

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT • DECEMBER 17, 2017**

## Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates

1 Lift up your heads you mighty gates  
Behold the King of glory waits  
The King of kings is drawing near  
The Savior of the world is here

2 O blest the land the city blest  
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed  
O happy hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King of triumph comes

3 Fling wide the portals of your heart  
Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for heav'ns employ  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy

4 Redeemer come we open wide  
Our hearts to Thee here Lord abide  
Thine inner presence let us feel  
Thy grace and love in us reveal

Catherine Winkworth | Georg Weissel | T. Williams  
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## ACCLAMATION & OPENING PRAYER

*Leader: Blessed be God, who forgives all our sins.*

**People: His mercy endures forever.**

**All: Almighty God, who sent your only Son, Jesus, the light of the world to shine in the darkness, and make you known: Open our hearts to receive you, believe in your name, and to live as children of God awaiting the triumphant return of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Come Light Our Hearts

*For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait*  
**For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait**  
*Truly our hope is in You*  
**Truly our hope is in You**

1 O Lord of life our only hope  
Your radiance shines  
On all who look to You in the dark  
Emmanuel come come light our hearts

2 Oh joy above all other loves  
In You we find more than enough  
We come as we are O heal and restore  
Come light our hearts

Sandra McCracken | ©2015 Drink Your Tea Music

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

On this third week of Advent, we light the candle of joy to remind us that Jesus brings us joy.

## COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

1 Come, Thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.

*Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.*

2 Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

*By Thine own eternal spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

Charles Wesley | Rowland H. Prichard  
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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. Kids Time is a dynamic worship service that caters to younger children and prepares them to participate in the main worship service. The children will return prior to Communion.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 126 (p. 501)

*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 3:22-30 (p. 862)

*Leader:* *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

**MESSAGE**  
**Sermon Series: Expectation & Restoration**  
*Restoration Accomplished, Restoration Anticipated*  
Jay Traylor

**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:** *In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid, we pray to Jesus: Come to your Church as Lord and judge, and lead us to live in readiness for our redemption.*

**People:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Leader:** *Come to your world as King of the nations; guide those in power to lead with righteousness and truth, and rebuke those whose leadership is harmful or unjust.*

**People:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Leader:** *Come as the good shepherd, that people from this city and every city of the world will be saved and find life in you. We pray especially for the work of The Encouraging Place, that you would give them success as they labor together with you.*

**People:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Leader:** *Come as Savior and comforter to all who suffer, and break into our lives where we struggle with illness, addiction, loneliness or distress; set us free to serve you.*

**People:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Leader:** *Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation.*

**People:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Leader: Lord Jesus, hear the prayers of your people.*

*(Please offer your own prayers to the Lord, silently or aloud.)*

*Leader: Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords:*

**People: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Leader: 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 (Matt 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 & OFFERING**

### **Great Rejoicing**

*There's gonna be a great rejoicing  
There's gonna be a great rejoicing*

1 The troubles of this world  
Will wither up and die  
That river of tears made by the lonely  
Someday will be dry

*There's gonna be a great rejoicing  
There's gonna be a great rejoicing*

2 Questions of this world  
Someday will be known  
Who's robbing you a peace  
And who's the giver

*There's gonna be a great joy river  
There's gonna be a great joy river*

Someday you will find me guarded in His fortress  
Open heart and wings that never touch the ground  
Someday we will gather in a grand reunion  
The debts of this old world are nowhere to be found  
Are nowhere to be found

*There's gonna be a great rejoicing  
There's gonna be a great rejoicing*

Thad Cockrell  
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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 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.

## 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

**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.*

### **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.*

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

## Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
And with fear and trembling stand  
Ponder nothing worldly minded  
For with blessing in His hand  
Christ our God  
To earth descendeth  
Our full homage to demand

2 King of kings yet born of Mary  
As of old on earth He stood  
Lord of lords in human vesture  
In the body and the blood  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heav'nly food

3 At His feet the six winged seraph  
Cherubim with sleepless eye  
Veil their faces to the Presence  
As with ceaseless voice they cry  
Alleluia alleluia alleluia  
Lord Most High

4 Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way  
As the Light of light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day  
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away

Gerard Moultrie © Public Domain

## How Deep The Father's Love For Us

1 How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory

2 Behold the man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished

3 I will not boast in anything  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom

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Stuart Townend

## Good Good Father

*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*

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  
Into love love love

Anthony Brown | Pat Barrett  
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## 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.**

## OPPORTUNITIES

## BENEDICTION

*Remain watchful with your eyes on Christ, who humbled himself to be born in a manger, and who will come again in glory. And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever. Amen*

## Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come

Let earth receive her King

Let every heart, prepare him room

*And heav'n and nature sing*

*And heav'n and nature sing*

*And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing*

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns,

Let men their songs employ

While fields and floods, rocks hill and plains

*Repeat the sounding joy*

*Repeat the sounding joy*

*Repeat, repeat the sounding joy*

3 He rules the world, with truth and grace

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness

*And wonders of His love*

*And wonders of His love*

*And wonders, wonders of His love*

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George Frederic Handel | Isaac Watts

## DISMISSAL

**Leader:** *Go forth in joy. The Christ is coming.*

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

# WELCOME!

We are glad you are worshiping with us this morning. We want to get to know you! Yellow connection cards can be found under the seats in the sanctuary. Please fill one out and drop it in the offering basket.

