



The Courageous Choice by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

WORSHIP SERVICE

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 2022

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

Largo

Vivaldi

Welcome and Announcements

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Introit

From Generation to Generation (v.3)

From gen-er-a-tion to gen-er-a-tion, we have shared the Christ-mas sto-ry

of a ba-by in a man-ger, who was born in Beth-le-hem.

Hope is wing-ing, Peace now ring-ing, Joy we're sing-ing, Love he's bring-ing.

1. There is room for ev-'ry sto-ry. There is hope through God's great glory.
2. God will meet you in your fear. And bring peace both far and near.
3. We can choose a bet-ter way. And find joy in ev-'ry day.
4. We see God in one an-oth-er. As we learn to love each other.

***Call to Worship**

My soul magnifies the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

The Mighty One has done great things.
Holy is God's name!

***Hymn**

God of Generations

Tune: Holy, Holy, Holy!

**God of generations, we are all your children;
To your church we bring our gifts, our worship and our song.
Young and old we follow, hand in hand together:
In your great love, together we are strong.**

**Spirit, freely moving, giving youth a vision,
By your grace young Jeremiah heard your loving call;
Mary was a young one when she learned her mission:
Through faithful youth, you offer truth to all.**

**Abraham and Sarah trusted in your promise:
Age was no condition when you gave them work to do.
Old and young we follow, hand in hand together;
At every age, Lord, we belong to you.**

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

**God of mercy,
a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious,
to assume the best in others,
to give the benefit of the doubt.
A million times a day we could choose the better way,
but so often we don't.
Fear and greed kick in.
Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel.
Comparison and critique lead the charge.
Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph.
Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood.**

**Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.
 Give us the courage to love even bigger than before,
 and the wisdom to choose a better way.
 Amen.**

Silent Confession

***Kyrie** *Lord, Have Mercy* No. 551

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

Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have

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

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

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

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response** *Gloria, Gloria* No. 583
(Sing twice; first in English, then in Latin)

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

Scott Gibbs

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 35:1-10

The Message *We Can Choose A Better Way* Paul Lang

***Hymn** *Prepare the Way, O Zion* No. 106



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,

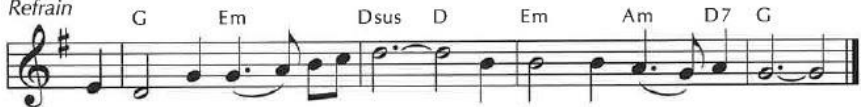


Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a God who offers second chances
and does not hold grudges.**

**We believe in a God who opens the door to new life
and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost.**

**We believe in a God who believes in us—
believes that we can make a difference,
that we can choose grace over comparison,
love over hate,
peace over war.**

And so we strive to live our lives in love.

**We strive to listen as Joseph listened,
and to be the people that God calls us to be.**

It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.

This we believe. Amen.

Time with Our Children

Jen Pierce

Book: *The Wonder of Christmas* by Dandi Daley Mackall

Responding

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

I Shall Know Him When He Comes

Wagner

Chancel Choir

*I shall know Him when He comes, not with sounds of pipe or drum,
But by the holy harmony which His coming makes in me.*

He shall wear no royal robe, or a crown of precious gold,

But He my Lord, my King shall be always, ever be there for me.

He shall not in castle, warm, live in splendor safe from harm.

*But in a manger, crude He'll sleep, warmed by the breath of cows
and sheep.*

Come, Lord Jesus, tarry not. Find in me a resting spot.

My heart is open, come dwell within. Let life be born in me again.

By the holy harmony which His coming makes in me.

I shall know Him when He comes.

***Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* No. 608

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a G chord and contains the lyrics 'Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow;'. The second staff continues with 'praise Christ, all peo-ple here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er -'. The third staff concludes with 'more; praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.' Chord progressions are indicated above the notes: G, C, Am7, Dsus, D, G, D, Am7, Dsus, D, Am7, D, G, Am7, G, C, Am7, G, Am7, D, G.

Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

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

Prayer 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.**

Sending

*Hymn

A Better Way (vv. 1-3)

GOD REST YOU MERRY 8.6.8.6.8.6 with refrain

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: Traditional English carol (18th cent.)

When He Said Like Jo - seph planned to Ga - briel, Jo - seph learned to leave her "Jo - seph, woke of her from Ma - ry's state he qui - et - ly and do not fear to find his sleep to find his

pon - dered her dis - grace He cal - cu - lat - ed not cre - ate a scene But Ma - ry still would make Ma - ry your wife changed She bears in - side her path - way had been changed Still here to - day God

all the shame the scan - dal would cre - ate But grow with child; what then would her fate be? When womb the hope of ev - er - last - ing life way The Be - calls us all to choose the bet - ter

not con - tent to see her stoned he of - fered her some
 Jo - seph went to sleep that night an an - gel in - ter -
 son that she will bear to you is Je - sus the Mes -
 - yond our wild - est dreams is still a call - ing that re -

grace - vened - siah" - mains
 Oh there is a bet - ter way, God's bet - ter way Oh

