

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT • DECEMBER 1, 2012 • 8:30AM

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you sent your Son into the world to bear the cross on our behalf and be raised to life for our hope. Reveal our transgressions and ready our hearts to wait and watch for the Son of Man to come again, crowned in glory, we pray in his name. Amen.

Come Thou Almighty King

1 Come Thou Almighty King
Help us Thy name to sing
Help us to praise
Father all glorious
O'er all victorious
Come and reign over us
Ancient of Days

3 Come Holy Comforter
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour
Thou who almighty art
Now rule in every heart
And ne'er from us depart
Spirit of power

2 Come Thou Incarnate Word
Gird on Thy mighty sword
Our prayer attend
Come and Thy people bless
And give Thy Word success
Spirit of holiness
On us descend

4 To the great One in Three
Eternal praises be
Hence evermore
His sovereign majesty
May we in glory see
And to eternity
Love and adore

© Public Domain | Charles Wesley | Felice de Giardini

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

A CELEBRATION OF THE COVENANT OF BAPTISM

A baptismal covenant will be made today on behalf of

***Walker James Graves, son of Corbin and Byerly Graves
Matthew Frederick Herriott, son of Jim and Nicole Herriott***

COVENANT OF BAPTISM

Presentation of the candidate by Parents

**Parents: We present Walker James Graves to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.
We present Matthew Frederick Herriott to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**

Leader: Will you accept the spiritual responsibility to bring up these children in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We will, with God's help.

Leader: Do you renounce Satan and his demonic forces that rebel against God and war against your soul?

Parents: I renounce them.

Leader: Have you accepted Christ Jesus as your Savior and Lord?

People: I have.

Leader: Do you renounce anew all sinful desires and commit yourself to obey Him with your whole heart?

Parents: I do.

After the baptismal candidate has been presented, the Celebrant says to the People:

Leader: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these children in their lives in Christ?

People: We will.

Leader: Let us renew our own baptismal covenant. Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Leader: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: 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.

* The phrase "holy catholic Church" in the Creed means the Church worldwide.

Leader: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Leader: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Leader: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Leader: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE

Leader: Let us now pray for these children who are to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Leader: Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns with you now and forever. Amen.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

THE BAPTISM

Leader: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

People: We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim His resurrection, and share with us in His Covenant of Faith.

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

At this time, children 4k-2nd grade are invited to go to Kids Time and kids 3rd-5th grade are invited to go to Big Time. Kids Time is a dynamic worship service and Big Time is an age appropriate discussion time. Both cater to younger children and prepare them to participate in the main worship service. The children will return prior to Communion.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Responsive Reading

Psalm 122

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5 (p. 484)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Sermon Series:

Let Us Walk In The Light Of The Lord

"Weapons of Death Become Tools of Life"

The Rev. Eric Bolash

(There is also space for sermon notes on page 9.)

For your convenience, there are sound speakers available in the Lobby and in the BabyBeams nursery cry room that allow you to hear the service if you have a child who is crying or needs to be fed.

I'm Putting On The Love Of The Lord (Ode 3)

I 'm putting on the love of the Lord
I 'm putting on the love of the Lord
I 'm putting on the love of the Lord
I 'm putting on the love of the Lord
And I will be no stranger
And I will be no stranger
For He loves me, For He loves me
Alleluia, Alleluia
Undivided, Undivided
Alleluia, Alleluia

Because my love is Him that is the Son
I shall become a child of God
I love Him, because He first loved me
And where His rest is, I know that I shall be

For He loves me, For He loves me
Alleluia, Alleluia
Undivided, Undivided
Alleluia, Alleluia

WELCOME and OFFERTORY

Come Down O Love Divine

1 Come down O Love divine
Seek Thou this soul of mine
And visit it with
Thine own ardour glowing
O Comforter draw near
Within my heart appear and kindle it
Thy holy flame bestowing

2 O let it freely burn
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes
In its heat consuming
And let Thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight
And clothe me round
The while my path illuming

Immortal God of Earth and Heaven
Be our Wisdom, and guide us in our ways
Lord, awaken us in love, mighty Counselor
And unite us to serve You in this day

For Your glory, For Your glory
Alleluia, Alleluia
Undivided, Undivided
Alleluia, Alleluia

I 'm putting on the love of the Lord
I 'm putting on the love of the Lord
I 'm putting on the love of the Lord
I 'm putting on the love of the Lord
©2007 John Schreiner Music (ASCAP)

