

WORSHIP SERVICE

DECEMBER 3, 2023

FIRST 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

Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland

Bach

Welcome and Announcements

*Introit

God, Be with Your Weary People

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

In God's house, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful.

We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious.

We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be honest—

inspired or tired,

delighted or doubtful,

connected or curious,

and everything in between.

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship our loving God.

*Advent Candle Reading

Sarah Pierce and Katelyn Riffle

***Hymn**

We Bring You All Our Sorrows

Bluett/Zach

VERSE

D A/C# Bm A G D/F#

1. Lord, we bring You all our sor - rows, all the words it
 2. Christ, You came to share our bur - dens; all our hu - man
 3. Here on Cal - v'ry's hill You meet us in the pain You

A(sus4) A D A/C# Bm A

hurts to say. In Your hands our grief is hal - lowed;
 pain, You feel. Walk be - side us on our jour - ney
 know so well. Bread of heav - en, here You feed us

G D/F# A D

take it as our gift, we pray.
 through the a wounds that no nev - er heal.
 with the gift no tongue can tell.

G A Bm A/C# D

Lay our tears up - on Your al - tar like the bread You
 Place the yoke up - on our shoul - ders that You bore to
 You said 'You would nev - er leave us, You who caught us

G G A Bm A/C#

bless and break. Work Your mer - cy in our heart - ache;
 Cal - va - ry. Let the weight of grief trans - form us;
 when we fell; Stay with us, O lov - ing Je - sus,

G A(sus4) A D

come trans - fig - ure all our pain.
 bear with us our suf - fer - ing.
 while in shad - ows here we dwell.

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.

Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

Forgive us for creating so many distractions.

Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.

Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.

Silent Confession

*Kyrie

Lord, Have Mercy

No. 551

Capo 3: (D) F (A) C (D) F (G) (A) B \flat C (D) F

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

(A) C (D/F \sharp) F/A (F \sharp m) Am (G) B \flat (A) C (Bm) Dm

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

(G) B \flat (D) F (A) C (Bm) Dm (Em7) Gm7 (A) C (Dsus) Fsus (D) 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

Rhonda Hinnant

Scripture Reading Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading Luke 1:1-23

The Message *We Acknowledge Our Weariness* Alan Bancroft

***Hymn**

Weary World Rejoice

Strickland/Gruber

Wea - ry world, God's own vine
Wea - ry world, bro - ken and bruised
Wea - ry world, out of hope
Wea - ry world, wait - ing still

Tears our on - ly bread and wine
Name of God is so mis-used
Dis - be - lief is how we cope
Hold - ing our breath un - til

Cry - ing out to be re-stored
Can we see the light of Christ
We've left faith to rot and rust
Christ re - turns in truth and grace

Des - perate for a break from war
Glow - ing in each per - son we spite?
Dreams are cov - ered in lay - ers of dust
Will we re - cog - nize his face?

Wea - ry world re - joice

Come and raise your voice

***Statement 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.**

Time With Our Children

Jen Pierce

Responding

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

Light Dawns on a Weary World Rowan/arr. Ellingboe
Chancel Choir

*Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.*

*The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands gush with springs;
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace,
As all the world in wonder echoes shalom.*

*Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts
find bread and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes.*

*Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures,
once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes.*

*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.**

Sending

*Hymn

Precious Lord Take My Hand

No. 834

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me
2 When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger

stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
near; when my life is al - most gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I

light; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
fall; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

The musical score is written for two staves (treble and bass clef) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in two columns, corresponding to the two parts of the hymn. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, as well as rests and dynamic markings.

CCLI No.: 3015474

*Blessing and Charge

***Response** *Prepare the Way, O Zion (v. 1)* No. 106
***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.***

***Postlude** *Fantasy in A 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. Alan Bancroft, Paul Burgess

Music Director: Ed Yasick

Choir: Chancel Choir

Acolyte: Addy Archer

Advent Candle Readers:

Sarah Pierce & Katelyn Riffle

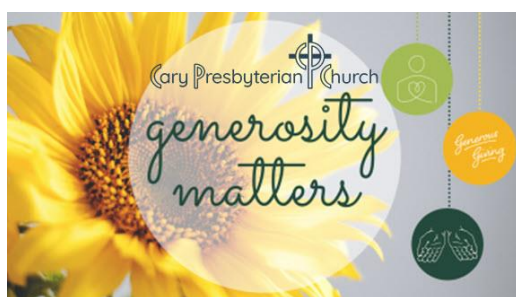
Lay Reader: Rhonda Hinnant

Children's Time: Jen Pierce

Ushers: Janet Robinette, Su Johnson,
John Hansen, Susan Bowdish

Tech: Ken Worsham

Slides: Beth Cleveland



G·E·N·E·R·O·S·I·T·Y

Thank you to everyone who has returned your Planned Giving information for 2024. We kindly ask all Planned Giving cards to be returned to the Generosity Box in the Narthex or the church office as soon as possible, so we can confirm 2024 mission and ministry plans.

