



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
11:00 AM DECEMBER 16, 2018  
*CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: THE BEGINNING*  
614 Griffis Street, Cary, NC 27511  
(919) 467-8700  
[www.carypresbyterian.org](http://www.carypresbyterian.org)

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Gathering Chime

Prelude

*Largo*

Vivaldi

## Welcome and Announcements

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

Introit

*Advent Alleluia*

Joncas

*(Congregation joins in singing the refrain.)*

Hal - le - lu - ia, hal - le - lu - ia,  
hal - le - lu - ia, hal - le - lu - ia!

## \*Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candle

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

One: Today we will light three Advent candles.

We lit the first candle for courage and light a second candle to prepare our hearts for the coming of God.

**All: We light the third candle to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.**

One: We light a light to dedicate our work in support of our words.

**All: We light a light not just to proclaim but to comfort, not only to preach but to provide, not only to bless but to release.**

One: We light a light to share the labor and fellowship.

**All: We light the third Advent candle committing ourselves to go where God sends us.**

\*Hymn

*Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn*

No. 107

## \*Advent Litany of Confession

God of Light, sometimes all we see is the smoke  
from the extinguished candle.

Sometimes all we know is the fear of losing  
instead of the joy of loving.

**Sometimes all we believe are empty promises  
of long-lost dreams instead of the wonder and awe  
of trusting you are doing something new.**

In this time of brokenness in our world and in our lives,  
in this space of emptiness, in this realm of hopelessness:

Forgive us. Restore our faith. Renew our hope.

Rebuild our trust in one another and in the goodness of Your love.

**Be born in us, again, and again, so that we might live  
into hope, build peace in this world, and rejoice that  
you are still ever present with us and will not let the  
world fall apart.**

You will not let us fail. Love will never end, but always prevails.

**Help us to cling to this: that what we know  
is you are good. You are love. You are light.**

In the name of Jesus the Christ, for whom all things  
are expectantly waiting. **Amen.**

## \*Blessing and Assurance

Trust. Believe. Hope. Endure. Know. Forgive. Restore. Love.  
Above all, love.

**For what else is there that we can do?**

We are forgiven and set out to do right: to love justice  
and mercy, and to go forth humbly with God. **Amen.**

## \*Response

*Lift Up Your Heads (vv. 2 & 3)*

No. 93

***Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple,  
set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ,  
adorned with prayer and love and joy.***

***Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee;  
here, Lord, abide. Let me thy inner presence feel;  
thy grace and love in me reveal.***

# Offering of Tithes and Gifts

## Offertory

*Wachet Auf*  
Justin Dickson, Trumpet;  
Sara Dickson, Piano

Bach/arr. Dickson

## \*Doxology

*For Advent*

Ken

Em G C D7 G D G C G  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures

5 Am Bm7 Em Am Em B7 Em A7 D Em  
here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D7 G D Em Bm G  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - jice! Re - jice! Em -

15 C D7 Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em  
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

## \*Prayer

## Christmas Pageant: *The Beginning* David Wagner

### \*Congregational Hymn

*People, Look East (vv. 1, 4 & 5)* No. 105

Scene 1: The Annunciation

**Anthem** *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* Chancel Choir

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady. Gloria!  
For known a blessed mother thou shalt be;  
all generations laud and honor thee.  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady. Gloria!"*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name,"  
most highly favored lady, Gloria!  
Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ,  
was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

**Song** *Breath of Heaven* Sister Act

Scene 2: The Journey and Arrival in Bethlehem

**Song** *Away in a Manger* Rainbow Choir

Scene 3: The Shepherds

**Song** *Run to the Manger* Grace Notes

**Song** *Sing We Noel/The First Noel* Youth Choir

Scene 4: At the Manger

**Hymn** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (remain seated)* No. 128

### \*Concluding Hymn

*Love Has Come (vv. 1 & 2)* No. 110

## \*Benediction

### \*Hymn

*Love Has Come (v. 3)*

No. 110

***Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love!  
Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love!  
Praise to you, God on high!***

### Postlude

*Toccata in E Minor*

Pachelbel

## Congregational Meeting

*After worship coffee fellowship will be held in the Fellowship Hall this Sunday. Come and greet pageant cast members and visitors.*

