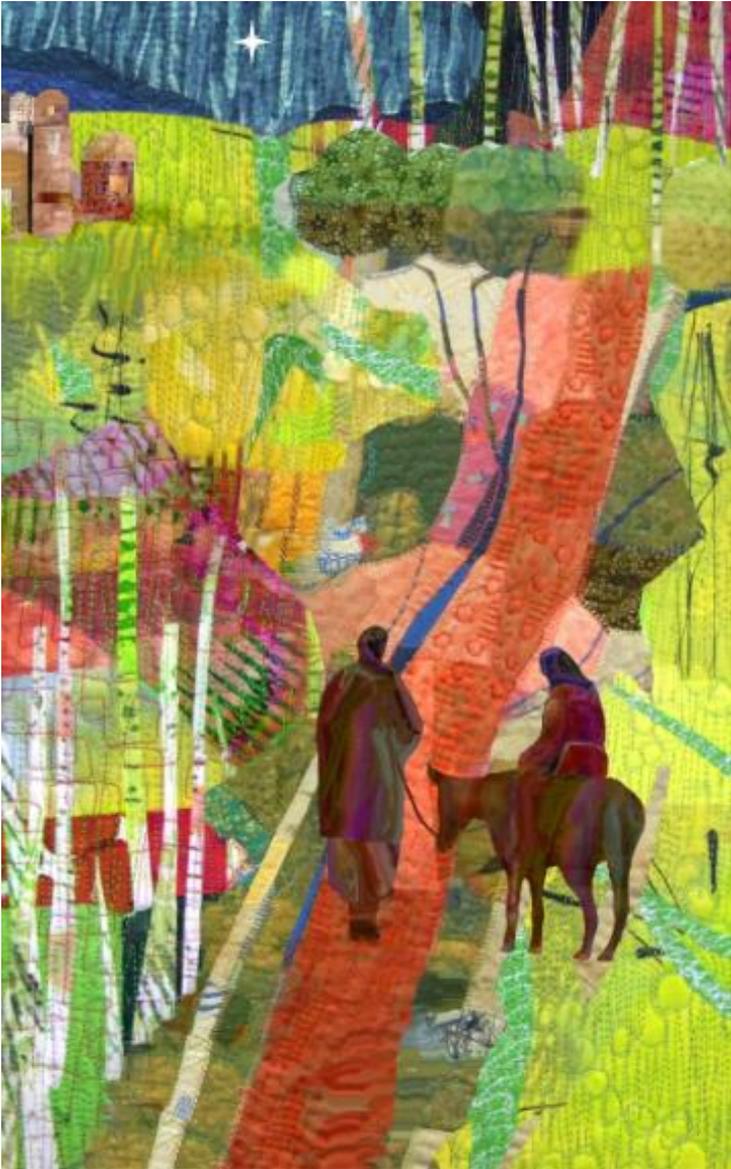


Cary Presbyterian
C H U R C H PC(USA)



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM DECEMBER 23, 2018
614 Griffis Street, Cary, NC 27511
(919) 467-8700
www.carypresbyterian.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gathering Chime

Prelude *Jesus Comes, With Clouds Descending* Williams

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: We've lit candles for courage, to prepare our hearts for the coming of God, and committing to go where God sends us.

All: We light the fourth candle as we greet one another in God's name.

One: We light a light so we can recognize and welcome God's messengers.

All: We light a light and we marvel to imagine God's possibilities.

One: We light a light to say "yes" to God's outrageous call.

All: We light the fourth Advent candle to the echo of the angels words 'do not be afraid'.

***Hymn** *Prepare the Way* No. 106

*Call to Confession

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord we confess that we suffer today because of sin, both the sins we have chosen and the sins committed against us. We have done things we should not have done, and we have neglected to do those things we should have done. Save us from ourselves; dissolve the forces of evil in this world.