3 Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be
And lowliness become mine inner clothing
True lowliness of heart
Which takes the humbler part
And o'er its own shortcomings
Weeps with loathing

4 And so the yearning strong
With which the soul will long
Shall far outpass the power
Of human telling
For none can guess its grace
Till Love create a place
Wherein the Holy Spirit
Makes His dwelling

Bianco da Siena | Fernando Ortega | Richard Frederick Littledale
© Public Domain Music: 2011 Kachitower Music

HOLY COMMUNION

*(All baptized and believing followers of our Lord Jesus Christ are invited to partake in Holy Communion regardless of denomination. It is our custom to use wine during communion. **If you prefer, you may receive grape juice** from the smaller chalices on the end of the serving lines. If it would not be authentic for you to receive Communion, you may remain in your seat and contemplate the prayers on the following page.)*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Leader continues in Eucharistic Prayer...

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (said together)

Our Father who art in Heaven

Hallowed be Thy name

Thy kingdom come

Thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses

As we forgive those

Who trespass against us

And lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil

For thine is the Kingdom

And the power and the glory

Forever and ever Amen

***Unable to come forward?** Please inform an usher to request that Communion be brought to you.
Gluten-free wafers available upon request.*

PRAYERS FOR THOSE NOT TAKING HOLY COMMUNION

The Church of The Apostles welcomes all Christians who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, to receive Holy Communion with us by coming forward to one of the communion stations at the front. If you are not able to receive Communion, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth.

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing and that leads to the life you promise. Thank you.

Prayer of Belief.

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Please come into my life through the power of your Holy Spirit. Thank you.

COMMUNION SONGS (Please join in singing during communion.)

A prayer team is available to pray with you at the back of the worship area.

Stronger

1 There is Love that came for us
Humbled to a sinner's cross
You broke my shame and sinfulness
You rose again victorious

2 Faithfulness none can deny
Through the storm and through the fire
There is truth that sets me free
Jesus Christ who lives in me

*You are stronger, You are stronger
Sin is broken, You have saved me
It is written, Christ is risen!
Jesus, You are Lord of all*

3 No beginning and no end
You're my hope and my defense
You came to seek and save the lost
You paid it all upon the cross

So let Your Name be lifted higher
Be lifted higher, Be lifted higher

©2007 Hillsong Publishing
Ben Fielding | Reuben Morgan

Here I Am To Worship

1 Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

*Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me*

2 King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

©2000 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)
Tim Hughes

Beautiful Things

*You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us*

All around
Hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos life is being found
In You

You make me new You are making me new
You make me new You are making me new

Lisa Gungor | Michael Gungor
©2009 worshiptogether.com songs

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (said together)

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May he whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and constant in love. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

1 Wonderful, merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men
Oh You rescue the souls of men

*You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh our hearts always hunger for*

2 Counselor, Comforter Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts
Have hopelessly lost the way
Oh we hopelessly lost the way

3 Almighty, infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh we're falling before Your throne

© 1989 Word Music, LLC/Dayspring Music, LLC
Dawn Rodgers / Eric Wyse

DISMISSAL

Leader: Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Notes

EXPLANATION OF THE ADVENT ARTWORK

The Annunciation of the birth of Jesus is depicted in the new banners that are hanging for Advent. A contemplative Mary and a dancing Gabriel figure are featured on the back banners along with a group of prayers called The "O" Antiphons, traditionally prayed during Advent. The front banners are made up of images of landscape helping us remember that we travel through this season of Advent toward the high Christmas celebration. The names of God found in the "O" Antiphons are repeated on the front banners for meditation during these four Sundays.

Welcome Visitors and Newcomers...

We are glad you are worshiping with us this morning. Below are a few ways that you can become more involved at Apostles. If you have questions this morning, you can fill out the yellow card under the chair in front of you.

Discovering Apostles Membership Class—This class includes teaching about Church of the Apostles and information about becoming a member of this church. Our next class will be held on Saturday, November 9 from 9am-12noon. *If you have any questions, please contact Marsha at 782-0550 x29 or marsha@apostles-raleigh.org.*

Join A Community Group—Are you interested in connecting deeper into the community here at Apostles? Do you desire to have relationships in the church that go deeper than surface level conversations? Join a Community Group! *Please contact Ford Jordan if you have any questions (ford@apostles-raleigh.org).*

The Pulse Email Newsletter—If you would like to receive our weekly email newsletter with updates and announcements about what is going on at Apostles, simply fill out the yellow card under the seat in front of you with your email and drop it in the offering basket.

