



Embroidered Borders by Nicolette Peñaranda

WORSHIP SERVICE
DECEMBER 24, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
614 Griffis Street, Cary, NC 27511
(919) 467-8700
www.carypresbyterian.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP – 10:30 A.M.

Gathering

(* Please stand as you are able.)

Gathering Chime

Prelude *Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending* Williams

Welcome and Announcements

***Introit** *God, Be with Your Weary People (v. 1)* Hyfrydol

*God, be with your weary people, rise from sacred ancient root.
Branch of Ages, bud among us, leaf and blossom, fill with fruit.
We await your new beginnings, dreams deferred and hopes delayed.
Meet despair with sweet assurance, strengthen hearts so long afraid.*

*Call to Worship

How does a weary world rejoice?

We sing songs of hope.

We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.

We tell the stories of what could be.

We listen for God's word.

We resist the temptation to give up or give in.

We remember Mary's song.

We gather for worship.

We hope.

We hope.

Against all odds, we hope.

Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making.
Let us worship holy God.

***Advent Candle Reading**

Sarah and Audrey Derifaj

***Hymn**

*How Can It Be
'Great is Thy Faithfulness'*

***How can it be, that the wicked ones prosper?
How can it be, that the greedy ones thrive?
How can it be, that oppression and anger
Hold such control, while the poor just survive?***

Refrain:

***Though hope is hidden now, God changes nations.
God brings the powerful down to their knees.
God sets a table of great celebration.
God sent us Jesus who welcomes and frees.***

***Prophets proclaim it in times of despairing,
Pushing toward justice while others destroy.
Precious the gift! And it's ours for the sharing!
Precious is Christ, who brings hope, giving joy.***

Refrain

***Evil may prosper, but God's love is stronger.
Everyone, some day, will know this is true:
Envy and strife will not win any longer.
Eternal God, all our hope is in you!***

Refrain

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God,
 More days than not, hope feels like the rain.
 We try to hold onto it with cupped hands,
 but eventually, it slips right on through.
 Forgive us for holding hope so loosely.
 Forgive us for allowing the realities of today
 to define tomorrow.
 We know that this world needs people of hope,
 so today we pray:
 turn us into those people.
 Teach us how to sing Mary's song of hope for the world.
 With open hearts we pray, amen.**

Silent Confession

***Kyrie**

Lord, Have Mercy

No. 551

Capo 3: (D) F (A) C (D) F (G) (A) (D) B^b C F

Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have
 mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy;
 Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

(A) C (D/F#) F/A (F#m) Am (G) B^b (A) C (Bm) Dm
 (G) B^b (D) F (A) (Bm) C Dm (Em7) Gm7 (A) C (Dsus) Fsus (D) F

*Assurance of Pardon

Response

Gloria, Gloria
(Sing twice; first in English, then in Latin)

No. 583

Capo 3: (Bm) (Em) (A) (D)
Dm Gm C F (chords continue)

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry in the high-est!
Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o!

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Word

Prayer for Illumination

Kay Kaufman

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:46-55

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:67-80

The Message

We Sing Stories of Hope

Paul Lang

***Hymn**

Mary's Song

Arr. P.H. & S.E.B. Lang

C G C Em Am G C Am Em F C G C

My soul pro-claims that God is great. My spir-it, with joy, swells.
God's love and mer-cy hun-gry with good-things. The rich are sent a-way.

Violin

8 F C G C Em Am G C Am Em F C G C

My Sav-iour has im-proved my fate, with fa-vor his eye dwells.
and each new gen-er-ation knows God's aid does spring and shows the ful-pres-ence.
To Is-ra-el God's aid does spring and shows the faith-ful way.

Vln

16 G C Am F Dm7 G C Am Em F Dm Am

So from this day they'll call me bless'd, each gen-er-ation tell,
The strength of God is shown in this; the-migh-ty fall from pow'r.
The pro-mise made to A-bra-ham, that pro-mise rests se-cure.