We do not have the power to undo what has already been done, so grant us grace to bear present burdens and courage to change things that can be changed. Teach us how to live as those who trust the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Silent Confession

***Response**

Come, O Lord, and Set Us Free

Arr. Bell

The musical score is arranged in three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Come, O Lord, and set us free; give your people peace. Come, O Lord, and set us free; come, Lord Jesus, come. come, Lord Jesus come.' The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'p' (piano).

***Assurance of Mercy**

***Response** *O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 3)* No. 121
***How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God impart to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.***

***Sharing the Peace of Christ** (*11:00 a.m.*)

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

Old Testament Reading Micah 5:2-5a OT, p. 865

New Testament Reading Hebrews 10:5-10 NT, p. 224

New Testament Reading Luke 1:39-56 NT, p. 57

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Musical Offering *Mary Did You Know?* Lowry
Julie and Jack Henry

Sermon *Sounds and Leaping* Lori Pistor

***Affirmation of Faith** *From: A Declaration 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.**

Time with Our Children

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

Come, Lord Jesus
Chancel Choir

Hayes

*Lord, we await your coming. We long to be set free.
Break the chains that bind our hearts and help our unbelief.
Visit us with power, empower us to love.
May your kingdom come on earth as it's come in heaven above.
Come, Lord Jesus, hope of the ages, come reveal yourself to me.
Come, Lord Jesus, mighty Savior; bring your kingdom forth in me.
Lord, we await your coming. We long to see your face,
To see the love that fills your eyes, to revel in your grace.*

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, coming Savior, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Come, Lord Jesus, mighty Savior, be reborn in us today.*

*Hymn

In the Bleak Midwinter (v. 4)

No. 144

***What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart***

***Prayer of Dedication**

One: Maker of Stars, Giver of Hope,
here is the advent of our generosity:

**All: The generosity of gifts presented;
The generosity of faith shared;
The generosity of joy declared. Amen**

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

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

***Hymn** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (vv. 1-3)* No. 100

Benediction

***Hymn** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (v. 4)* No. 100

***Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's
crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.***

***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

After worship, the Officers of the Day
will be available to answer any questions
for visitors and CPC members.
Today's Officers of the Day
8:30: Sherry Bradsher; 11:00: Scott Patrick

Mary, Nazareth Girl

by Ann Weems

Mary,
Nazareth girl:
What did you know of ethereal beings
with messages from God?
What did you know of men
when you found yourself with child?
What did you know of babies,
you, barely out of childhood yourself?
God-chosen girl:
What did you know of God
that brought you to this stable
blessed among women?
Could it be that you had been ready
waiting
listening
for the footsteps
of an angel?
Could it be there are messages for us
if we have the faith to listen?

Today's Service Participants

Ministers: Lori Pistor, Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, Alan Bancroft

Director of Music: Ed Yasick

Choir: Chancel Choir

Special Music: Julie and Jack Henry

Acolyte: 8:30- Natalie Hancock

Youth Lay Reader: 8:30 - Grayson Farless; 11:00 - Charlotte Rose

Lay Reader: 8:30 - Alice Williams; 11:00 - Ellen Govert

Bus Driver: Russell Diggs

Sound: 8:30 - Sam Witherspoon; 11:00 - John Campbell

Ushers: 8:30 - Mike Amentt and Sherry Bradsher

11:00 - Anna Boswell, George Leggett,

Boyce Oglesby, and Scott Patrick

Greeters: 8:30 - Len and Jean Mercer

Counters: Ken Wease and Brian Short

Announcements and Opportunities

CPC Office Hours for Christmas Week

The church offices will be closed December 24 - 26
and sparsely populated Dec 27-28.

All Together Worship is Sunday, December 30 at 11:00 a.m.
There will be no Sunday School classes that day.

Meals on Wheels Volunteer Opportunities

Can you spare two hours –one day each month – to make a big difference in senior or disabled people’s lives by delivering complete and balanced hot meals at lunch?

There are two routes which are in urgent need of being filled.