we can choose the bet - ter way

***Blessing and Charge**

***Response** *A Better Way (v. 4)*
(See previous hymn)

***Postlude** *Tocatta in E Minor* Pachelbel

***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

Lay Reader: Scott Gibbs

Acolyte: Isla Brown

Time With Our Children: Jen Pierce



Ushers: LeNelle Patrick, Russell Diggs,

Audrey Sausman, Hal Drumheller

Tech: Ian Dunbar, Ken Worsham

Slides: Beth Cleveland

CCLI No.: 3015474



Advent means coming or arrival. This word has a double significance, as in Advent we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and look with longing for his coming again. The season of Advent begins with an emphasis on final things (eschatology). We watch and pray with expectant hope for the establishment of God's justice and the return of the Prince of Peace. As the weeks of Advent progress, the focus shifts to thanks and praise for the birth of the one who has already come — Jesus Christ our Savior.

The color of *Sarum blue* was often used in the candles for Advent. This was a mixture of blue and purple — an effort to indicate that Jesus comes both as royalty and as one destined to suffer in the events of Holy Week. The habit of using a pink candle along with the candles of *Sarum blue* was borrowed from the Lenten habit of shifting the candle for the fourth Sunday in Lent to pink on *Laetare Sunday*. *Laetare* means rejoice, and the pink candle sometimes used in Advent was called *Gaudet*, or joy. You see how these two are easily confused.

In recent times, Advent has undergone a shift in emphasis, reflected in a change of colors used in many churches, both Protestant & Catholic. The more common practice now is to use blue candles to distinguish the Season of Advent from Lent and to omit the pink candle of *Gaudet Sunday*. Blue is used as a symbol of Jesus' royalty.



From the Finance Manager

Giving statements were mailed during the last week to anyone with a remaining balance on their pledge for this year.

If you are up to date with your planned giving commitment, we thank you. If you have a balance, we graciously ask that you become current by the end of the year. (You can make your commitment current by clicking the Planned Giving box in the Generosity section of our website.)



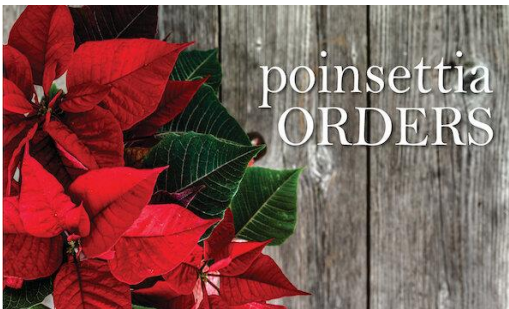
CPC Alternative Gifts 2022

This Christmas the CPC Community Partnerships team hopes you will consider giving an Alternative Gift to a friend or family member, supporting one of the many vetted CPC Missions. We encourage you to notify loved ones of your alternative gift with cards available in the Narthex at CPC. See the most recent E-Link newsletter to learn more about these mission partners and support them financially. Thank you for your generosity.

THIS WEEK AT CARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Website and Online Member Directory: www.carypresbyterian.org

Sunday, December 11	<p>9:30 a.m.</p> <p>10:30 a.m.</p> <p>5:00 p.m.</p> <p>5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>The Pastor's Class is on a break until January</p> <p><i>'Twas the Season of Advent</i> Sunday School Pageant (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>Worship In-Person and Online</p> <p>Advent Study (Parlor)</p> <p>Middle & High School Youth Christmas Party</p>
Monday, December 12	<p>11:00 a.m.</p> <p>11:00 a.m.</p> <p>6:30 p.m.</p> <p>6:30 p.m.</p> <p>7:00 p.m.</p> <p>7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Abigail Circle (location TBA)</p> <p>Staff Meeting (Parlor)</p> <p>Cub Scout Pack 232 (FHF)</p> <p>Scout Troop 232G (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>Congregational Fellowship (Zoom)</p> <p>Preschool Ministry Board (102)</p>
Tuesday, December 13	<p>7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Scout Troop 232 (FHF)</p>
Wednesday, December 14	<p>1:00 p.m.</p> <p>7:00 p.m.</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Pastor Paul Small Group (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)</p> <p>Wednesday Night Virtual Class (Zoom)</p>
Thursday, December 15	<p>9:00 a.m.</p> <p>11:00 a.m.</p> <p>5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Generosity Team (100)</p> <p>Preschool Class Holiday Lunch (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>Carying Place Holiday Dinner (FH, other rooms)</p>
Friday, December 16	<p>7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Courage, Strength, & Hope (Library)</p>
Saturday, December 17	<p>10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Christmas Cookie Baking Pop-Up (Kitchen)</p>
Sunday, December 18	<p>9:30 a.m.</p> <p>10:30 a.m.</p> <p>5:00 p.m.</p> <p>5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Christmas Carols [All ages] & Cookie Decorating [Children] (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>Worship In-Person and Online</p> <p>Advent Study with Pastor Kim (Parlor)</p> <p>(Off this week) Youth Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)</p>



Poinsettia Orders

Place your poinsettia orders online for this Christmas season by clicking the link in your E-Link newsletter and following the instructions there.

You may also use one of the printed forms in the Narthex and leave it in the Church Office with your payment and dedications for the plants you order.

Orders are due by December 12.