

*Seek the Lost · Build up the Found · Transform the City
Through Jesus Christ*
MARCH 19, 2017

Sing Praise To The Lord (Psalm 150)

1 Sing praise to the Lord! Praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word, you angels of light.
You heavens, adore him by whom you were made,
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.

2 Sing praise to the Lord! Praise him on the earth
in tuneful accord, you saints of new birth.
Praise him who has brought you his grace from above;
praise him who has taught you to sing of his love.

3 Sing praise to the Lord! All things that give sound,
each jubilant chord, re-echo around.
Loud organs, his glory tell forth in deep tone,
and trumpets, the story of what he has done.

4 Sing praise to the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured all ages along!
For love in creation, for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation, sing praise to the Lord!

ACCLAMATION & PRAYER OF PURITY

Leader: Blessed be God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. 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.

Leader: Jesus said: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Your Grace Is Enough

1 Great is Your faithfulness O God
You wrestle with the sinner's heart
You lead us by still waters into mercy
And nothing can keep us apart

So remember Your people
Remember Your children
Remember Your promise O God

*Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me*

2 Great is Your love and justice God
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of heaven's vict'ry
And all Your people sing along

So remember Your people
Remember Your children
Remember Your promise O God

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Matt Maher

Say To My Soul

1 *Say to my soul* **(to my soul)**
"I Am your Rock!" **(your Rock!"**
Say to my soul **(to my soul)**
"I'm your Salvation!" **(your Salvation!"**

All my bones will say,
"Who is like You, O Lord?"
All my bones will say,
"Who is like You, O Lord?"

2 *Say to my soul* **(to my soul)**
"I Am your Hope!" **(your Hope!"**
Say to my soul **(to my soul)**
"I'm your Salvation!" **(your Salvation!"**

3 *Say to my soul* **(to my soul)**
"I Am your God!" **(your God!"**
Say to my soul **(to my soul)**
"I'm your Salvation!" **(your Salvation!"**

You are my Rock! **(my Rock!"**
You are my Hope! **(my Hope!"**
You are my God! **(my God!"**

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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

1 John 2:18-27 (p. 986)

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

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

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

John 5:31-47 (p. 876)

Leader: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

MESSAGE

Sermon Series: This Is Love

Remain, Remain, Remain

Rev. Eric Bolash

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: *With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father. For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion,*

People: **In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: *For the mission of the Church, that we would faithfully preach the gospel to the ends of the earth; let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion,*

People: **In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: *For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion,*

People: **In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: *For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger, that they may be relieved and protected, let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion,*

People: **In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: *For those whom we have injured or offended, let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion,*

People: **In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: *For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion,*

People: **In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: *God our Father, in your love and goodness you have taught us to come close to you in penitence with prayer, fasting and generosity; accept our prayers, and when we fall by our weakness, raise us up by your unfailing mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Leader: Let us declare the promise of God for us:

All: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

HOLY CONFESSION (said together)

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Leader: This is love, not that we loved God,

People: But that he loved us and sent his Son.

Leader: He is the sacrifice for our sins,

People: That we might live through him.

Leader: If God loves us so much,

People: We ought to love one another.

Leader: If we love one another,

People: God lives in us. Amen.

Leader: Church, hear the Good News: In Christ, all your sins are forgiven! The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

WELCOME and OFFERING

Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

1 Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity

*In our longing, in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ, who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us*

2 Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living, in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin

*See the true and better Adam
Come to save the
hell-bound man
Christ the great and
sure fulfillment
Of the law; in Him we stand*

3 Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory

*See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured, love untold*

4 Come behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could
e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord; He is alive!

*What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when he comes*

Matt Boswell | Michael Bleeker | Matt Papa
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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: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give them 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.

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

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS (said together)

We do not presume to come to this your Table, O Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord, who always delights in showing mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink of the body and blood of your dear Son Jesus Christ, that our sinful bodies may be cleansed by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

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

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.

Eat This Bread

Leader:

*Eat this bread; drink this cup;
Come to me and never be hungry
Eat this bread; drink this cup;
Trust in me and you will not thirst*

Together:

**Eat this bread; drink this cup;
Come to Christ and never be hungry
Eat this bread; drink this cup;
Trust in Him and you will not thirst**

Text: Robert J. Batastini and the Taizé Community

Music: Jacques Berthier

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God With Us

1 Oh You've come to bring peace
To be Love
To be nearer to us
You've come to bring life
To be Light
To shine brighter in us
Oh Emmanuel God with us

*Our Deliverer You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over ev'rything our Redemption
God with us
You are God with us*

2 Oh You've come to be Hope to this world
For Your honor and name
And You've come to take sin
To bear shame
And to conquer the grave
Oh Emmanuel God with us

You are here
You are holy
We are standing in Your glory

Jason Ingram | Leslie Jordan
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Stronger

1 There is Love that came for us
Humbled to a sinner's cross
You broke my shame and sinfulness
You rose again victorious

2 Faithfulness none can deny
Through the storm and through the fire
There is truth that sets me free
Jesus Christ who lives in me

*You are stronger, You are stronger
Sin is broken, You have saved me
It is written, Christ is risen!
Jesus, You are Lord of all*

3 No beginning and no end
You're my hope and my defense
You came to seek and save the lost
You paid it all upon the cross

So let Your Name be lifted higher
Be lifted higher, Be lifted higher

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Ben Fielding | Reuben Morgan

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

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, and live in peace; and may the God of love and peace, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever. Amen.

