

DECEMBER 24, 2017, 11:00 AM
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

www.carypresbyterian.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gathering Chime

Prelude

Joy

(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: Now is the season when we celebrate that
the Creator of universes, of camels and dolphins,
of sparrows and lambs, of cedars and pines,
of roses and dandelions, of locust and wild honey,
of mountains and rivers, of winds and rains,
of moons and stars, came to live among human beings.

All: Stay awake, so you don't miss this marvelous entry.

One: This is the One who comes to dwell in glory in every land,
Whose mercy shines into the corners of life
To embrace with righteousness and love
Those who have been left out,
Those whose hearts have been broken,
Those who have been oppressed,
That their tears may blossom into joy
as they experience community, wholeness, and freedom.

**All: Stay awake, so you don't miss this marvelous
indwelling of God.**

One: Now is the time when the Spirit enlivens
 All who are seeking for God.
 Deeds of justice, mercy, and love, small and large,
 Will be called for and empowered,
 Will be done and noticed,
 And all creation, bit by bit and leap by leap,
 Will know the embrace of One who is all Justice,
 All Mercy, and all Love.

**All: Stay awake, so you can take part
 in the marvelous deeds of God.**

***Hymn** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vv. 1-4)* No. 88

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

**God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your
 grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness,
 and still in our foolishness we go astray. We hide
 our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to
 your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance
 and speechless when we ought to sing.
 Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful
 hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm
 our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy
 way. Amen.**

Silent Confession

***Response to Confession**

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

Refrain Am Dm F G A B^b C Am7 Dm
Fine

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

CCLI #: 3015474

***Words of Assurance**

One: Though we know only in part, we are fully known to God.
All: **By the grace of Christ, God forgives us in love and calls us to abide in faith, in hope, and in love.**

***Response of Praise**

He Came Down
(Please sing stanza twice)

No. 137

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

Leader: 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.

Time with Our Children

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles: Joy Presbyterian Men

One: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us:
All: **You created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Give us hearts that hold love. Teach us the peace that comes from justice.**

**Fill us with the kind of joy
that cannot be contained, but must be shared.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Hymn *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (v. 4)* No. 85

4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si-ah: let the
light ban-ish dark-ness. He is com-ing:
tell the glad ti-dings. Let your lights be shin-ing.

CCLI #: 3015474

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 40:3-5 OT, p. 667

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Illumination

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Narration Journey of Promises

Carol (Choir) *Come Away* Martin

Second Narration The Promised Light

Carol (Choir) *Arise and Shine! Your Light Has Come!* arr. Martin

Third Narration The Promised Hope

Carol (Choir) *When Will Messiah Come?* arr. Martin

Fourth Narration The Promised Glory

Carol (Choir) *Lift Up Your Heads* Martin/Paige

***Affirmation of Faith**

God sent the promised Deliverer to his people.

**Jesus the long-expected Savior,
came into the world as a child,
descended from David,
conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of Mary, a virgin.**

He lived as a Jew among Jews.

**He announced to his people
the coming of God's kingdom of justice
and peace on earth.**

**We affirm that Jesus was born of woman
as is every child,
yet born of God's power
as was no other child.**

**In the person and work of Jesus,
God himself and a human life
are united but not confused,
distinguished but not separated.**

**The coming of Jesus was itself
the coming of God's promised rule.**

**Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,
he brings about the relationship
between God and humanity
that God always intended.**

***Hymn** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* No. 93

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer Hymnal, p. 35

***Hymn** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* No. 121

*Benediction

One: Let us walk the path of prophets and sages.

All: Let us travel the distance between promise and fulfillment.

One: Let us watch and wait

All: as the heavens start to whisper and the veil grows thin.

One: And may grace and peace abide with us on the way.

***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**

Voluntary in E Minor

Stanley

This morning's offerings can be placed in the baskets located at the rear of the sanctuary and in the Narthex near the name tags.

Today's Service Participants

Ministers: Rev. Lori Pistor, Rev. Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Director of Music: Ed Yasick

Choir: Chancel Choir

Trumpet: Justin Dickson; **Djembe:** Ben Mount

Presbyterian Men: John Campbell, Matt Donkin,

Al Hardie, John Page, Tom Stuart

Acolyte: Madeleine Mount

Lay Reader: Mike Boyd

Bus Driver: Allan Cain

Sound: John Campbell

Counters: Jane Dunbar and Ken Wease

Call to Worship by Robin Knowles Wallace

Open Choir Invitation for December 31 Service

You are invited to be part of an "Open Choir" on December 31 for the 11:00 a.m. service. We will be rehearsing at 10:40 a.m. that morning in the choir room. Look forward to seeing you there!

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): Matt Donkin

Gather in...

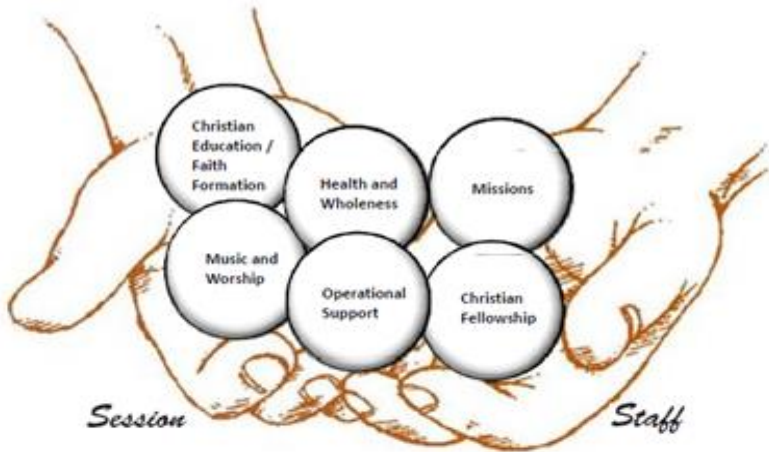


A Generosity Reminder

2017 is almost over, so 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

Poinsettias
Christmas 2017



Cary Presbyterian Church

Given in Loving Memory of:

