

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT • DECEMBER 23, 2018

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
© Public Domain

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.

Oh Children Come

1 *Hear the cry from Bethlehem*
Oh children come!
Son of God now born to men
Oh children come!
Bring your troubles, bring your fears,
Bring the needs that draw you near,
Find the hope of all the years –
Oh children come!

2 *Peace on earth good will to men*
Oh children come!
Righteous rule that will not end
Oh children come!
Lay down all your bitterness,
Turn from sin's toil and distress,
Find His grace and perfect rest –
Oh children come!

O Come All Ye Faithful (Adeste Fideles)

1 O come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels

*O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord*

2 True God from true God
Light from light eternal
Born of a virgin
A mortal he comes
Son of the Father
Begotten not created

3 Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
O sing all ye bright
Hosts of heav'n above
Glory to God all
Glory in the highest

C. Frederick Oakeley | John Francis Wade
© Public Domain

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

On this fourth week of Advent, we light the candle of peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

He Blesses His People With Peace (Ode 9)

*1 Open our ears to hear You speak
The LORD gives strength to His people
Your word and Your good pleasures
He blesses His people with peace
In Your will is our salvation
The LORD gives strength to His people
And Your thoughts are everlasting
He blesses His people with peace*

*Be strong (echo)
And be redeemed (echo)
By His grace (echo)
By His grace (echo)
Be strong (echo)
And receive (echo)
The gift of peace (echo)
The gift of peace (echo)*

*2 For you proclaim peace to your saints
The LORD gives strength to His people
Those who receive, do not be ashamed
He blesses His people with peace
An everlasting crown is Truth
The LORD gives strength to His people
Blessed are they who wear it
He blesses His people with peace*

© 2008 Odes Of Solomon Music (Admin. by Lori Kelly Rights & Licenses)
John Andrew Schreiner

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

Exodus 15:1-21

(p. 56)

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 Luke.*

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

Luke 1:46-55

(p. 831)

*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

Fight Song

Terri Shell

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:

People: Lord Jesus, come to your Church as Lord and judge, and lead us to live in readiness for our redemption.

Leader: Come to your world as King of the nations;

People: Guide those in power to lead with righteousness and truth, and rebuke those whose leadership is harmful or unjust.

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 International Bible Study at NC State, as they share the gospel with students from all over the world;

People: That through their work, many international students would come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Leader: Come as Savior and comforter to all who suffer and struggle with illness, addiction, loneliness or distress;

People: Set us free to serve you.

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.

CONFESSON 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

O Come, Divine Messiah

1 O come, Divine Messiah,
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away.

*Sweet Savior, haste!
Come, come to earth;
Dispel the night and show Thy face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace;
O come, Divine Messiah,
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away.*

2 O come in peace and meekness,
And lowly will Thy cradle be:
All veiled in human weakness
Thy majesty we'll see

3 O Thou whom nations sighed for,
Whom priest and prophet long foretold,
Will break the captive fetters,
Redeem the long-lost fold.

©Public Domain

Words: M. l'abbé Pellegrin. Translator: Sister Mary of St. Philip (1877)

Tune: VENEZ, DIVIN MESSIE

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.

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

A Cloud of Peace (Ode 35)

*A cloud of peace has risen
Over my head
A cloud of peace has risen
Over my head*

***My salvation, my salvation
My salvation, my salvation***

John Andrew Schreiner
© 2008 Odes of Solomon Music

Your Name

1 As morning dawns and evening fades
You inspire songs of praise
That rise from earth to touch Your heart
And glorify Your name

*Your Name is a strong and mighty tower
Your Name is a shelter like no other
Your Name let the nations sing it louder
For nothing has the power to save
But Your Name*

2 Humbly to the earth You came
Born into this world to save
God with us Emmanuel
Now we adore Your Name

God with us Emmanuel
God with us Emmanuel
God with us Emmanuel
Now we adore Your Name

Glenn Packiam | Paul Baloche
©2006 Integrity's Hosanna! Music
Vertical Worship 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

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

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray

*O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name

Author unknown
©Public Domain

*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 peace. 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.

Potluck, Prayer + Praise | Wednesday, January 2 ~ Please join us for this monthly fellowship gathering! The evening will begin with a potluck dinner at 5:30 in the fellowship hall, followed by a time of prayer and praise in the sanctuary at 6:30. **A-I:** side dish | **J-O:** dessert | **P-Z:** main dish

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.

This Week

Sunday, December 23

- Worship Services: 8:30am + 11am

Monday, December 24

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

Tuesday, December 25

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, December 26

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

NO Abiding Prayer

Thursday, December 27

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

DECEMBER 30

ONE 10am

Service

Coming Soon

December

- 24 ~ Christmas Eve Services | 3pm * 5pm * 11pm
- 25-28 ~ Church Office Closed
- 30 ~ One *10am* Worship Service

January

- 2 ~ Potluck, Prayer and Praise
- 6 ~ Town Hall Meeting
- 13 ~ Sunday School Resumes
Community Group Leader Training

Student Ministry

Confirmation Interest Meeting ~ December 23

There will be a Confirmation interesting meeting today at 10am in the *Skittles Room* {#206}. Confirmation is available for students 7th-10th grade.

Confirmation class will be held on Sundays at the *10am Hour* between January 13th and March 31st.

Children's Ministry

Lessons for December 23, 2018

- **Nursery:** Shepherds at the Stable {Luke 2:8-20}
- **Kids Time:** The Angels Visit the Shepherds {Luke 2:8-20}

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 while 5pm and 11pm {candlelight service} will be more traditional. Nursery Available {up to 4 years old}

Come Let Us Adore Him



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 //