Vln

24 F C G C Em Am G C Am Em F C G C

great things, the Lord, u-pon me pressed, my heart and soul are well.
And from be-low our God does lift the low-ly up that hour.
Through out the earth in ev-'ry land the love of God is sure!

Vln

***Affirmation of Faith** *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our
Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Spirit. Amen.**

Responding

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

My Soul Doth Magnify
Chancel Choir; Emilie Williams, flute

Purifoy

*My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
He hath done great things, and holy is his name.*

*His mercy from generation to generation he shows with his mighty arm.
He scatters the proud. He hath exalted the humble in heart.
He hath fed the hungry with good things.
He hath spoken to our fathers and to us now and forever.*

*Doxology

Doxology for a Weary World

Strickland/Holst

Praise the one Cre - a - tor, praise the Liv-ing Christ

Praise the Ho-ly Spi - rit, praise both day and night

Praise when you are wea - ry, praise in times of joy

Praise, my soul, with all your strength and your heart and

voice

Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Lord in your goodness: Hear our praise; Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**



Embroidered Borders

by Nicolette Peñaranda

Inspired by Luke 1:46-55

Acrylic, ink, and mixed media collage on canvas

Two years before the birth of Jesus, during the Pax Romana, one of the worst public executions happened a half day's walk away from where Mary grew up.³ She came of age during a time of occupation, more than likely unable to recall a time of true peace and liberation. Mary's song rings of a dream that not only she but her ancestors dreamed of, and she would be the one to give birth to the savior of her people.

Fast forward thousands of years and the same land where Mary grew up is still being occupied. One can imagine that the cries for liberation and the prayers for justice still ring down the streets of Bethlehem. To me, Mary's song of praise is still valid for the women of Palestine and for the people who still raise their children under the duress of war and occupation.

This image is a nod to Palestine. The background operates as a foundation, built with the colors of the Palestinian flag and with collaged scriptures that celebrate women. Elizabeth and Mary are both in Palestinian regalia but from different generations. Elizabeth, centered and holding her belly, is in an outfit inspired by a photograph of a woman from Ramallah, dated sometime between 1929-1946.⁴ This was intended to emphasize the generational differences between the two. Mary, on the other hand, is in more contemporary Palestinian fashion. A stipple effect was used to highlight the intricacy of Palestinian embroidery in both garments.

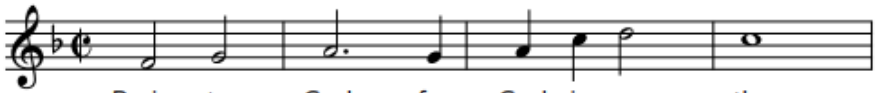
What felt important to me is the placement of Mary and Elizabeth. Rarely does Elizabeth get to be the center of the story, as her pregnancy becomes an accompaniment piece to the birth of Jesus. But here, Elizabeth is in the foreground. She gets to be the star while Mary places her arms around her, comforting her, and proclaiming the good news of what is to come. Mary is the hope that we see in all youth. —Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda

Sending

***Hymn**

Lullaby of Praise

Strickland/Ebeling



Praise to God, for God is wor - thy
Praise, my soul, for God is ho - ly
Praise to God who shows us fa - vor



Seers of old have fore - told
O - ver - throws lof - ty thrones
Brings us hope, lifts the low



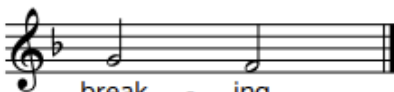
Cov - e - nants of mer - cy God's great
Lift - ing up the low - ly God's great
Sends to us a sav - ior God's great



love for us is ach - ing Guide our feet
jus - tice roles re - ver - sing Hun - gry fed
mer - cy here re - deem - ing Set - ting free



in - to peace As the dawn is
more than bread Rich and haugh - ty
'til we see earth and heav - en



break - ing
serv - ing
meet - ing

CCLI No.: 3015474

***Blessing and Charge**

***Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.***

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

You are invited to share Christ's peace with those around you.