- 1) The first Thursday of each month: Pick-up is around 10:45 a.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church on Kildaire Farm Rd. in Cary. The route takes about 60 to 90 minutes to complete. If you are interested in this route, please contact our Meals on Wheels coordinator Jennifer Lawyer at jlrlawyer@gmail.com.
- 2) The third Tuesday of each month – Pick-up is around 10:45 a.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church on Kildaire Farm Rd. in Cary. You will deliver 10-12 meals in the Cary. If you are interested in this route, please contact our Meals on Wheels coordinator Caroline Sinclair at caroline.sinclair@raymondjames.com or 919-302-2207.

Enjoy friendly smiles and stories as you make your rounds!

Cool Books Club News

The Cool Books Club will meet on January 15 at 7 p.m. at the home of Peg Giesbrecht. We will read *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope* by Anne Lamott. Reviews indicate that this book follows in typical Lamott style, encouraging readers to get on with life in spite of it all. If you enjoy Lamott and would like to join us, please contact Ellen Cline at 919-469-1456 or Peg Giesbrecht at 919-859-3951.

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>

God's Story. Many Voices.



The Spirit of Generosity

CPC Door Keypads are Installed and Active

The church keypads were installed Monday, Dec. 3 and are now active. You now need to use the codes you have received to enter the church building. (If you have not received a code and need one, you will need to come to the church office during the week and sign to receive one. Your code will be immediately active.)

Here is how you open a door using the keypads:

1. Enter your 4-digit code. There will be a beep, a red light above the numeric pad will turn green, and you will hear a lock release.
2. Turn the latch below the keypad and above the keyhole to the right, fully. The door will open.
3. While the door is open, TURN THE LATCH BACK TO THE LEFT TO LOCK THE DOOR AGAIN WHILE THE DOOR IS OPEN. When the door closes, it will relock.
4. Please Note: if you don't turn the latch back to the left to relock the door, the door will remain unlocked for an indeterminate length of time.
5. Also note: CHURCH KEYS WILL NO LONGER WORK IN THE KEYHOLE BELOW THE DOOR LATCH.

Thanks for your cooperation and patience as we get acclimated to the new security system.

CPC Security Team



Session Members (Elders) and Ministry Areas

Clerk of Session

Rhonda Carlile

Music & Worship

Peggy Viser

Scott Patrick

Christian Faith

Formation

Cathy Williams

Jessica Cadwallader

Health and Wholeness

Henry Gibbs

Katie Stuart

Fellowship

Jerry Slaymaker

Julie Henry

Missions

Wendy Czika

Jim Tompkins

Jeff Clark

Operations

Scott Peoples

Tim Farless

Christie Foppiano

Matt Donkin

Deacons

Spiritual Care Team:

Hal Drumheller

Russell Diggs

Sherry Bradsher

Practical Care Team:

Kevin Steidinger

Todd Crouse

Betty Hart

Older Adult Care Team:

Peg Giesbrecht

Audrey Sausman

Janet Robinette

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."*

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT CPC

December 23 - 29 Fourth Week of Advent	Sun. 12/23	Rev. Lori Pistor preaching Julie and Jack Henry, special music 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Services	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.

THIS WEEK AT CARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 23 Fourth Sunday of Advent	8:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m.	Worship Service No Sunday School (Holiday Recess) Worship Service After Worship Coffee Fellowship Youth Group Luncheon – location TBD
Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.	Church Office Closed Christmas Eve Family Service Candlelight Lessons and Carols Candlelight Lessons and Carols with Communion
Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day	Christmas Day	Church Office Closed
Wednesday, December 26	No Activity Scheduled	Church Office Closed
Thursday, December 27	6:45 p.m.	Mindfulness Meditation Group (FH Annex)
Friday, December 28	9:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer Group (P)
Saturday, December 29	No Activity Scheduled	
Sunday, December 30 Fourth Sunday of Advent	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	No Sunday School (Holiday Recess) All Together Worship Service After Worship Coffee Fellowship No Youth Group Gatherings