



Comfort, O Comfort by Lauren Wright Pittman

WORSHIP SERVICE

DECEMBER 10, 2023

SECOND 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

O Thou, Come of God the Father

Bach

Welcome and Announcements

*Introit

God, Be with Your Weary People (v. 2)

Hyfrydol

*God, be with your hungry people, serve a feast for all to eat.
Bread of life, abundant blessing, bring a justice more complete.
We have yearned for peace and plenty, snared by greed and worn by war.
Make our weapons fit for farming, move our hands to share once more.*

*Call to Worship

Family of faith, one of the greatest joys of worship is that it is not a solo act. We gather together. We find joy, and God, in the act of connection. So as we begin our worship, I invite you to turn and face someone you are close to so that you can see one another.

Now repeat these phrases after me:

Welcome to worship.

Welcome to worship.

I am glad you're here.

I am glad you're here.

Surely God is in this space.

Surely God is in this space.

I see God in your face.

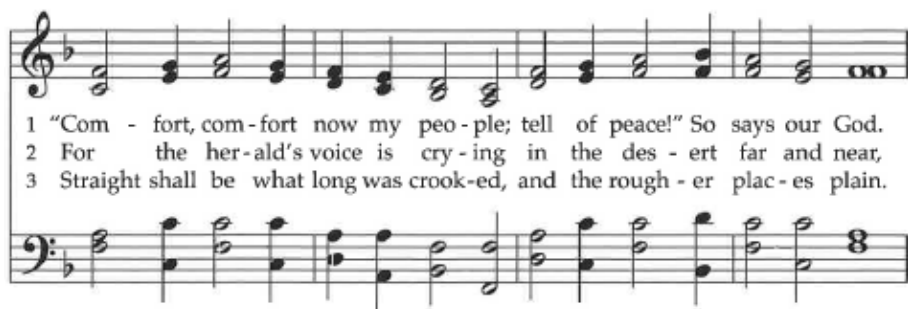
I see God in your face.

Let us worship together.

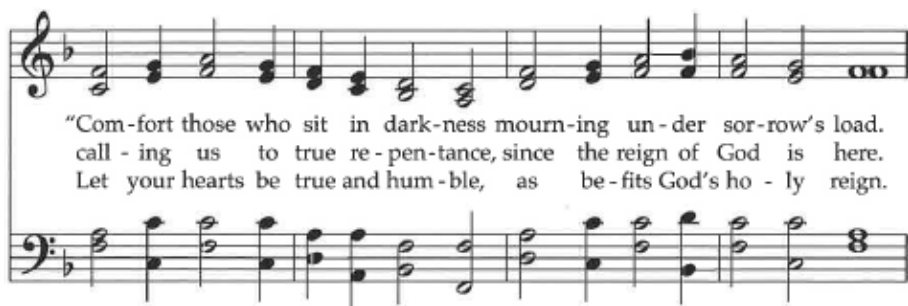
Let us worship together.

*Advent Candle Reading

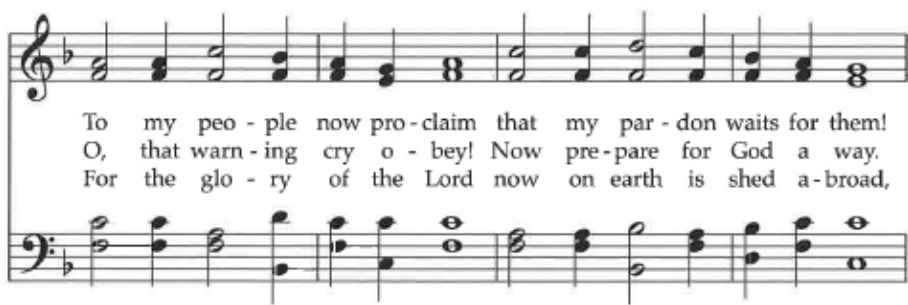
Maddie and Maxton Bohm



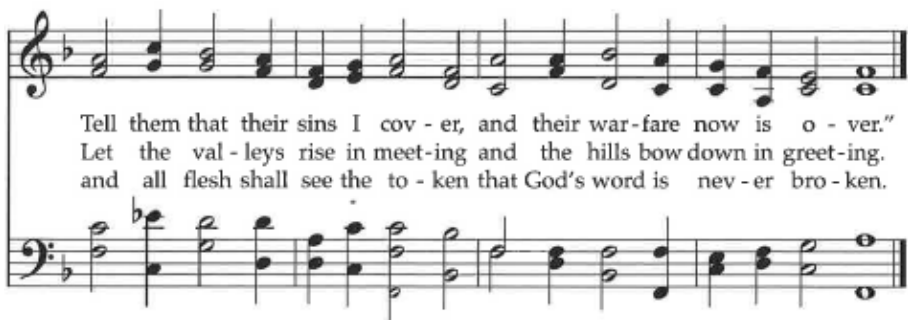
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of laughter,
God of open front doors
and family reunions,
we confess that we often doubt good news.

**We move through this world
waiting for the other shoe to drop,
waiting for life to fall apart,
waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.**

Instead of leaning into joy,
we lean into scarcity.

We lean into fear.