### *The Beginning*

#### Cast and Participants

**Writer:** Todd Crouse

**Angel 1:** Noah Tomczak

**Angel 2:** Lily Czika

**Angel 3:** Lucy Rodriguez

**Angel 4:** Emelia Short

**Mary:** Sarah Pierce

**Narrators/Stagehands:** Haley Pierce and Hannah Pierce

**Joseph:** Will Trotman

**Inn Keeper:** Walt Trotman

**Shepherd 1:** Madeleine Mount

**Shepherd 2:** Lauren Mount

**Shepherd 3:** Zack Rodriguez

**Wise Man 1:** Russell Diggs

**Wise Man 2:** Tom Stuart

**Wise Man 3:** Troy Burton

**Co-Directors:** Jen Pierce, Sandy Hutchinson, Medora Hix

**Rainbow Choir Director:** Sara Dickson

**Youth Choir Director:** Julie Henry

**Grace Notes and Sister Act Director:** Julie Henry

**Piano:** Nancy Neubauer

After worship, the Officer of the Day  
will be available to answer any questions  
for visitors and CPC members.  
Today's Officer of the Day: Jeff Clark



*The flowers in the sanctuary this week  
are given by Naureen Hobbs  
to the glory of God and in loving memory  
of Jim Hobbs.*

***To Listen: To Look***  
***By Ann Weems***

*Is it all sewn up – my life?  
Is it at this point so predictable,  
so orderly,  
so neat, so arranged,  
so right,  
that I don't have time or space  
for listening for the rustle of angels' wings  
or running to stables to see a baby?  
Could this be what he meant when he said  
Listen, those who have ears to hear...  
Look, those who have eyes to see?  
O God, give me the humbleness of those shepherds  
who saw in the cold December darkness  
the Coming of Light  
the Advent of Love!*

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

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

**Director of Music:** Ed Yasick

**Choir:** Chancel Choir

**Acolyte:** Zach Rodriguez

**Youth Reader:** Kathryn Anderson

**Bus Driver:** Jason Riffle

**Sound:** Hunter Piermont

**Ushers:** Su Johnson, Leah Burton, Ellen Govert, and Jeff Clark

**Counters:** Jane Dunbar and Kim Markham

## Announcements and Opportunities

### Holiday Season Fair Trade Sales

Stop by our Fair Trade table just outside Fellowship Hall, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. to peruse our wide selection of coffees, chocolate, tea, and olive oil. (We will also be open after the Congregational Meeting so stop by and see us then.) We have gift baskets of coffee and chocolate, tea and chocolate, as well as festive packages of assorted teas or chocolates. Need teacher or hostess gifts? We have great ideas. This will be your last opportunity to purchase Fair Trade items. Have questions? Contact Jeanne Bolick at [jlbolick@att.net](mailto:jlbolick@att.net) or Betty Boyd at [4eboyd@bellsouth.net](mailto:4eboyd@bellsouth.net).

### Get Your Online Directory Photo Taken Today!

Need your picture taken and added to the new online directory? Meet Mitzi or Barbara in the Narthex by the Angel Tree following 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship today. One of them will snap your smiling face(s) and post the picture to your Servant Keeper profile. Thanks for helping create the new online directory!

### A Note from Personnel and Administration

CPC is blessed with a wonderful and devoted staff. Beginning today we are collecting monetary gifts. Small envelopes for the gifts are in the Welcome pads. Please place in the collection plate or drop off checks in the office this week. Be sure to write "staff gift" in the memo line. Thank you.

### Joy Offering: Today, December 16

The Christmas Joy Offering of our denomination, the PC(USA), will be received beginning today, Dec. 16. Needed assistance is provided to retired church workers and their families and to current church workers and their families facing emergency situations. Support is also provided to students at racial-ethnic colleges. Envelopes are in the pews.

# Advent Traditions and Symbols 2018

Advent is filled with images and symbols. Some of us have known them since childhood; for others these are new ways to engage Advent waiting and imagination.

We light candles as a reminder that the light of Christ "shines in the darkness, and the darkness shall not overcome it." Often there are 3 purple candles, 1 pink candle, and the white Christ candle lit on Christmas Eve. Each candle may represent a word or theme like peace, hope, joy, and love. The pink candle is often associated with Gaudete (joy) Sunday, representing Mary's joy. This year at CPC our Advent wreath lighting and liturgy draw on the ideas of taking courage, preparing our hearts, going where we're sent, and the angelic reminder "do not be afraid," so all the candles are purple.

CPC's angels join the choir this year just a bit differently from the past with one added each Sunday.

The tree gracing the front of the sanctuary, decorated in white and gold ornaments, is called a *Chrismon* tree. The ornaments are a collection of ancient Christian symbols and crosses. For example, the shell represents baptism, the dove represents the Holy Spirit, and the crown calls to mind Jesus as King. The word Chrismon is a combination of the words **Christ** and **Monogram** as all the decorations are monograms or symbols which together tell the story of our Christian faith. (*More symbols and their meanings can be found on the purple cards in the pew pockets.*) You will also see Chrismons on the green swags or ropes along the sanctuary walls.

The paraments (the cloths on the lectern, pulpit, Table) are purple, which has long been the color used to represent both royalty and a time of waiting and preparation.