Today's Worship Service Participants

Ministers: Rev. Paul Lang, Rev. Alan Bancroft

Music Director: Ed Yasick

Choir: Chancel Choir

Flute: Emilie Williams

Advent Candle Readers:
Audrey and Sarah Derifaj

Lay Reader: Kay Kaufman

Children's Time: Jen Pierce

Ushers: Scott Walker, Leah Burton,
Su Johnson, Ellen Govert

Tech: Rachel Campbell, Richard Wood

Slides: Karen McMenamin

Prayer of Confession by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC



The spirit of
Christmas is
the spirit of
generosity.

Generosity 2024
*We are truly grateful
for all the gifts our
members and friends have
shared with Cary
Presbyterian Church
throughout this year. All of
your gifts help make a
difference in our world.*

If you are up to date with your 2023 planned giving commitment, we thank you. If not, we graciously ask that you become current by the end of the year. To make a planned giving commitment for 2024, please use the QR code at right. Thank you!





Be The Hands



Big Thanks to All!

Thank you to everyone who donated furniture and/or household goods, helped with loading and unloading the truck, and set up the apartment for a refugee family. The apartment looked comfortable and welcoming and we know the family is enjoying living there! You provided all the furniture and supplies they needed for a good start in their new home. Once again, your generosity amazes me.

I also want to thank the 2023 Be the Hands Planning Team: Todd Crouse, Renee Clark, Audrey Sausman, Karen Cerefice, Alan Bancroft, Anne Rothrock, Lloyd Hinnant, and Rachel Campbell. This hard-working group has been great to work with! They coordinated all the details of the projects, planned the Kickoff Lunch, managed signups, and kept you informed through many media.

As some people are rotating off the team, please consider our request to join the Be the Hands Planning Team for 2024. We'll be out there, asking for your assistance. For questions, please contact Julie Page, pagejb4@gmail.com



RONALD McDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES®

Don't forget Pop Tops for Ronald McDonald House

Pop tabs are found on many kinds of aluminum cans like soda, soup, fruit, tuna, etc. and in different colors. They are made of a higher-grade aluminum than the rest of the cans, so they are worth more per pound. The Wake County Ronald MacDonald House uses donated tabs to help in providing family members with a free place to stay while a beloved child is in the hospital at WakeMed. The local Ronald McDonald House website says that they make about \$10,000 a year from pop tops, so if we each give a little, it will add up to a lot! **The collection jar moves around the Narthex a lot, but right now it is on the table to the right of the Sanctuary doors. If you bring your tabs and have trouble finding the jar, please let Julie Page know: pagejb4@gmail.com**

Poinsettias
Christmas 2023



Cary Presbyterian Church

Given in Loving Memory of:

- David Batchelor, *by Ann Batchelor*
- George Burke, brother-in-law and Michael Burke, nephew, *by Helen Bednarcik*
- Ron Bednarcik, husband, *by Helen Bednarcik*
- Betty LaGrotteria, sister, *by Helen Bednarcik*
- Loved ones, *by Tom and Jeanne Bolick*
- George Michael Burke, husband, *by Penny Burke*
- Glen, Marilyn and Suzanne Campbell, *by John and Beth Campbell*
- Ramsay, Mary, and Meg Lawson, *by John and Beth Campbell*
- Steve and Lois Gremban, parents, *by Heidi Everett*
- Bill and Mozelle Williams, *by Gwen Fletcher*
- Loved ones, *by Margaret Garboski*
- Susan Garten, for a lifetime of love, *by Roger Garten*
- Dora and Curtis Gibbs and Louise and Wesley Stack, *by Henry and Onita Gibbs*
- Francis Giesbrecht, *by Peg Giesbrecht*
- Kathy Giesbrecht, *by Peg Giesbrecht*
- Gary Govert, husband, *by Ellen Govert*
- Kathy Almond, *by Becky Hambrick*
- Shirley Grace Hansen, *by John and Paula Hansen*
- Ed and Sally Frances Hargrave, *by their grandchildren*
- Harry and Mildred Hart, *by Betty Hart*
- Linda Yadack, mother, *by Rhonda Hinnant*
- Dr. Grover Miller, Cindy's mother, *by Cindy and Bill Leslie*
- Loved ones, *by Kathy Lindabery*
- Dr. John and Mabel McGill, *by Meredith McGill and Jerry Slaymaker*
- Doris and Addison Slaymaker, Sr., *by Meredith McGill and Jerry Slaymaker*
- Carroll Slaymaker, *by Meredith McGill and Jerry Slaymaker*
- Marjorie McNeil, *by William McNeil*
- Jay Small, son, *by Linda Small Mowery*
- Walter and Etta Mears, parents, *by Linda Small Mowery*
- Our parents, *by Bill and Betty Newman*
- Paul W. Ogle, Sr. *by Sandy Ogle*

