



## CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 72:18-19) & PRAYER OF APPROACH

*Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,*

**People: who alone does wondrous things.**

*Leader: Blessed be his glorious name forever;*

**People: May the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!**

**All: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name, through Christ our Lord. Amen**

## Your Love Is Alive

The whole earth is filled, the whole earth is filled  
Filled with Your glory, filled with Your glory  
My whole life is filled, my whole life is filled  
Filled with Your glory, filled with Your glory

*Your love is alive, Your love is alive  
Your love is beating inside of my heart  
And my soul and my mind  
Your love is alive, Your love is alive  
Your love is leading me into the way  
And the truth and the life*

Reminded by darkness or lost out at sea  
Even in death You're always with me  
And when I am fearful I won't be afraid  
Oh Spirit remind me Your presence remains

Pat Barrett | Ben Smith | Daniel Bashta | Jason Upton  
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## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

On this second week of Advent, we light the candle of love to remind us of God's love for us.

## O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*Leader: Give the king your justice, O God,*

**People: and your righteousness to the royal son!**

*Leader: May he judge your people with righteousness,*

**People: and your poor with justice!**

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

*Leader: Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,*  
**People: and the hills, in righteousness!**  
*Leader: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,*  
**People: give deliverance to the children of the needy,  
and crush the oppressor!**

2 O come Thou Rod of Jesse free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel*

*Leader: May they fear you while the sun endures,*  
**People: and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!**  
*Leader: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,*  
**People: like showers that water the earth!**

3 O come, Thou Dayspring come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel*

*Leader: In his days may the righteous flourish,*  
**People: and peace abound, till the moon be no more!**

Carol: © Public Domain Henry Sloane Coffin/John Mason Neale/Thomas Helmore  
Scripture: PSALM 72:1-7 (ESV)

## **Children's Dismissal**

*People: May the Lord be with you.*  
**Children: And also with you.**  
*People: May the Word of the Lord grow in your hearts.*  
**Children: Thanks be to God!**  
*People: Go in the peace of the Lord.*

*At this time, children 4k-2nd grade are invited to go to Kids Time and children 3rd-5th grade are invited to go to Big Time. Kids Time is a dynamic worship service and Big Time is an age appropriate discussion time. Both cater to younger children and prepare them to participate in the main worship service. The children will return prior to Communion.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

(p. 562)

*Leader: The Word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

*Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

**People: Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

Matthew 3:1-12

(p. 784)

*Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.*

**People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

## MESSAGE

**Sermon Series: For All Nations**

*Cookies, Politics and Fair Play*

Rev. Patrick Dominguez

## THE NICENE CREED (said together)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*\*The phrase "holy catholic Church" means the Church worldwide.*

## PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*Leader: Lord God, hear us as we watch and pray until your return: For your Church, that we would be devoted to the Scriptures, to the fellowship, to prayer, and to the advent of your kingdom;*

**People: May your bride, the Church, live in readiness for your return.**

*Leader: For the poor, for those who are sick, and for all who need the hope of Christ.*

**People: That we would feed, clothe, welcome and encourage those who are in need until the day of your return.**

*Leader: For all who have loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil;*

**People: Shine your light through us, calling those around us to believe and have eternal life.**

*Leader: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility;*

**People: That in the last day, when he shall come again in glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to eternal life; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God:*

## CONFESSION OF SIN (said together)

**Heavenly Father, we confess that we have obstructed the way for your Son's coming in our lives. We have lived for our own desires and interests, rather than seeking first your Kingdom and your righteousness. By the power of your Holy Spirit, prepare the way for your coming in our hearts. Straighten our crooked ways. Flatten the mountainous greed within us. Fill in the valleys of our unrighteous thoughts. Smooth out the roughness of our speech; so that all mankind may see your salvation, through Jesus Christ, the light who has come into the world. Amen.**

*— The absolution of sin is to be pronounced by a priest who symbolically stands in the authority of God to forgive the sins of those who truly repent (Matthew 16:19, John 20:23).*

*Leader: May almighty God, who sent his son into the world to save sinners, bring you his pardon and peace, now and forever. Amen.*

*Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you;*

**People: And also with you.**

## WELCOME and OFFERING

## Hold Us Together

1 It don't have a job  
It don't pay your bills  
Won't buy you a home in Beverly Hills  
Won't fix your life  
In five easy steps  
Ain't the law of the land or the government  
But it's all you need

*His love will hold us together  
Make us a shelter to weather the storm  
And I'll be my brother's keeper  
So the whole world will know that we're not  
alone*

2 It's waiting for you  
Knocking at your door  
In the moment of truth  
When your heart hits the floor  
And you're on your knees

This is the first day of the rest of your life  
This is the first day of the rest of your life  
'Cause even in the dark you can still see the light  
It's gonna be alright it's gonna be alright

Matt Maher | Steve Wilson

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## HOLY COMMUNION

*(All baptized and believing followers of our Lord Jesus Christ are invited to partake in Holy Communion regardless of denomination. It is our custom to use wine during communion. **If you prefer, you may receive grape juice** from the smaller chalices on the end of the serving lines. If it would not be authentic for you to receive Communion, you may remain in your seat and contemplate the prayers on the following page.)*

*Leader: Is the Father with us?*

*Leader: Is Christ among us?*

*Leader: Is the Spirit here?*

*Leader: This is our God.*

*Leader: We are His people.*

*Leader: Lift up your hearts.*

*Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord  
our God.*

**People: He is.**

**People: He is.**

**People: He is.**

**People: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**People: We are redeemed.**

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and  
praise.**

Leader continues in Eucharistic Prayer...

*Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:*

**People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

**Unable to come forward?** Please inform an usher to request that Communion be brought to you.  
**Gluten-free wafers** available upon request.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (said together)

**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 trespasses**

**As we forgive those  
Who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil  
For thine is the Kingdom  
And the power and the glory  
Forever and ever Amen**

## PRAYERS FOR THOSE NOT TAKING HOLY COMMUNION

*The Church of The Apostles welcomes all Christians who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, to receive Holy Communion with us by coming forward to one of the communion stations at the front. If you are not able to receive Communion, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.*

### **Prayer for Those Searching for Truth.**

*Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing and that leads to the life you promise. Thank you.*

### **Prayer of Belief.**

*Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Please come into my life through the power of your Holy Spirit. Thank you.*

## COMMUNION SONGS (Please join in singing during communion.)

*A prayer team is available to pray with you at the back of the worship area.*

### **Jesus Lover of My Soul**

1 Jesus, Lover of my soul,  
Let me to Thy bosom fly,  
While the nearer waters roll,  
While the tempest still is high!  
Hide me O my Savior hide,  
Till the storm of life is past.  
Safe into the haven guide.  
Oh, receive my soul at last!

2 Thou, O Christ, art all I want;  
More than all in Thee I find.  
Raise the fallen cheer the faint,  
Heal the sick and lead the blind.  
Just and holy is Thy name;  
I am all unrighteousness.  
False and full of sin I am;  
Thou art full of truth and grace.

3 Plenteous grace with Thee is found,  
Grace to cover all my sin.  
Let the healing streams abound;  
Make and keep me pure within.  
Thou of life the Fountain art,  
Freely let me take of Thee.  
Spring Thou up within my heart;  
Rise to all eternity.

Hymn: Charles Wesley | Eric Bolash  
© Eric Bolash

## All The Poor And Powerless

1 All the poor and powerless  
And all the lost and lonely  
And all the thieves will come confess  
And know that You are holy  
And know that You are holy

*And all will sing out hallelujah  
And we will cry out hallelujah*

2 All the hearts who are content  
And all who feel unworthy  
And all who hurt with nothin' left  
Will know that You are holy

Shout it  
Go on and scream it from the mountains  
Go on and tell it to the masses  
That He is God

*We will sing out hallelujah  
And we will cry out hallelujah*

David Leonard | Leslie Jordan  
©2011 Integrity's Alleluia! Music  
Integrity's Praise! Music

## Good Good Father

1 I've heard a thousand stories  
Of what they think You're like  
But I've heard the tender whisper  
Of love in the dead of night  
You tell me that You're pleased  
And that I'm never alone

*You're a Good Good Father  
It's who You are, it's who You are  
It's who You are  
And I'm loved by You  
It's who I am, it's who I am  
It's who I am*

2 I've seen many searching for answers  
Far and wide  
But I know we're all searching for answers  
Only You provide  
'Cause You know just what we need  
Before we say a word

You are perfect in all of Your ways  
You are perfect in all of Your ways  
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us

3 Love so undeniable I can hardly speak  
Peace so unexplainable I can hardly think  
As You call me deeper still  
As You call me deeper still  
As You call me deeper still  
Into love love love

Anthony Brown | Pat Barrett  
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shiptogether.com songs



## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (said together)

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

*Let us walk in the light as Christ our Savior is in the light, having fellowship with one another, being purified from sin by the blood of Jesus the Son; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you now and forever. Amen.*

## **Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost  
Amen

Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken  
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## **DISMISSAL**

*Leader: Alleluia, let us go forth to glorify our coming king!*

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## Welcome Visitors and Newcomers

We are glad you are worshipping with us this morning. Below are a few ways that you can become more involved at Apostles. If you have questions this morning, you can **fill out a yellow Connection Card** (found under the seat in front of you) and place it in the offering basket. *Welcome!*

### Financial Update

#### **2016 Giving Records**

Please note that gifts of securities and mutual funds must be transferred to, and received in, the Church's brokerage account by noon on **12-31-16**.

Due to the limited office/ staffing hours (closed December 26 and 27) during the week of

December 26, we are requesting that you make every effort to bring any year end gifts for the offering during the service on December 25 or simply mail them. Payments mailed **and postmarked** by

December 31, 2016 will be reflected on your 2016 Giving Record. If your bank issues your payment, please allow plenty of time for our receipt by mail.

