**Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church, our summer ministry partner for Food, Friends, Fun, will host a Christmas party for our Hispanic neighborhood friends and families today, Sunday, December 17, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in their Fellowship Hall.**

This is the first year that CPC has been invited to join and help make this a great event.

**Details:** Volunteers arrive at 3:00 p.m. Dinner for all provided by Greenwood Forest Baptist Church at 6:00 p.m. There will be areas for volunteers to help in crafts, childcare for children 3 years and younger, guides needed to take groups from area to area, and a service project area. We also need volunteers from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for cleanup. Here is a Sign-Up Genius link for volunteering: <https://tinyurl.com/y7zjwfln>.

**An offering for hurricane relief in Puerto Rico will take place. Thank you!**

**Christmas Joy Offering:** This special PC(USA) denominational offering will be received beginning today, December 17. Offering envelopes are in the pews. This offering provides needed financial assistance to retired and current church workers and their families through the Board of Pensions and supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges, providing education and leadership development skills to future leaders. These schools are: Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Presbyterian Pan American School, Kingsville, Texas, and Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

**Loaves and Fishes:** Thanks for the awesome and joyous abundance of the gifts, checks, and gift cards received for Loaves and Fishes and the Pride for Parents Store. Your generosity has been a blessing to these families. We received a BIG Thank You card from Loaves and Fishes!

**The Page Turners will meet Monday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m.** in the church parlor. We will discuss the book *A Gentleman In Moscow* by Amor Towles. *A Gentleman in Moscow* is the story of Count Alexander Rostov in 1922 when he is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal and sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov must live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. We will read *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles for our February 26 meeting. Please feel free to join us, new members are always welcome!  
Questions, contact Colleen Hann [colleenhann@nc.rr.com](mailto:colleenhann@nc.rr.com) or Lisa Ward [lpward58@gmail.com](mailto:lpward58@gmail.com).

*Gather in...*

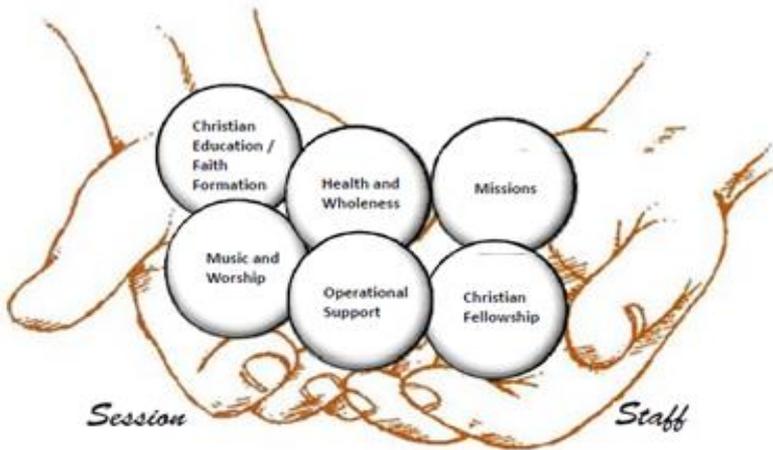


## A Generosity Reminder

Please be sure to return your Planned Giving Card and Time & Talent Form. You may leave your information in the church office, place it in the offering plate, or pledge online now at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/9uv8jhj>

If you are up to date with your planned giving commitment, we thank you. If not, we graciously ask that you become current by the end of the year. Thank you!

## *Cary Presbyterian Ministry Areas*



## *CPC Ministry Area Committees & Teams*

### *Christian Faith Formation*

Visitors & New Members  
Adult Education  
Spiritual Practices  
Youth Classes  
Confirmation  
Children in Worship  
Milestones  
Vacation Bible School  
Library  
Social Justice

### *Music & Worship*

Communion  
Chancel Guild  
Choirs  
Acolytes  
Ushers  
Lay Readers  
Columbarium  
Sound Team

### *Health & Wholeness*

Parish Nurse  
Deacons  
Stephen Ministry  
Prayer Shawl  
Blood Drive  
Cancer Companions  
Pastoral Care Team  
Partnering Ministries