## Connect



We want to keep you connected to the life of Apostles! To be added to *The Pulse* contacts, fill out a yellow connection card and drop in the offering basket.

You will receive our weekly e-newsletter and other important church-wide announcements.



Our online communication tool connects you to ministries and members of the Apostles community. For more info contact Marsha Whyte:

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

## Year End 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 December 29, 2017** to be included with 2017 giving. Because the church offices will be closed December 25 -29, we are requesting that you make every effort to bring any year end gifts for the general offering during the services on December 24th, 31st, or simply mail them. Payments mailed **and postmarked** by December 31, 2017 will be reflected on your 2017 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@apostles-raleigh.org](mailto:accounting@apostles-raleigh.org).

## Community

Interested in connecting deeper into the community here at Apostles? Consider joining a Community Group! Various community groups meet throughout the week. Contact Jay for more information.

*Jay Traylor*  
[jay@apostles-raleigh.org](mailto:jay@apostles-raleigh.org)



### The Deal + Small Groups

*(6th - 12th grades)*

happen Sundays from 6-8pm during the school year. Contact Emily for more information.

*Emily Gebbie*  
[emily@apostles-raleigh.org](mailto:emily@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 at the back of the sanctuary.

## Poinsettia Dedication

We will be decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias for the Advent Season. If you would like to give one in honor or in memory of someone, email [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.

# What's Happening at Apostles

**Abiding Prayer | Wednesday, December 20** ~ Abiding Prayer takes place on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 7-8pm, upstairs in the youth room. This is an hour of quiet, individual, contemplative prayer which we do together with background music. It's a great time to worship and rest in the Lord. Prayer teams are available to pray one-on-one on the first Wednesdays.

**Advent Compline** ~ *"Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace."* During Advent, the season in which we mark the waning sunlight and growing winter and look forward to the new light brought to us in Jesus at Christmas, this brief Compline service helps us to slow down, catch our breath, and remember our deep desire for God's restoration and healing. **Wednesdays at 8:45pm during Advent {12/6 \* 12/13 \* 12/20}**

## This Week

### Sunday, December 17

- Worship Services: 8:30am & 11am
- Children's Christmas Pageant: 10am

### Tuesday, December 19

- Tuesday at Noon: *resumes 01/09*
- Tuesday Prayer & Praise: 1:30-2:30pm

### Wednesday, December 20

- Band of Brothers (M): 7-8am
- Sleepyheads (M): 7:15-8:15am
- Abiding Prayer: 7-8pm
- Advent Compline: 8:45pm

### Thursday, December 21

- Blackwater Group (M): 7-8am
- Men's Fraternity (M): 6:45-8am
- Community HOPE Christmas Banquet: 6:30-8:30pm

### Sunday, December 24

- Christmas Eve Services: 3pm, 5pm, 11pm

### Monday, December 25

- Morning Prayer Service: 10am

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**Church Offices Closed:  
December 25—January 1**

## Coming Soon

### DECEMBER

- 24 ~ Christmas Eve Services {3pm, 5pm, 11pm}  
*\*no morning services\**
- 25 ~ Morning Prayer Service {10am}
- 31 ~ 10:00am (only) Worship Service

### JANUARY

- 6 ~ Jay Traylor Ordination {5pm}
- 7 ~ Town Hall Meeting {10am}
- 21 ~ Sunday School resumes

## Student Ministry

**Confirmation** is open to 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students will meet for confirmation during the Sunday School hour between January 14 and March 4. Bishop Breedlove will confirm students Sunday March 18. Please contact Paul [paul@apostles-raleigh.org](mailto:paul@apostles-raleigh.org) for more information.

## Children's Ministry

### Lessons for December 17

- **Nursery:** Baby Jesus {Luke 1:26-33; 2:1-7}
- **Kids Time:** God Sends an Angel to Visit Mary {Matthew 1:18-25}
- **\*NO\* Big Time today**



## *God Willing*

The Right Revered Dr. Steve Breedlove  
Bishop of the  
Diocese of Christ Our Hope  
In the Anglican Church of North America  
will ordain

## *Jonathan Wilson Traylor*

to the sacred order of Priests  
in the Church of God

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, AD 2018 AT 5 PM

CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES  
333 CHURCH AT NORTH HILLS STREET  
RALEIGH, NC 27609

Reception to follow.

Your prayers and presence are requested.

Clergy, red stoles, please.

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CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES  
**Members of the Anglican Church of North America and Rwanda**  
333 Church at North Hills Street • Raleigh, NC 27609  
919-782-0550

Church Office Hours:  
M-Th 9am-5pm | Fri 9am-12pm

// [www.apostles-raleigh.org](http://www.apostles-raleigh.org) //