

WORSHIP SERVICE DECEMBER 31, 2023 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 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 O Holy Night Adam

Welcome and Announcements

*Introit Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (v.1) No. 128

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing; Christ the babe is Lord of All! Christ the babe is Lord of all!

*Call to Worship

Every year we celebrate Christmas.

Every month we break bread.

Every week we gather for worship.

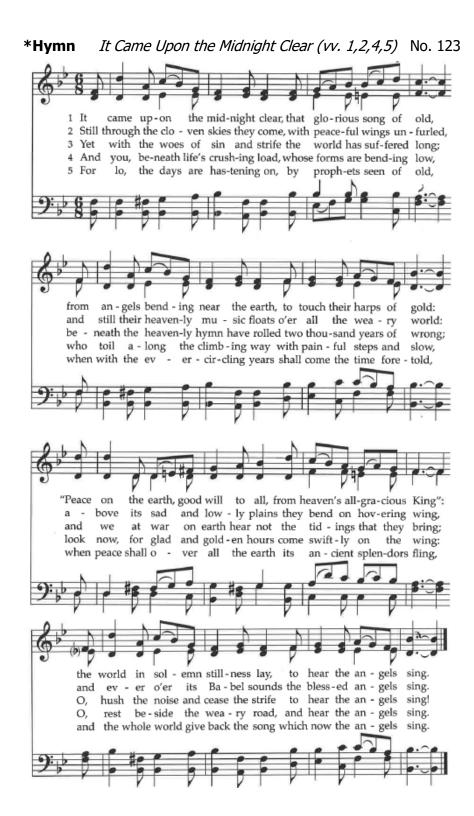
Every day we count our blessings.

Every minute God is near.

Yes, every minute God is near.

These are the rituals of our faith.

Let us worship Holy God.



*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of rhythms, we confess:

our faith would not be what it is without rituals.

Unlike you, we depend on bread and water.

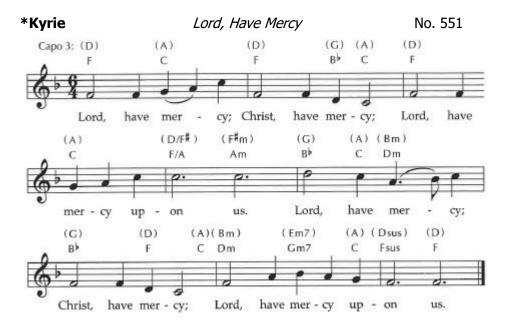
We have to return to this space again and again to hear old, familiar stories.

For if we stopped,

we know it would not take long before we lost our way. Forgive us for our fragility, and thank you for giving us ordinary rituals and rhythms to hold onto.

With grateful and humble hearts we pray, amen.

Silent Confession



*Assurance of Pardon



ri - a,

al - le - lu - ia,

Word

Prayer for Illumination

ri - a,

glo

Scott Gibbs

al - le - lu - ia!

Scripture Reading

Glo

Galatians 4:4-7

One:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. All:

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:22-40

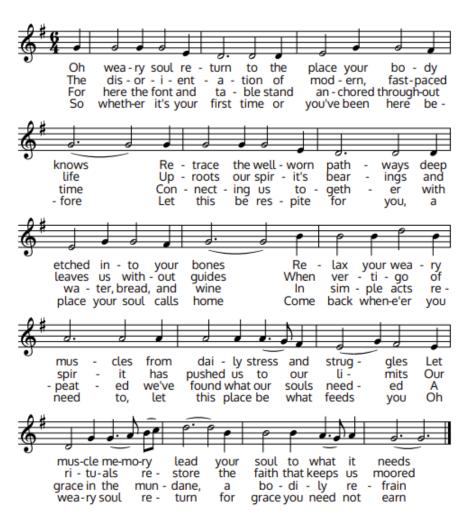
The Message

We Root Ourselves in Ritual

Paul Lang

*Hymn

Oh Weary Soul Return Strickland/Swedish melody



*Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

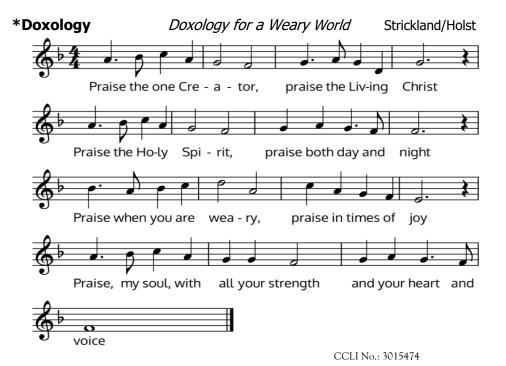
Responding

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

Still, Still. Still
Open Chancel Choir

arr. Luboff



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.

