

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT • DECEMBER 16, 2018

Holy God We Praise Your Name

1 Holy God, we praise Your name;
Lord of all, we bow before You.
Saints on earth your rule acclaim;
All in heav'n above adore You.
Infinite Your vast domain;
Everlasting is Your reign.

2 Hark, the glad celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:
"Holy, holy, holy Lord!"

3 Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name You,
Though in essence only one;
Undivided God, we claim You,
And, adoring, bend the knee
While we own the mystery.

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Words: Ignace Franz, translated by Clarence A. Walworth

Music: Grosser Gott

Based on Te Deum, ca. 4th cent.

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.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Leader: I will listen to what God the Lord says;

**People: he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—
but let them not turn to folly.**

Leader: Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,

People: that his glory may dwell in our land.

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: Love and faithfulness meet together;

People: righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Leader: Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,

People: and righteousness looks down from heaven.

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*

Carol: © Public Domain Henry Sloane Coffin/John Mason Neale/Thomas Helmore Scripture: PSALM 85:8-13 (NIV)

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 Come, Thou mighty, humble Savior
God incarnate as a child
Laying aside divine behavior
Frailness taking, meek and mild
Here we wait in expectation
Now from Heaven to earth descend
From Thy sweet celestial station
Come to be our loving friend

3 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

Words: Charles Wesley | Music: John Wyeth
Additional lyrics by Bradley Winkler
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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

Exodus 12:1-30

(p. 53)

*One of the characteristics of our worship is the abundance of **Scripture**. We encounter God through his inspired, authoritative Word.*

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 1:29-34

(p. 860)

*During the **Gospel** reading, we stand to honor Christ because the Gospels represent Christ's presence in the Church through his Word.*

Leader: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

MESSAGE

Exodus: I Have Come Down to Rescue Them

The Destroyer and the Lamb

Rev. Eric J. 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" means the Church worldwide.*

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Leader: *In joyful expectation of his glorious return, we pray: Lord 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 Bethlehem Bible College, that they would train students to live and minister as witnesses to Christ's love among their Palestinian and Israeli neighbors.*

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

Leader: *Come as Savior and comforter to all who suffer and 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. I invite you to lift up your prayers and needs, either silently or out loud. If aloud, please speak clearly for all to hear so that we might agree with you in prayer.*

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 confess our sins to Almighty God.*

CONFSSION 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.

*Many people kneel during the **Confession of Sin** as a sign of humility and repentance before God. Confession and repentance are the means God gives us for receiving the forgiveness made possible through Jesus Christ.*

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

*During the **Absolution** the priest declares God's forgiveness as promised in the Bible for all who confess and turn away from their sins. (1 John 1:9)*

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

People: And also with you.

*The **Peace** reminds us that we must reconcile with one another before we receive Holy Communion (Matthew 5:23). "Peace be with you" or "God's peace" are some of the phrases used as we greet one another.*

WELCOME & OFFERING

Deliver Us

1 Our enemy, our captor is no
Pharaoh on the Nile
Our toil is neither mud nor brick nor sand
Our ankles bear no calluses from chains
Yet Lord we're bound
Imprisoned here we dwell in our own land

*Deliver us, deliver us
Oh Yahweh, hear our cry
And gather us beneath your wings tonight*

2 Our sins they are more numerous
Than all the lambs we slay
These shackles they were made
With our own hands
Our toil is our atonement and
Our freedom yours to give
So Yahweh, break your silence if you can

*'Jerusalem, Jerusalem
How often I have longed
To gather you beneath my gentle wings'*

HOLY COMMUNION

We welcome all baptized Christians who are willing to repent of their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation to receive Holy Communion. If this is not authentic for you to receive you may remain seated or come forward and fold your arms across your chest and we will pray a blessing over you. 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.

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**

PRAYERS FOR THOSE NOT TAKING HOLY COMMUNION

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 at the back of the sanctuary to pray with any who desire further prayer.

Unable to come forward? Please inform an usher to request that Communion be brought to you.

Gluten-free wafers available upon request.

We Long To See You

Almighty God, we long to see you;
Open our hearts and make them pure.
Spirit, we wash our hands in mercy;
Come teach our souls to love your truth.