We lean into isolation.

Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

**Heal the wounds we have from past hurts,
and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth.
Show us how to find joy in connection.**

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
(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

David Bohm

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:24-45

The Message

We Find Joy in Connection

Paul Lang

***Hymn**

I Can Celebrate You

Strickland/Holst



I can cel - e - brate you, I can hold your joy
I can re - cog - nize good fruit that you will bear
We can hold each oth - er in our joy and fear



When the load is crush - ing and you've lost your voice
When your own self - doubt hides gifts you have to share
Know - ing that the Spir - it moves when we are near



I can cel - e - brate the pro - mise your life holds
I can re - cog - nize your Christ - light deep with - in
We can hold each oth - er, lift each oth - er up



When the wear - i - ness bears hea - vy on your soul
Ev - ery gift that God has sown wait - ing to be - gin
Fill - ing one a - noth - er from the Spir - it's cup

***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 God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

**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.**

Time With Our Children

Jen Pierce

Responding

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

The Angel Gabriel Chancel Choir

arr. Leavitt

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame;
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady." Gloria.
For known a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady." Gloria*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name." Most highly favored lady, Gloria.
Of her Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: "Most highly favored lady." Gloria.*

*Doxology

Doxology for a Weary World

Strickland/Holst



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



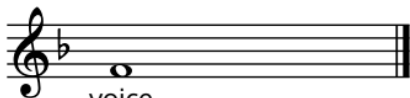
Praise the Ho-ly Spi - rit, praise both day and night



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.**

The Second Sunday of Advent | How does a weary world rejoice?

We find joy in connection



Comfort, O Comfort

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Isaiah 40:1-11

Digital painting

I wanted to create an image that spoke tenderly to the viewer as this text does to the reader. "Comfort, O comfort my people" (Isaiah 40:1). When I've read this text before, the shepherding metaphor has only yielded masculine imagery in my mind. It makes sense with the text's pronouns that I would imagine a masculine figure. It was also ingrained in me— through translations, biblical art, movies, children's pageants, etc.—that shepherds were always men. I learned recently, however, that women were shepherds too. Some young women were trained and worked as shepherds before they were married; this notion completely added new dimension and depth to the shepherding metaphor. I decided to use imagery of modern-day shepherds to inspire this image.

A shepherd is at once fierce and tender, willing to face the most dangerous of predators in the dead of night while warmly cradling the most vulnerable of the flock.

In this image, the shepherd nurtures a lamb while leading the flock through fields of tall grasses and flowers. The fuschia flowers in the foreground are marjoram flowers that represent comfort and the steadfastness of God's word even in the midst of the leveling of the land. The shepherd's clothes have repeated medallions with simplified imagery of a straight highway in the wilderness. Within the stylized landscape, a voice proclaims the coming glory of the Lord. —**Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman**

Sending

***Hymn**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

No. 306

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
2 Be - fore our *Fa - ther's throne we pour our
3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual
4 When we are called to part, it gives us
5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we

Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of
ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our
bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each
in - ward pain; but we shall still be
shall be free; and per - fect love and

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.
friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

CCLI No.: 3015474

***Blessing and Charge**

***Response** *Prepare the Way, O Zion (v. 2)* No. 106
***He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.***

***Postlude** *Prelude in G Minor* Bach

***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, Paul Burgess
Music Director: Ed Yasick
Choir: Chancel Choir
Acolyte: Addy Archer
Advent Candle Readers:
Maddie and Maxton Bohm
Lay Reader: David Bohm
Children's Time: Jen Pierce
Ushers: LeNelle Patrick, Russell Diggs,
Janet Robinette, Summer Bohm
Tech: Richard Wood
Slides: Beth Cleveland
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!***



THIS WEEK AT CARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Website and Online Member Directory: www.carypresbyterian.org

Sunday, December 10	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Christmas Pageant (Fellowship Hall) Worship In-Person (Sanctuary) and Online Compass Group #2 Next Chapter Group (100)
Monday, December 11	11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting (Library) Abigail Circle (100) Staff Christmas Lunch (Fellowship Hall) Girl Scout Troop 1951 (Youth Area) Scout Troop 232G (Fellowship Hall) Cub Scout Pack 232 Den Mtgs. (C. Ed. Bldg.) Kitchen Katz (Parlor) Preschool Ministry Board (Zoom) Racial Equity Team (Zoom)
Tuesday, December 12	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Christian Fellowship Team (Zoom) Scout Troop 232B (Youth Area) Adult Virtual Faith Formation (Zoom)
Wednesday, December 13	12:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	CPP Ext. Pre-K Class Holiday Event (FH) Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, December 14	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Caring Place Holiday Dinner (FH, various rooms) Community Partnership Team (Zoom) Cary Mindfulness Group (Parlor)
Friday, December 15	11:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Preschool Staff Christmas Lunch (100) Courage, Strength, & Hope (Parlor)
Saturday, December 16		
Sunday, December 17	9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	Faith Formation: Pre-K -Grade 5 (C. Ed. Wing) Parlor Class (Parlor) Pastor's Class (100) Worship In-Person (Sanctuary) and Online Youth Progressive Christmas Dinner (meet at church)



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.