You can always check your giving records by logging into Apostles Link. Click on your name and select My Profile, then select the Financial tab. For any questions about your giving, please contact Laynette Rustin, [accounting@apostle-raleigh.org](mailto:accounting@apostle-raleigh.org).

### Find a Group

**Interested in connecting deeper** into the community here at Apostles? Consider joining a Community Group! Various men's and women's ministry groups meet throughout the week. Contact Curt for more information.

*Curt Solomon*

**[curt@apostles-raleigh.org](mailto:curt@apostles-raleigh.org)**



**Student Ministry Small Groups** happen Sundays at 5:30pm during the school year. (6th - 12th grades)  
Contact Chris for more information.

*Chris Hendricks*

**[chris@apostles-raleigh.org](mailto:chris@apostles-raleigh.org)**

### Seek Prayer

**The Apostles Prayer Ministry** is a safe place to seek prayer for a variety of concerns.

You will find trained prayer teams and a prayer room in the back of the sanctuary, toward the right as you enter.

### Poinsettia Dedication

We will be decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias for the Advent & Christmas Season. If you would like to give one in honor or in memory of someone, email Laura (**[laura@apostles-raleigh.org](mailto:laura@apostles-raleigh.org)**) with (1) "in honor of" or "in memory of", (2) the person's name, and (3) who is giving the gift. The list of dedications will be in the Christmas Eve bulletin. A \$15 minimum donation, which supports the flower ministry, is suggested.

## Opportunities

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy or article of clothing for the Pride for Parents Christmas Store. ***Pride for Parents*** is a ministry that provides new items for local low-income families to purchase at a reduced costs. There will be a drop off box in the lobby. Items will be collected through **December 13**. Volunteers are needed in the Pride for Parents Store! Contact Volunteer Coordinator Spencer Daniel for more information {**[pride4parents@gmail.com](mailto:pride4parents@gmail.com)**}.

# What's Happening at Apostles

**Women's Christmas Tea | Saturday, December 10 | 9:30—11:30am** ~ Ladies are invited to a Christmas Tea in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for fellowship to celebrate the birth of our Christ Child. Please RSVP to Cheryl Andrassy by December 5th {[andrassy.cheryl@gmail.com](mailto:andrassy.cheryl@gmail.com) | 919-781-4370} and sign up for an item to bring.

**Lessons & Carols** ~ Please join us for an evening of Lessons & Carols on December 11 at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary. Following the program will be a Coffee, Cocoa and Cookies Reception.

## This Week @ Apostles

### Sunday, December 4

- Worship Services:  
8:30am & 11:00am
- NINE1NINE: 5:30-7pm

### Monday, December 5

- Community HOPE: 4:30-6:30pm
- Women in the Word (W): 7-9pm

### Tuesday, December 6

- Tuesday Praise & Prayer:  
1:30-3:30pm
- Community HOPE: 4:30-6:30pm

### Wednesday, December 7

- Band of Brothers (M): 7-8am  
(offsite)
- Sleepyheads (M): 7:15-8:15am
- \*NO\* Community HOPE
- Worship Practice: 6:30-8:30pm

### Thursday, December 8

- Men's Fraternity (M): 6:30-8am
- Blackwater Group (M): 7-8am  
(offsite)
- Community HOPE Christmas  
Celebration: 6-8pm

### Friday, December 9

- Bedheads (W): 6-7am

## Coming Soon @ Apostles

### DECEMBER

- 10 ~ Women's Christmas Tea
- 11 ~ Lessons & Carols
- 18 ~ Christmas Pageant
- 24 ~ Christmas Eve Services {3pm, 5pm, 11pm}
- 25 ~ Morning Prayer Service {10am}

### JANUARY

- 1 ~ Morning Prayer Service {10am}

## Apostles Student Ministry

> **December 4** ~ NINE1NINE: Christmas Party | Grab your tacky Christmas sweater, a white elephant \$5 gift or some random item around your house and don't miss out on the fun!

> **January 8** ~ The Deal & Small Groups Return!

### Summer 2017

***The Great Escape*** - June 11-16 | Cleveland, TN (middle school)

***High School Mission Trip*** - July 9-15 | Clendenin, WV

***IMPACT Week (local)*** - July 31-August 4 (middle school)

## Apostles Children's Ministry

### Lessons for December 4

- > **Nursery:** Esther Is Brave {Esther 2-9}
- > **Kids Time:** We Give to Others {Acts 19}
- > **Big Time:** Isaiah 11

## ***Welcome to Church of the Apostles***

We pray that you know God's presence as you worship with us today.

*Holy Communion* is open to all who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Children are welcome to receive communion at their parent's discretion. It is our custom to use wine during communion. If you choose not to partake of the wine, you can receive grape juice from the smaller chalices on the end of the serving lines.

Please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. While our members and regular attendees will be participating, we do not want you to feel that it is required of you. Thank you for joining us today.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

3PM & 5PM FAMILY SERVICES

11PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

CHRISTMAS DAY

MORNING PRAYER SERVICE {10AM}



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### **CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES**

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