

Cary Presbyterian
C H U R C H PC(USA)



**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
WORSHIP SERVICE
11:00 AM MARCH 18, 2018**
614 Griffis Street, Cary, NC 27511
(919) 467-8700
www.carypresbyterian.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gathering Chime

Prelude

What Wondrous Love is This

Traditional

Welcome and Announcements

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

Congregational Introit

I Will Come to You (v. 1, Refrain)

No. 177

***"I will come to you in the silence;
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice.
Be still and know I am here.***

***Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home:
I love you and you are mine."***

*Call to Worship

(* Please stand as you are able.)

One: Hear and believe the good news:
God has called us "my people!"

**All: God has set up a covenant, over and over again,
choosing us even before we can choose,
faithful even when we are faltering.**

One: In the flood, in the wilderness, in exile;
in certainty and doubt, abundance and scarcity;
God's promise is true to the thousandth generation.

**All: We see the rainbow, we hear our names,
we learn the commandments,
we look up for our help, we know in our hearts:
we love because God first loved us,
we follow because God first came to us,
we can be faithful because God is faithful.**

One: Come, let us worship God together.

*Hymn

O God, Who Gives Us Life

No. 53

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord, we confess that we love our lives as they are – comfortable and secure.

We struggle with even the *idea* of change.

We wrestle with the thought of doing things differently.

But we know that the life we cling to is only a half-life.

Only you, O Lord, can give us true life in full.

Forgive us for holding onto the wrong things.

Teach us by your Spirit to *let go* of our agendas and assumptions.

Help us to let go of our self-righteousness and false notions of power.

Give us the strength and courage to try new things.

Encourage us – and even push us –

to let go of ourselves so we can fully embrace you, Holy God.

We pray these things in the name of Christ Jesus.

Silent Confession

***Response**



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chri - ste e - le - i - son.
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

***Assurance of God's Mercy**

***Response**

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me (v. 5) No. 543

Christ in the eyes of all who see me,

Christ in the ears that hear my voice,

Christ in the hearts of all who know me:

O Christ, surround me. O Christ, surround me.

***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

Gospel Reading

John 12:20-33

NT, p. 106, 107

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

OT, p. 735

Sermon

Let It Go

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

***Affirmation of Faith**

**God bound the people to himself in covenant.
Freed slaves became the people of God
when they accepted the Lord's covenant.
God charged them to respond to God's rescuing love
by obeying God's commandments.
Their life together was to express
the justice and compassion of their holy God.
Since we, too, are the Lord's covenant people
we know we must be holy as the Lord is holy.
We must keep God's commandments,
not in order to earn or compel the Lord's favor,
but to reflect the character of God
and to be God's grateful and loving people.**

***Hymn**

The Days Are Surely Coming

No. 357

Time with Our Children

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

***Hymn**

Spirit Open My Heart

No. 692

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Invention in A Minor

Bach

Doxology WORDS: G. W. Dub Shepherd, 2006 OLD 100TH MUSIC: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551 LM Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, Used by permission.

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): Jim Tompkins

Today's Service Participants (11:00)

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

Director of Music: Ed Yasick

Special Music: Grace Notes; Nancy Neubauer, accompanist

Children in Worship: Angie Keith

Acolyte: Lily Czika

Lay Reader: Naureen Hobbs

Bus Driver: Christie Foppiano

Sound: Craig and Kathryn Anderson

Ushers: Al Hardie, Leah Burton, Ellen Govert, and Jim Tompkins

Counters: Rowena Morrison and Jim Bowdish

The Season's Sanctuary Cross

Lent is a season of letting go, of laying down all the burdens, fears, and anxieties that weigh us down and to which we cling so tightly – that we might turn away from all that holds us back and turn toward the hopes, dreams, and promise of abundant life as God intends.

Throughout this season, a rough-hewn cross wrapped in netting will stand at the front of the sanctuary, left of the pulpit, with a basket of paper and pencils nearby.

You are invited, during the six weeks of Lent, to write down burdens you carry or hopes that lift your spirit and weave them into the cross.

Let the quiet and sacred space in the sanctuary beckon you into reflection and prayer.

On Easter Sunday it will bloom again with flowers brought by worshippers; a reminder of God's abundance, woven through all our days.

Lenten Faith Formation News

The Bible study from Know Chocolate for Lent continues this week; you are welcome to join in. The Bible study is at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays through March, repeated at 6:00 p.m., with a simple soup supper in-between for fellowship for the two classes. This class, March 21, is our last offering. We will not hold the class during Holy Week. **For more information please email medora.hix@carypresbyterian.org.**

Adult Education Sunday School Classes:

Faith TODAY Adult Class this week is this week is *Mindfulness, part 2*. The class will be led by Jason Troiano, who is working on certification in this field. Room 100 (this week).

Bible and Beyond is now studying *Wisdom Literature and the Prophets* from the Efirid Bible Study video series. Efirid is dynamic and informative. Join in with Lisa and Alan Ward, leaders, in the library.