Sending



*Blessing and Charge

*Response

Angels We Have Heard On High (v. 3) (See previous hymn) No. 113

*Postlude Carol of the Bells

Leontovich

*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. Paul Burgess

Music Director: Ed Yasick Choir: Open Chancel Choir Lay Reader: Scott Gibbs

Ushers: Cathy Williams, David Bohm, Hal Drumheller, Nancy Neubauer

Tech: Richard Wood Slides: Beth Cleveland

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



Revelation

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity Inspired by Luke 2:21-38

Acrylic painting on canvas with digital drawing

I wonder what Mary and Joseph expect when they enter the temple to dedicate their newborn son. This customary ritual quickly unravels into an astonishing scene. A stranger named Simeon pronounces Jesus to be a "light" and "revelation," and his dying wish is fulfilled. A prophet named Anna also draws near to the child, praising God for the redemption he will bring.

Simeon and Anna's words fill Mary and Joseph with amazement. But that can't be the only emotion taking up space in the room. For Simeon turns to Mary, perhaps privately, to continue sharing his message: the boy will also become the cause of great turmoil, the catalyst for

opposition. He will expose the inner thoughts of many. A sword will pierce her innermost being. The mother of God will grieve as she bears witness to the suffering of the child she birthed.

In this image, Simeon bestows his blessing and prophecy with the urgency of a man desperate to say everything that needs to be said before his time runs out. Anna looks off into the distance, as if peering into the future. Her devotion to God over the years has sharpened her gaze; she knows redemption when she sees it.

In the top left, I depicted Jesus' hand being cradled by the hands of his parents. This tender moment is frozen in time, like a Polaroid photograph placed in a scrapbook. Mary and Joseph treasure their child as they receive the fullness of his calling. I imagine them memorizing each wrinkle and tiny fingernail, treasuring the smallness of a hand that will one day become a strong fist, fighting for justice for the oppressed and liberation for those held captive. —Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Notes. Prayers. or Scribbles

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THIS WEEK AT CARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Website and Online Member Directory: www.carypresbyterian.org

Sunday,	9:15 a.m.	No Faith Formation: Pre-K -Grade 5
December 31	9:15 a.m.	Pastor's Class (Fellowship Hall Annex)
New Year's	9:15 a.m.	Parlor Class (Parlor)
Eve	10:30 a.m.	Worship In-Person (Sanctuary) and Online
	5:00 p.m.	No Youth Group Meeting
	5:00 p.m.	No Christian Adventurers & Youth Choir
Monday,		Office Closed
January 1		
New Year's		
Day		
Tuesday,	10:00 a.m.	Triple F (100)
January 2	7:00 p.m.	Cool Books Club (Zoom)
Wednesday,	7:00 p.m.	No Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
January 3	-	,
Thursday,	2:30 p.m.	Music Group (100)
January 4	7:00 p.m.	Stephen Ministry (100/102/106)
Friday,	9:30 a.m.	Centering Prayer (Parlor)
January 5	7:00 p.m.	Courage, Strength, & Hope (Library)
Saturday,	10:00 a.m.	Called Session Meeting (Fellowship Hall Annex)
January 6		
Sunday,	9:15 a.m.	Faith Formation: Pre-K -Grade 5 (C. Ed. Wing)
January 7	9:15 a.m.	Parlor Class (Parlor)
,	9:15 a.m.	Pastor's Class (Fellowship Hall Annex)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship In-Person (Sanctuary) and Online
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group (Youth Area & Fellowship Hall)
	5:00 p.m.	Christian Adventurers & Youth Choir
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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!