Ben & Eugenia Trammell (Anne Margaret's parents),
by Anne Margaret & Joey Bartholomew
Fuller S. Blunt, by Nancy Blunt
Loved ones, by Tom & Jeanne Bolick
Michael Patrick Burke, by George & Penny Burke
Our grandparents, by Troy & Leah Burton
Bill & Mozelle Williams (Gwen's parents), by Yates & Gwen Fletcher
Kathy Giesbrecht, by Peg Giesbrecht
Francis Giesbrecht, by Peg Giesbrecht
Gary Govert, by Ellen Govert
Walter W. Gruber, Jr., by Ann H. Gruber
Dorothy & J.C. Vittitow, by Bob & Deky Hall
Dorothy & Robert McCoy, by Bob & Deky Hall
John & Al Hall, by Bob & Deky Hall
Jim Hobbs (husband), by Naureen Hobbs
Blanche & Paul Chandler and Lucy & C.L. Honeycutt (parents),
by Fay and Wayne Honeycutt
Grover Miller (Cindy's Dad), by Cindy & Bill Leslie
Debra Lowry Johnson (daughter), by Bob & Mary Lou Lowry
Paul Ogle, Sr. by Sandy Ogle
Lorine Stogsdill, by Sandy Ogle
Dorothy Oglesby (Boyce's mom), by Boyce & Linda Oglesby
Mr. & Mrs. A.S. King, by Jim & Frances Pressley
Rev. & Mrs. James B. Pressley, by Jim & Frances Pressley
Ed & Sallie Frances Hargrave, by Kim Riffle, Lewis Sugg, & Cindy Clark
Anna Mae Kather, by Elaine Sayers
Russell, Jane, & Velvetine Shouse, by David Shouse
Carroll Slaymaker, by Jerry Slaymaker
Gordon Steger, by Mark & Suzie Steger
Gary Govert, by Jason, Sarah, Ella, & Naomi Troiano
Hazel Overbey & Eleanor Martin Kent, by Jason, Sarah, Ella, &
Naomi Troiano

Given in Honor of:

Ellen Kissiah, by Sally Adams

Gene & Kitty Bartholomew (Joey's parents),
by Anne Margaret & Joey Bartholomew

Lori Pistor, by Betty & Mike Boyd

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, by Betty & Mike Boyd

David Voss, by Betty & Mike Boyd

Our grandchildren: Spencer, Gracie, Haley, Hannah, Sarah,
Anabelle, and Wyatt, by George & Penny Burke

Our church family, by Troy & Leah Burton

Ragland & Sallie Fletcher, by Yates & Gwen Fletcher

Our many CPC friends, by Frank and Lela Floyd

Our seven great-grandsons, our nine grandchildren, and our three
children, by Fred & Joan Haskin

Mason Honeycutt & Mariah Honeycutt (great-grandchildren),
by Fay & Wayne Honeycutt

Vince Oglesby and Herb & Alette Zerof (parents),
by Boyce & Linda Oglesby

The CPC Staff, by Lori Pistor

Audra Slaymaker and family, by Jerry Slaymaker

Amos Slaymaker and family, by Jerry Slaymaker

Our children, their spouses, and our great-grandchildren,
by Mark & Suzie Steger

*If you purchased poinsettias you may take them home with
you after the Christmas Eve service at 8:00 p. m.*

Announcements and Opportunities

Children in Worship will not meet this week, or next (Dec. 31).

Children who are 3 -6 years old are invited to participate in the worship service through the hymn following the Advent Wreath lighting. After the lighting, they will proceed (led by an usher, or parents) downstairs for childcare in our Nursery rooms in the lower level of the children's wing (CE building section, Room 120). Childcare for those younger than three is available for the entire service.

Sunday School is in recess December 24 and 31. Come to worship! Classes resume January 7, 2018 with new units, lessons, sessions, and more.

Thank you to Julie Henry, Director of the Youth Choir, for skilled and gracious direction of the Christmas musical last Sunday during Sunday School hour. Thanks also to the talented and generous children and youth who helped us get ready for Christmas in a meaningful and fun way. It was delightful!

The Cool Books Club will meet on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Peg Giesbrecht. We will read and discuss Banker to the Poor: Micro-lending and the Battle Against World Poverty by Muhammad Yunus. If you are interested in joining us, please call Peg Giesbrecht at 919-859-3951 or Ellen Cline at 919-469-1456.

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. New members are always welcome! Questions, contact Colleen Hann colleenhann@nc.rr.com or Lisa Ward lpward58@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK AT CARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	No Sunday School Worship Service with Cantata Christmas Eve Family Worship Service No Youth Group Meetings Christmas Eve Worship with Cantata
Monday, December 25 Christmas Day	No Activities Scheduled	Office Closed
Tuesday, December 26	No Activities Scheduled	Office Closed
Wednesday, December 27	7:30 p.m.	No Choir Practice
Thursday, December 28	No Activities Scheduled	
Friday, December 29	9:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer Group (P)
Saturday, December 30	No Activities Scheduled	
Sunday, December 31 New Year's Eve	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	No Sunday School All Together Worship Service No Youth Group Meetings