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I Am Set Free

You broke my chains of sin and shame
And You covered me with grace
You mend my life with Your holy fire
You cover me with grace
And You are the hand that reaches out to save

*(And) I am set free oh
I am set free oh
It is for freedom that I am set free*

(And) yes Lord we are grateful for Your grace
And for Your love

Leslie Jordan
© 2011 Integrity's Praise! Music

I'm Putting On The Love Of The Lord (Ode 3)

*I 'm putting on the love of the Lord
I 'm putting on the love of the Lord
I 'm putting on the love of the Lord
I 'm putting on the love of the Lord
And I will be no stranger
And I will be no stranger
For He loves me, For He loves me
Alleluia, Alleluia
Undivided, Undivided
Alleluia, Alleluia*

*Because my love is Him that is the Son
I shall become a child of God
I love Him, because He first loved me
And where His rest is, I know that I shall be*

*For He loves me, For He loves me
Alleluia, Alleluia
Undivided, Undivided
Alleluia, Alleluia*

*Immortal God of Earth and Heaven
Be our Wisdom, and guide us in our ways
Lord, awaken us in love, mighty Counselor
And unite us to serve You in this day*

*For Your glory, For Your glory
Alleluia, Alleluia
Undivided, Undivided
Alleluia, Alleluia*

John Schreiner
©2007 John Schreiner Music (ASCAP)

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

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*

Pat Barrett | Ben Smith | Daniel Bashta | Jason Upton
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*Our service begins with a **processional** where the cross and the clergy “process” into the sanctuary and ends with a **recessional**. Traditionally, the entire congregation processed in together. While that is no longer done, the symbolism remains. We remind ourselves and each other that we follow the cross of Christ into the presence of God to worship him.*

Then we are sent out into the world, following Christ, to love God and our neighbor.

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God!**

W E L C O M E!

We are glad you are worshiping with us this morning. We want to get to know you! Connect Cards can be found under the seats in the sanctuary. Turn in completed cards in the lobby for a free gift as a thank you for joining us.

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

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 Dec. 31, 2018** to be included with 2018 giving. Because the church offices will be closed December 25-December 28, we are requesting that you make every effort to bring any year end gifts for the general offering during the services on December 23, 24, and 31, or simply mail them. Payments mailed and postmarked by December 31, 2018 will be reflected on your 2018 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 the Give option in the left margin; go to Schedules/ History tab where you can see your history or print a Giving Statement for you or your family. For any questions about your giving, please contact Laynette, accounting@apostle-raleigh.org.

Community

Interested in connecting deeper into the community here at Apostles? Consider joining a Community Group! Contact Jay 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



The Vine

20's + 30's Fellowship

cotavine@gmail.com

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.

apostles.raleigh.org/prayerministry

Serve

There are several ways to connect and serve in the life of Apostles. Take a look at our Ministry Teams and find out how you can get involved. If there is an area or gifting that you have that you do not see listed, we want to know about it!

apostles-raleigh.org/church

What's Happening at Apostles

In preparation for the mailing of 2018 Giving Statements, please log into your Apostles Link account and review and make any necessary changes to your mailing address.

Town Hall Meeting | January 6 ~ Save the date for our Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, January 6, between worship services. Part of our meeting will be sharing results from the church health survey.

Women's Bible Studies | Winter 2019 ~ Several women's Bible Studies will resume in January. Some are evenings, some are mornings, all with a variety of topics. Check out the website for more details: apostles-raleigh.org/womensministry

This Week

Sunday, December 16

- Worship Services: 8:30am + 11am
- Christmas Pageant: 10am
- Women's Retreat Bake Sale

Tuesday, December 18

- Tuesday Prayer & Praise: 1:30-2:30pm

Wednesday, December 19

- Band of Brothers (M): 7am
- Sleepyheads (M): 7:15am

Thursday, December 20

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

(M) Men | (W) Women

DECEMBER 30
ONE 10am
Service

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 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.

DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Student Ministry

Confirmation Interest Meeting ~ 10am, today, in the "Skittles Room" upstairs {Room 206}. Confirmation is available for students 7th-10th grade. Confirmation class will be held on Sundays at 10am between January 13th and March 31st.

Children's Ministry

Lessons for December 16, 2018

- **Nursery:** Baby Jesus {Luke 1:26-33}
- **Kids Time:** God Speaks to Joseph in a Dream {Matthew 1:18-25}
- **Big Time:** Meets upstairs in Room 208

Christmas Pageant
TODAY @ 10am!

CHRISTMAS EVE S E R V I C E S *at Apostles*

3pm  5pm  11pm

Invite friends and family to join us for one of our Christmas Eve Services on Monday, December 24th! The 3pm service will be our "kid-approved" drama. 5pm and 11pm {candlelight service} will be more traditional.

Come Let Us Adore Him

Nursery Available {up to 4 years old}

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; Closed Fridays

// www.apostles-raleigh.org //