You Alone Can Rescue

*You alone can rescue
You alone can save
You alone can lift us from the grave
You came down to find us led us out of death
To You alone belongs the highest praise*

2 You O Lord have made a way
The great divide You healed
For when our hearts were far away
Your love went further still
Yes Your love goes further still

Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman
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DISMISSAL

Leader: *Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.*
People: **Thanks be to God!**

Welcome Visitors and Newcomers

We are glad you are worshiping 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!*

Sign Up For



The Pulse e-mail newsletter—
To receive our weekly e-newsletter with updates and announcements about what is going on at Apostles.

Simply fill out the Connection Card under the seat in front of you and drop it in the offering basket.



ApostlesLink.org—Our online communication tool connects you to ministries and members of the Apostles community.

For a login, e-mail Marsha Whyte:
marsha@apostles-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



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

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.

Women's Mentoring

Applications for the 2017-2018 Women's Mentoring Ministry are available now! A new online version can be found on our website or hard copies available in the lobby. There is a drop-off box upstairs for completed paper forms.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
Friday, April. For questions regarding the mentoring program, please contact Ruth Brooks

{ruthbrooks@mac.com}.

Financial Update

Budgeted general contributions (7/1/15-2/28/17)	\$1,132,000
Actual contributions	\$1,144,918
Budgeted operating expenses (7/1/15-2/28/17)	\$1,115,157
Actual expenses	\$1,070,424

Praise God! *We have completed Year One of the three year Freedom for Mission pledge journey.*
We have received \$709,110 toward the \$1,276,214 pledge total. Our loan balance is now \$333,797!

Please continue to lift up our finances in prayer as we begin to formulate the budget for the 2018 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018).

What's Happening at Apostles

Chris Armstrong Lecture - Monday, April 17, 7-8:30pm | Dr. Armstrong will join us to share a lecture, *In Praise of Ordinary Work*, which promotes the richness of "ordinary work" and builds appreciation for those who toil in what we would call "ordinary labor." The talk also offers a message for all of us who find ourselves in humdrum periods of work, even the daily small tasks of exciting start-ups can feel ordinary. Dr. Armstrong directs *Opus: The Art of Work* at Wheaton College, where he also serves on the biblical and theological studies faculty.

Baptism Sunday ~ April 23* {date change} | Our next baptism will be on April 23. We ask that least one parent of the child being baptized be a member at Apostles. If you are interested in having your child baptized, please email Marsha. marsha@apostles-raleigh.org

This Week @ Apostles

Sunday, March 19

- Worship Service: 8:30am & 11:00am
- Sunday School: 10:00am
- Visual Arts Lunch: 12:30pm
- Guatemala Team Meeting: 1:30-3pm (Room 208)
- The Deal: 5:30-7pm

Monday, March 20

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

Tuesday, March 21

- Tuesday at Noon (W): 12-1pm
- Tuesday Praise & Prayer: 1:30-3:30pm
- Community Hope: 4:30-6:30pm

Wednesday, March 22

- Band of Brothers (M): 7-8am (offsite)
- Sleepyheads (M): 7:15-8:15am
- Growing in Grace (W): 9:30-11am
- Community Hope: 4:30-6:30pm
- Lent Compline: 8:45pm

Thursday, March 23

- Men's Fraternity (M): 6:30-8am
- Blackwater Group (M): 7-8am (offsite)
- Community Hope: 4:30-6:30pm

Friday, March 24

- Bedheads (W): 6-7am

Coming Soon @ Apostles

APRIL

- 9 ~ Palm Sunday
- 13 ~ Maundy Thursday Service | 6pm
- 14 ~ Good Friday Service | 12:00pm
- 15 ~ The Great Egg Hunt | Eastgate Park | 10am-12pm
- 16 ~ Easter Sunday | *9am* & 11am services
- 17 ~ Chris Armstrong Lecture

Apostles Children's Ministry

Lessons for March 19

- > **Nursery:** A Sick Boy is Made Well {John 4:46-53}
- > **Kid's Time:** Jesus Encourages Peter {Matthew 14:22-33}
- > **Big Time:** Remain, Remain, Remain {John 5:31-47}

VBS 2017! June 25 ~ 5:30-8pm (covered dish dinner)

Monday, June 26 – Thursday, June 29 ~ 9am-12pm

ROME: Paul and the Underground Church! Explore a crowded Roman marketplace, tip-toe past watchful Roman guards, encourage first-century Christians who meet in a dark cave, race chariots, and visit Paul for daily discoveries about God's love. **Registration :** www.apostles-raleigh.org/vbs2017

Apostles Student Ministry

- > **TONIGHT!** ~ The Deal & Small Groups: 5:30-7pm

- > **March 26** ~ NINE1NINE: SK80's Night!

- > **March 31-April 1** ~ Middle School Lock In @ Defy Gravity

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.

Fresh Produce for Carroll Teachers

March 27-31 is Teacher Appreciation Week at Carroll Magnet Middle School. The theme for Monday the 27th is Farmer's Market and teachers will be invited to come "shop" fresh produce for free. Church of the Apostles {and locally based, The Produce Box} will be providing fresh produce for this event.

Please help show love for these teachers by bringing a bag of fresh produce with you to church on Sunday, March 26. There will be a drop-off in the lobby. Carroll loves Church of the Apostles and appreciates your generosity!

If you have questions, please contact Mary Jane Swecker:
thesweckers@earthlink.net.



Instagram
@cotaraleigh



Facebook
Church of the Apostles

CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES
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Raleigh, NC 27609

919-782-0550

Pastoral Care Emergencies: 919-283-2682
Church Office Hours: M-Th 9am-5pm | Fri 9am-12pm

www.apostles-raleigh.org