

Seek the Lost · Build up the Found · Transform the City
Through Jesus Christ
DECEMBER 31, 2017

Once In Royal David's City

1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

3 And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

THE ACCLAMATION & OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and 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.

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 | Traditional American Melody
©Public Domain

Only A Holy God

1 Who else commands all the hosts of heaven
Who else could make every king bow down
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles
Only a Holy God

2 What other beauty demands such praises
What other splendor outshines the sun
What other majesty rules with justice
Only a Holy God

*Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God*

3 What other glory consumes like fire
What other power can raise the dead
What other name remains undefeated
Only a Holy God

4 Who else could rescue us from our failing
Who else would offer His only Son
Who else invites us to call Him Father
Only a Holy God
Only our Holy God

Dustin R. Smith | Jonny Robinson | Michael Farren | Rich Thompson
©2016 Farren Love And War Publishing | Integrity's Alleluia! Music | Integrity's
Praise! Music | CityAlight Music

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

Galatians 4:4-7 (p. 945)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

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

People: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

Luke 2:22-40 (p. 832)

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.

MESSAGE

Your Adoption

Rev. Eric Bolash

THE APOSTLES CREED (said together)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church*, the Communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

** The phrase "holy catholic Church" in the Creed means the Church worldwide.*

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Leader: Gracious Father, hear the prayers of your people as we humbly seek you:

Leader: For Church of the Apostles and our daughter church Christ Our Hope in Wilmington, our Archbishop Foley, our Bishop Steve and for all ministers charged with shepherding your people and guarding the truth;

People: Strengthen your Church in persecution, and empower all who minister to admonish and teach with all wisdom, presenting everyone fully mature in Christ.

Leader: We pray for those charged with leadership in our world, especially our president, our governor, and all those in positions of authority;

People: Guide them to wise decisions and right actions, that they may do justice, love mercy, and walk in the ways of your truth.

Leader: For the ministry of Loaves and Fishes;

People: That by sharing the love of Christ, they would assist and edify students who are materially poor in our city.

Leader: Father, you are patient with all people, not wanting anyone to perish;

People: Reveal your goodness to those who do not know you, and in your kindness, lead them to repentance.

Leader: Now, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let us present our requests to God, either silently or aloud.

Leader: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto you, and have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in your name, you will be in the midst of us:

People: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the world to come, life everlasting. Amen.

Leader: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

CONFESSION OF SIN (said together)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

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

People: And also with you.

WELCOME & 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 Bleecker | Matt Papa
©2013 Love Your Enemies Publishing.

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?

People: He is.

Leader: Is Christ among us?

People: He is.

Leader: Is the Spirit here?

People: He is.

Leader: This is our God.

People: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Leader: We are His people.

People: We are redeemed.

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.

Blessed Be Our God (Forever and Ever)

1 Blessed be our God forever and ever
Blessed be our God forever and ever
Blessed be our God forever and ever
Amen

2 Glory to our God forever and ever
Glory to our God forever and ever
Glory to our God forever and ever
Amen

Fernando Ortega
© 2013 Cerdo Verde Music | Curb Songs

No Longer Slaves

1 You unravel me with a melody
You surround me with a song
Of deliverance from my enemies
Till all my fears are gone

*I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God*

2 From my Mother's womb
You have chosen me
Love has called my name
I've been born again into Your family
Your blood flows through my veins

You split the sea so I could walk right
through it
My fears were drowned in perfect love
You rescued me so I could stand and sing
I am a child of God

Brian Johnson | Joel Case | Jonathan David Helser
©2014 Bethel Music Publishing

Behold

1 The empty filled, the wounded healed
The broken back together
The poor are blessed, the weary rest
We will dance forever

2 The blinded see, the chained are free
The doubtful now believer
The outcast known, the orphan home
You are my redeemer

*Behold! Behold! Behold what love can do
Behold! Behold! He's making all things new*

3 The lost returned, the voiceless heard
The mourner now rejoicing^{[L][SEP]}
The mountains shake the world awake
Creation all composing
The sad untrue, the earth renewed
The song has found its singer^{[L][SEP]}
The darkness light, the dead alive^{[L][SEP]}
You are my redeemer

The sad untrue, the earth renewed
The song has found its singer^{[L][SEP]}
The darkness light, the dead alive^{[L][SEP]}
You are my redeemer

Taylor Leonhardt
© 2014 Taylor Leonhardt Music
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you, and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.***

As With Gladness Men Of Old

1 As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward beaming bright
So most gracious Lord may we
Evermore be led to Thee

2 As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heav'n and earth adore
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat

3 In the heav'nly country bright
Need they no created light
Thou its light its joy its crown
Thou its sun which goes not down
There for ever may we sing
Alleluias to our King

Conrad Kocher | William Chatterton Dix
© Public Domain

DISMISSAL

Leader: Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.

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

Community

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

Jay Traylor

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

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.

Outreach

A great way to get involved is by connecting with one of our local Mission Partners:

Beyond Imagination
Camp Oak Hill
Community HOPE of the Y
CORRAL Riding Academy
FOCUS Student Ministry
Gateway
Gideon International
House of Hope
Jobs for Life
JusticeMatters
Loaves and Fishes Ministry
Neighbor To Neighbor
NeighborHealth Center
North Raleigh Ministries
YoungLife {Raleigh}
The Encouraging Place
Women's Prison Ministry

apostles.raleigh.org/local

Year End Giving Records

If you still desire to have a gift reflected on your 2017 Giving Record, it must be included in the offering for today's service. You can also initiate an online payment through your Apostles Link account.

What's Happening at Apostles

Jay Traylor Ordination | Saturday, January 6 @ 5pm ~ Please join us on Saturday for Jay Traylor's ordination to the sacred order of priests. Reception will follow service.

Town Hall Meeting | Sunday, January 7 ~ Next Sunday at 10am {between worship services} will be our Town Hall meeting. Join us as we share important news of Apostles.

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 21st!

This Week

Sunday, December 31

- Worship Services: 10am

Monday, January 1

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, January 2

- Tuesday at Noon: *resumes January 9*
- Tuesday Prayer & Praise: 1:30-2:30pm

Wednesday, January 3

- Band of Brothers (M): 7-8am (offsite)
- Sleepyheads (M): 7:15-8:15am
- Growing in Grace (W): 9:30-11am
- Abiding Prayer: 7-8pm

Thursday, January 4

- Blackwater Group (M): 7-8am (offsite)
- Men's Fraternity (M): 6:45-8am

Saturday, January 6

- Jay Traylor Ordination: 5pm

Coming Soon

FEBRUARY

2018 Women's Retreat ~ February 23-25 @

Wrightsville Beach. Sign ups are open for the 2018

Women's Retreat! Please join us for the special weekend as we talk about how to *Recover Our Hearts!* Details and registration:

apostles-raleigh.org/womensretreat

Student Ministry

Confirmation is open to 8th & 9th grade students. Students will meet for confirmation during the Sunday School hour between January 21 and April 15. Bishop Breedlove will confirm students Sunday, April 29. Please contact Paul {paul@apostles-raleigh.org} for more information.

The Deal is back on January 21st! Be on the lookout for more info soon!

Children's Ministry

Lessons for December 31

- **Nursery:** Escape to Egypt {Matthew 2:1-15}
- **Kids Time:** We Give the Gift of Worship {Matt 2:1-12}



God Willing

The Right Reverend 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.

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 //