- Dot and Vince Oglesby, Boyce's parents, *by Boyce and Linda Oglesby*
- Herb Zerof, Linda's dad, *by Linda and Boyce Oglesby*
- Hardy Rothrock, *by his wife, Anne Rothrock*
- Lynn Johnston, sister, *by Sandra Saxton*
- Joseph and Susan Hobby, parents, *by Sandy Steadman*
- David Voss, *by Lynn Voss*
- Gracie and Bob Walker, *by Scott and Mary Walker*
- Margaret and Buck Taylor, *by Scott and Mary Walker*
- Vance and Alice Jenny, parents, *by Alice Williams*
- Dr. Sam and Joan Witherspoon, *by Sam and Teddy Witherspoon*
- Theodore and Delaney Ingraham, *by Sam and Teddy Witherspoon*
- Richard and Elaine Wood, *by Richard Wood*
- Bill and Jean Mundell, *by Richard Wood*

Given in Honor of:

- Our ministers, *by Sally Adams*
- Penny Burke, sister, *by Helen Bednarcik*
- Jen Pierce, niece, *by Helen Bednarcik*
- A Merry Christmas for family and friends, *By Michael and Laurel Callis*
- Randy, Wesley, Henry, and Ashley Gibbs, *by Henry and Onita Gibbs*
- Colby and Gracie Gibbs, *by Henry and Onita Gibbs*
- Bill Almond, *by Becky Hambrick*
- Mr. and Mrs. William Leslie, Jr, *by Bill and Cindy Leslie*
- Don and Laura Ann, children, *by Donna Long*
- The Ministries of CPC, *by Annah Michaux*
- CPC and its ministry, *by Nancy C. Smith*

Following the 5:00 Christmas Eve service purchased poinsettias may be taken from the poinsettia tree in the Narthex or from the chancel steps.

Following the 8:00 Christmas Eve service purchased poinsettias may be taken from any chancel location or from the Narthex.

THIS WEEK AT CARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Website and Online Member Directory: www.carypresbyterian.org

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve	9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	No Faith Formation: Pre-K -Grade 5 No Pastor's Class Parlor Class (Parlor) Worship In-Person (Sanctuary) and Online Christmas Eve Family Service Christmas Eve Service and Communion
Monday, December 25 Christmas Day		
Tuesday, December 26		
Wednesday, December 27	7:00 p.m.	No Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, December 28		
Friday, December 29	7:00 p.m.	Courage, Strength, & Hope (Library)
Saturday, December 30		
Sunday, December 31 New Year's Eve	9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	No Faith Formation: Pre-K -Grade 5 No Parlor Class Pastor's Class (100) Worship In-Person (Sanctuary) and Online No Youth Group Meeting No Christian Adventurers & Youth Choir

'Open Choir' on December 31!

Ed Yasick and the Chancel Choir invite you to join them in singing the traditional carol *Still, Still, Still* (arranged by Norman Luboff) next Sunday, December 31 at the 10:30 a.m. service. Plan on meeting in the choir room at 10:10 a.m. to rehearse it.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Christmas Joy

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.