### *Operations*

Personnel & Administration  
Budget & Finance  
Generosity Team  
Building & Grounds  
Communications  
Transportation  
Information Technology  
Nominating  
Counting  
Insurance

### *Missions*

Preschool  
Local Missions  
World Missions  
Appalachia Service Project  
Guatemala  
Memorials & Endowments  
Food, Friends and Fun  
Fair Trade Coffee

### *Fellowship*

Congregational Fellowship  
Youth Groups  
Presbyterian Women  
Presbyterian Men  
Triple F  
Scouting  
Connections  
Book Groups  
Softball Teams  
Ties that Bind

## THIS WEEK AT CARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

<b>Sunday, December 17 Third Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b> <b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship Service</b> <b>'The King and Me' A Musical Christmas Pageant (in place of Sunday School)</b>
	<b>11:00 a.m.</b> <b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Worship Service</b> Service of Lament and Hope– Glenaire Auditorium
	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	MS Youth Group: Christmas Party (MS Room)
	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	SH Youth Group: Christmas Party and Service Project (SH Room)
<b>Monday, December 18</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	Pastoral Care Team (Office)
	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Staff Meeting (Office)
	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	Personnel and Administration (209)
<b>Tuesday, December 19</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Preschool Holiday Celebration /4s (Youth Room)
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Budget and Finance Committee (106)
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Boy Scout Troop 232 (101, 103, 105)
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Strength, Hope, and Healing (Al-Anon) (Library)
<b>Wednesday, December 20</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Preschool Christmas Party MW 2s (Youth Room)
	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Preschool Christmas Party MWF 3s (FH)
	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	Choir Practice (Choir Room)
<b>Thursday, December 21</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Preschool Christmas Celebration / 3s (FH Annex)
	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	CPC Staff Deacon Lunch / Glenaire
	<b>5:00 p.m.</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Labyrinth Walk: 'Celebration of Light'</b> Stephen Ministry (100/102/106)
<b>Friday, December 22</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Centering Prayer Group (P)
<b>Saturday, December 23</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	CPC Orchestra Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
<b>Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>No Sunday School</b>
	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship Service with Cantata</b>
	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Family Worship Service</b>
	<b>6:00 p.m.</b> <b>8:00 p.m.</b>	No Youth Group Meetings <b>Christmas Eve Worship with Cantata</b>

### **Celebration of Light Labyrinth Walk: Thursday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m.**

The word "light" is referenced often in the Bible to symbolize goodness, truth, and knowledge. On the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, we celebrate the hope, love, and light of Christ's birth. Join us in the lower parking lot for a short service of song, prayer and poetry. We will then walk to the labyrinth to witness the light of over 100 candles. You may walk the labyrinth, simply stand, or sit as others do so. Hot apple cider will be available to help keep us warm. Questions? Email Jeanne Bolick at [jlbolick@att.net](mailto:jlbolick@att.net).

Please place your completed Poinsettia Order Page  
in the Offering Plate. Thank you!



Through the generosity of someone who wishes to remain anonymous, this year's poinsettias are being donated to the church for use in worship during Advent and Christmastide. Thus, the \$15 you

contribute toward the purchase of each poinsettia in honor or memory of loved ones, and/or to the glory of God, will be used for the ministers' discretionary funds to help families in need throughout our community. A portion will also go to help support our sanctuary flower fund. Your gift of Christmas beauty will be acknowledged in our Christmas Eve bulletins, including the dedication that you indicate on your order form. Thank you for your faithful support.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Qty: \_\_\_\_ Poinsettia plants @ **\$15 each** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*If you wish to dedicate these poinsettias, please complete the following:*

Qty. \_\_\_\_ In  honor or  memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Qty. \_\_\_\_ In  honor or  memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Qty. \_\_\_\_ In  honor or  memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SUBMIT PAYMENT WITH YOUR ORDER. Mark your check "Poinsettia" (payable to Cary Presbyterian Church) and place it in an envelope in the offering plate or drop it by the church office. All orders must be received in the church office no later than December 17.**