Finally, behind the pulpit is the Bethlehem banner with the star shining over the city. We see it as at a distance as we make our weary, expectant way; along with Mary, Joseph, wisemen and shepherds to the city of David where the Christ child will be born.

So this year, as we tune our eyes to the subtle changes of candles and banners, may we also tune our hearts to hear the old, old story as if for the first time. As Ann Weems wrote,

*"When we are Bethlehem-bound  
we can no longer look the other way  
conveniently not seeing stars  
not hearing angel voices.*

*We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily  
tending our sheep or our kingdoms.*

*This Advent let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing  
that the Lord has made known to us...*

*This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem  
and find our kneeling places."*

## THIS WEEK AT CARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

<b>Sunday, December 16 Third Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b> <b>9:45 a.m.</b> <b>11:00 a.m.</b> <b>12:00 p.m.</b>  12:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	<b>Contemplative Advent Worship Service</b> <b>Sunday School (All ages)</b> <b>Christmas Pageant Worship Service</b> <b>Congregational Meeting</b> <b>After Worship Coffee Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)</b> Youth Advisor Planning Meeting (FH) SH Youth Group – (Progressive Dinner) Christmas Party No CA Youth Group Meeting MS Youth Group (Crouse Home) Christmas Party
<b>Monday, December 17</b>	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Care Team (Office) Staff Meeting (Office) Girl Scout Troop 1951 (Youth Area) Session Meeting (FH) Personnel and Administration (209) Childcare Administrative Board (102) Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team (P) CS Pack 232 Committee/Adults-if needed (Preschool)
<b>Tuesday, December 18</b>	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Preschool Christmas Party/Bryant (FH) Ministry Reservation / Clark (105) Connections Group (P) Boy Scouts 232 (101/103/105) Security Team (102) Strength, Hope, and Healing (L) Budget and Finance (106)
<b>Wednesday, December 19</b>	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Preschool Holiday Activity (FH Annex) Preschool Christmas Party/Clark (Youth Area) Prayer Shawl Knitting Group (P) Soup Supper for Advent Class (FH) Advent Bonhoeffer Study (FH) Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
<b>Thursday, December 20</b>	9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Preschool Christmas Party/Seppala (FH Annex) CPC Staff/Deacon Lunch at Glenaire Caring Place Program Night
<b>Friday, December 21</b>	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Preschool Christmas Sing Along/Smith Centering Prayer Group (P) <i>Christ Be Our Guide</i> Labyrinth Walk
<b>Saturday, December 22</b>	No Activity Scheduled	
<b>Sunday, December 23 Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b> <b>9:45 a.m.</b> <b>11:00 a.m.</b> <b>12:00 p.m.</b> 12:00 p.m.	<b>Worship Service</b> <b>No Sunday School (Holiday Recess)</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>After Worship Coffee Fellowship</b> Youth Group Luncheon – location TBD

### Congregational Meeting after 11:00 a.m. Worship Today

The congregational meeting scheduled to take place on December 9, 2018 has been rescheduled to take place immediately following the worship service today, Sunday, December 16, 2018. The purpose of the meeting is the same: to hear a report and vote on the recommendation from the Nominating Committee regarding the Pastor Nominating Committee.

# Poinsettia Order Page

Place your completed 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 16.**

# ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT CPC

December 16 - 22  
Third Week  
of Advent

Sun.12/16

Contemplative Advent Worship 8:30 a.m.  
**Christmas Pageant: *The Beginning***  
**11:00 a.m.**

Wed.12/19

SH Youth Group Christmas Party 5:15 p.m.  
MS Christmas Party 6:00 p.m.  
Advent Study: God Is in the  
Manger/Bonhoeffer (FH) 6:30 p.m.  
(Soup supper at 6:00 p.m.)

Fri.12/21

***Christ Be Our Light Labyrinth Walk***  
**5:00 p.m.**

December 23 - 29  
Fourth Week  
of Advent,  
Christmas Eve  
Services

Sun.12/23

Rev. Lori Pistor preaching  
Julie and Jack Henry, special music

Christmas  
Eve 12/24

**Family Service 5:00 p.m.**  
**Candlelight Lessons and Carols 7:00 p.m.**  
**Candlelight Lessons and Carols with  
Communion 9:00 p.m.**

## *Christ Be Our Light Labyrinth Walk, Friday, 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 Diane Garber at [dianegarber@icloud.com](mailto:dianegarber@icloud.com)

*God's Story. Many Voices.*



*The Spirit of Generosity*

## ***Remember, Respond, Rejoice!***

### **A Reminder from the CPC Finance Manager**

We are truly grateful to all who have shared God's treasure, regardless of how large or small. All of your gifts are truly appreciated.

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.

*If you would like to provide your commitment to the ministry of CPC online, a pledge form is provided for you at this link:*  
<http://carypresbyterian.org/give/stewardship-form>