You may use the QR code at right to pledge online. Please contact Barbara Carew with any questions. Thank you!





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

We acknowledge our weariness



Annunciation to Zechariah

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Luke 1:1-23

Acrylic and ink on wood panel

Zechariah is dressed in a breastpiece, ephod, robe, checkered tunic, turban, and sash, just as the book of Exodus specifies. In my painting, gold, blue, purple, and crimson yarns are woven together and bejeweled with engraved stones which bear the names of the sons of Israel (Exodus 28:4).

Zechariah stands in the Holy Place wearing the most meticulous of garments. Does he expect to encounter the divine? Or is he just going through the motions, lighting the incense as an all-too-familiar scent fills the air?

After all these years of fulfilling priestly duties and “living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord” (Luke

1:6), Zechariah and his wife are still childless. Regardless of their desire for children, in their culture and context, childlessness bore the implication of God’s contempt.

I ruminated on this image... a weary priest wrapped in layered fabrics, colors, symbols, textures, and rare stones that proclaim God’s providence and power. The contrast is not lost on me.

I often try to neglect my weariness by putting on a veneer of unwavering trust in God—while feeling like I may suddenly unravel into a pile of beautifully-curated threads, stones, and gold accessories.

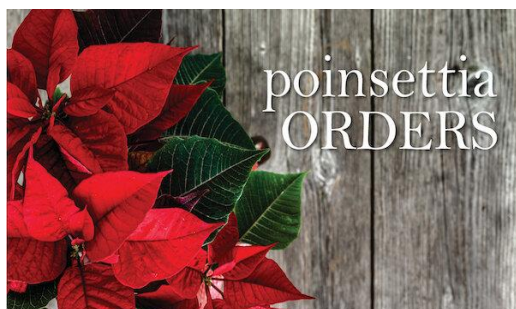
In this image, I decided to depict the angel as smoke from the altar of incense. Zechariah has one hand over his mouth in fear and disbelief, while his other hand cradles the notion—not yet hope—of his son’s existence.

Do you bind up your weariness in a neat and tidy bow, put your head down, and project okay-ness like me? What would it look like to acknowledge our weariness, quit powering through, and open ourselves up to what God might have in store for us? Perhaps we’ll meet an angel. —Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

THIS WEEK AT CARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Website and Online Member Directory: www.carypresbyterian.org

Sunday, December 3	9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class (106) 9:15 a.m. Faith Formation: Pre-K thru Grade 5 (Ed. Wing) 9:15 a.m. The Pastor's Class (100) 9:15 a.m. The Parlor Class (Parlor) 10:30 a.m. Worship In-Person (Sanctuary) and Online 11:30 a.m. Confirmation Retreat (106/Youth Area) 11:30 a.m. Advent Art Workshop (Fellowship Hall) 4:00 p.m. Next Chapter Group (100) 5:00 p.m. Youth Group (Crouse Residence) 5:00 p.m. Christian Adventurers & Youth Choir 5:00 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal/Everyone in Pageant
Monday, December 4	11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (Library) 12:00 p.m. Staff Christmas Lunch (Fellowship Hall) 6:15 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 1951 (Youth Area) 6:30 p.m. Scout Troop 232G (Fellowship Hall) 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting (Zoom) 6:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting (Zoom) 7:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 232 Field Trip (Downtown Cary)
Tuesday, December 5	6:30 p.m. Buildings & Grounds (100) 7:00 p.m. Cool Books Club (Zoom) 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 232B (Youth Area) 7:30 p.m. Adult Virtual Faith Formation (Zoom)
Wednesday, December 6	7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, December 7	2:30 p.m. Music Group (100) 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry (100)
Friday, December 8	7:00 p.m. Courage, Strength, & Hope (Parlor)
Saturday, December 9	
Sunday, December 10	9:15 a.m. Christmas Pageant (Fellowship Hall) 10:30 a.m. Worship In-Person (Sanctuary) and Online 2:00 p.m. Compass Group #2 4:00 p.m. Next Chapter Group (100)



Poinsettia Orders

Place your poinsettia orders online for this Christmas season by clicking the link in your weekly e-mail bulletin information and following the instructions there.

You may also print one of the forms linked on the online information note and leave it at the office with your payment and dedications for your order.