Faith and Family will consider material from the book *100 Things Every Child Should Know Before Confirmation: A Guide for Parents and Youth Leaders*. This is an overview of one hundred essential topics about which all children in the church should learn, including key Bible stories, church history, the sacraments and creeds, world religions, and more. Each entry includes a brief summary, a suggestion for how parents can explore this item with their children, and ideas for integrating the topic into the child's overall Christian education. Books will be available to use in class. PLEASE NOTE: this class will NOT meet in Room 100 this week, but in the Annex of the Fellowship Hall.

Adult I continues its regular Bible study and welcomes newcomers in the Parlor.

Vacation Bible School will be June 17 – 21 in the evening.

Save those dates now for children from age 4 through rising 5th graders. Middle and High School youth are encouraged to be helpers and leaders. The theme is "Rolling River Rampage: Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!"

VBS Directors Meredith Bullis and Valerie Short will shortly begin recruiting. Please say 'yes' when asked!

Social Justice Ministry Upcoming Event

CPC members and friends are invited to this upcoming event sponsored by CPC's Social Justice Ministry. The program will be hosted at CPC, is free of charge, and open to the public. There will be time following the presentation for a question and answer session.

Be SMART

April 29, 7:00 p.m.

April 29 at 7:00 p.m. a program called Be SMART will be presented by speakers from Moms Demand Action. This group supports the 2nd Amendment, but believes common-sense solutions can help decrease the escalating epidemic of gun violence.

Announcements and Opportunities

One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Challenge: Gracie the Fish boxes are now available for pick-up in the narthex. This offering benefits the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, responding to families affected by natural disasters. Refugees are also assisted. The needs are great! Envelopes will be in the pews on March 18th. Donations may be made through Easter Sunday, April 1. Fish banks may also be brought at that time. Be sure to put your name on your bank, if you wish to enter the contest.

Triple F Group, March 19: The March 19 meeting will include a presentation by Barbara Turner on the "Hidden Figures" ladies, four African-American women with superior math skills which allowed NASA to send men into space safely. All are welcome; we meet at 10:00 a.m. in Room 100.

Page Turners Book Club, March 26 (Postponed from February):

The Page Turners will meet Monday, March 26, at 7 p.m. in the church parlor. We will be discussing *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. Set in post-Civil War Texas, this novel explores the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor, and trust, as an itinerant news reader transports a young captive of the Kiowa back to her people. New members are always welcome, so please feel free to join us! Questions, contact Jane Dunbar jvdunbar123@gmail.com or Lisa Ward lpward58@gmail.com.

College Freshman Care Packages will be assembled by Presbyterian Women on Monday, April 2. Donations of the following are appreciated: non-perishable and non-melting individually packaged snack items; hot chocolate/tea bags; school supplies such as sticky notes, pens, highlighters, small notebooks; and fun stress relievers. Please put them in the box in the Narthex labeled Freshman Care Package Donations.

Cool Books Club, April 3:

The Cool Books Club will meet on April 3, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of one of our members, Zeynep Guvenc. We will read *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler, an associate professor at Duke University Divinity School. It is largely about how she copes with life as a young mother and professor who has been diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer. If you are interested and would like to join our next meeting, please call Ellen Cline at 919-469-1456 or Peg Giesbrecht at 919-859-3951.

Mission in the Community and Beyond- Spanish Classes offered at CPC:

Cary Presbyterian will host three different levels of Spanish classes for members and associates in support of volunteer service in faith community outreach programs offered to Latino neighbors, and our Guatemalan mission. Classes will be on Wednesdays during the daytime, and begin April 11, concluding June 13 (10 weeks). The teacher is Paulina Rodriguez-Ortega, originally from Colombia but now a US citizen, who has taught Spanish for many years. Interested? Contact Medora Hix at medora.hix@carypresbyterian.org.

Missing Some Dishes?

If you have dishes that have been left at the church recently (or not so recently), please pick them up in the narthex. Thanks!

CPC Lenten Dialogue and Fellowship Project with the Transition Team

During the Season of Lent the Transition Team invites church members and friends into dialogue and fellowship to *help discern*:

- *who God is calling CPC to be, and*
- *who God is calling to guide us in spiritual growth and maturity.*

Engage and Reflect!

Participate in the CPC History Time Line

- When did you get involved at CPC, and how are you involved?
- Add your name to the Time Line in the hallway, along with your comments and pictures. *Instructions for making your addition are at the Time Line.*

Attend Lenten Bible Study: Know Chocolate led by Medora Hix (see details under Lenten Faith Formation News in this bulletin). This coming Wednesday, March 21, is the final opportunity to participate in this study. (No class will be held during Holy Week.)

- Wednesday evenings in the Fellowship Hall
- 4:00-5:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Simple soup supper
- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Bible Study



ATTEND THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FORUM TODAY, March 18 after Worship

- March 18 - Forum includes a Pot Luck lunch. Review what we learned from the small group conversations.

Together in the Spirit, let's build up the church!

For more information, contact one of the Transition Team Members:

[Donna Adkins](#), [Jeanne Bolick](#), [Beth Campbell](#), [Jerry Luckie](#), [Boyce Oglesby](#),
[John Page](#), [Lori Pistor](#)

Symbols of the Lenten Season

During the season of Lent a variety of symbols offer the opportunity to focus our attention on who Christ was during his earthly life – shepherd, servant, healer, king; and how Christ calls us to live as faithful disciples, called to love others, as we have been and are loved. **A new symbol will be added each Sunday during Lent.**

Ashes – From dust we were created and to dust we shall return. The ashes are a visible reminder of our mortality and sin, even as we hold fast to the promise of God’s forgiveness and grace.

Purple Iris – “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of God’s hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.” (Psalm 19:1-4)

The purple iris is a reminder that all creation displays the wonder and beauty of God in a thousand miraculous ways.

Shepherd’s Crook – “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.” (Psalm 23) The shepherd’s crook reminds us that Jesus came, not as a warrior, but as one who would seek and save the lost, gather us in from the far corners to which we roam, shelter us through the storm, and guide us in this world and the next.

Basin and Towel – “Jesus...knowing he had come from God and was going to God ...tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet.” (John 13) The basin and towel remind us that Jesus came, not to be served, but to serve; and to remind us of the lives of compassionate service to which we are called as faithful disciples.

Chalice and Paten – “Then Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22) The chalice and paten remind us of the love and mercy of Christ, poured out in a simple meal of bread broken, and wine poured.

Jar of Olive Oil – “He went...as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him...Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed.” Luke 22

The jar of olive oil reminds us that Jesus, underneath a canopy of olive trees, confronted the darkness that gathered close, prayed to God for relief, and yet surrendered to the purpose for which God had sent Him.

Potluck Lunch and Town Hall Forum today in the Fellowship Hall after 11:00 a.m. Worship.

This Sunday, to follow-up on the recent small group conversations,
we will have an All Congregation Potluck Lunch
and Town Hall Forum in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

Purpose: Reflecting, Reporting, & Planning What's Next.

(Child Care Provided)

THIS WEEK AT CARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH		
Sunday, March 18	8:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service Sunday School Worship Service Potluck Dinner/Town Hall Forum (Fellowship Hall) SH Youth Group: Camp Willow Run Retreat (return by 2:00 p.m.) MS Youth Group: Meet Alan Bancroft (MS Room) SH Youth Group: Youth Sunday Planning (SH Room)
Monday, March 19	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Care Team (Office) Staff Meeting (Office) Personnel and Administration (209) Christian Faith Formation Team (106)
Tuesday, March 20	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Conscious Discipline Parent Book Study (102) Connections Book Group (P) Boy Scout Troop 232 (101/103/105) Strength, Hope, and Healing (L) Budget and Finance Committee (106)
Wednesday, March 21	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Preschool Event Prep (FH) Prayer Shawl Knitting Group (P) Know Chocolate for Lent Bible Study (102) Simple Soup Supper for Study (102) Preschool Pizza Night Fundraiser (FH) Coping Creatively with Cancer (Off-campus) Know Chocolate for Lent Bible Study (102) YAF Meeting (103) Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, March 22	No activities scheduled	
Friday, March 23	9:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer Group (P)
Saturday, March 24	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m.	Church Work Day (Outdoor chapel, grounds) Cantata Rehearsal (Sanctuary) Joan Ward Memorial Service (Sanctuary, FH) Confirmation Class: Trip to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Sunday, March 25	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Sunday School All Together Worship Service/Easter Cantata After Worship Coffee Fellowship SH Youth Group: Bridge to Life (and Stressbuster Parent Meeting @ CPC) Building Resilience in Children and Teen: Connection, Character, and Contribution (FH) MS Youth Group: Amazing Race (MS Room)



ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS TODAY.

Help decorate our sanctuary with beautiful Easter lilies and spring flowers, then take them after Easter worship to brighten your family's home. Your gift of Easter beauty will be acknowledged in our Easter bulletin, including the dedication that you indicate on the order form below. (Please print legibly.)

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Orders and payment to be received by Monday, March 26.

Name _____

Telephone & email

Qty: Easter Lilies/Flowers _____ @ **\$15* each** = \$ _____

In honor or memory of _____

Relationship _____

In honor or memory of _____

Relationship _____

In honor or memory of _____

Relationship _____

PLEASE SUBMIT PAYMENT WITH YOUR ORDER

**Mark your check "Easter Flowers"
(payable to Cary Presbyterian Church).**

You may place it in the offering plate on Sunday, mail to **614 Griffis St., Cary, NC 27511** or drop it off at the church office.

*The \$15.00 you contribute toward the purchase of each flower will be used to support the ministry and mission of Cary Presbyterian Church.