PEARUSA eNewsletter You can sign up for email updates about PEARUSA, the church movement of which Apostles is a vital part. Simply go to www.pearusa.org/newsletter-sign-up and enter your email address.

ApostlesLink.org—Are you a member or involved in the life of Apostles? Join our new online communication tool: Apostles Link. *To get a login, email Julie at julie@apostles-raleigh.org.*

This Week @ Apostles

The following are some events taking place at Apostles. If you would like more info, please visit our website.

Sunday, December 1

Worship Services—8:30am & 11am

Monday, December 2

Women in the Word—7-9pm: Room 201

Tuesday, December 3

Women's Bible Study—12:30-2pm

Prayer—2-4pm: Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 4

GiG Women's Bible Study—9:30-11:30am

Advent Choirs—6-8:30pm

Thursday, December 5

Men's Fraternity—6:45am-8am

Saturday, December 7

Pageant Practice—9am-12noon

Greening the Church—1pm-4pm

Advent Choir

Greening the Church—Saturday, December 7 from 1-4pm

The Fellowship Team and the Flower Team invite you to be part of Greening the Church. On Saturday, December 7th, from 1pm until 4pm, we will decorate Christmas trees with lights and ornaments, hang and wrap garland, hang wreaths, place candles in the sanctuary windows, position garland around the edge of the stage, fluff bows, and much more. Please consider joining us for this event. We appreciate any time you have to serve on December 7th. *Contact Marsha Whyte (marsha@apostles-raleigh.org). No childcare is available for this event.*

Women's Christmas Tea - Wednesday, December 11 from 10:00-11:30am

During a time that is so special and yet also so hectic, we want to create some time to slow down, sip and savor this season with a bar of beverages and goodies at this year's Christmas Tea. We also want to share this delightful invitation with friends, family members, neighbors, co-workers outside the church. We will be selling 2 tickets for \$5 for this event (one for you and one for a guest) on Sundays 11/24, 12/1, 12/8. Childcare will be provided. *Questions? Contact Lauren Mann at laurenEmann@yahoo.com.*

Christmas Pageant—Sunday, December 8 at 10am

Lessons and Carols Service—Sunday, December 14 at 8:30am and 11am

Birthday Party for Jesus—Sunday, December 22 at 10am

Christmas Eve Services—December 24 at 3pm*, 5pm*, and 11pm (*Please note the new service times!)

Apostles Children's Ministry

Nursery—The lesson for this week is Exodus 14; God parts the Red Sea. The December memory verse is "For unto us, a child is born" Isaiah 9:6.

December Mission Focus—The mission focus this month will be Operation Christmas Child through Samaritan's Purse. If you still have boxes, you can take them to Trinity Baptist by tomorrow, Monday, November 25.

Kids Time—This week's lesson is: An Angel Shares God's Plan (Luke 1:26-33). Memory Verse is John 8:12. (#4 on the "Seeds of Faith" CD).

Sunday School—Children's Sunday School will start back after the new year.

Big Time—We have Big Time on the 1st and 3rd weeks of each month at both services. The Big Time Lesson is Romans 7:15. Memory Verse is John 8:12. (#4 on the "Seeds of Faith" CD).

Getting Connected at Apostles

Children's Sunday School—Sundays at 10am—For ages birth through 5th grade

Student Ministry Small Groups—Sundays at 6pm—Church of the Apostles—Contact curt@apostles-raleigh.org or kara@apostles-raleigh.org

The Vine—20s/30s Community—If you are in your 20s or 30s and looking for community at Apostles, please come and join us for the Vine Community Group every other Tuesday night as we study the book of James. We'll gather at the Jordan's house (702 E Hargett St) at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome. *Contact Ford for more information (ford@apostles-raleigh.org).*

Want to join a Community Group?—Contact ford@apostles-raleigh.org

Women's Ministry

<http://apostles-raleigh.org/womens-community-groups/>

Women's Retreat—February 7-9—
Blockade Runner, Wrightsville Beach—
Register online: <http://apostles-raleigh.org/womens-retreat/>

GIG (Growing in Grace) Bible Study—
Wednesdays | 9:30am-11:30am
If you would like to register, visit our website.
Contact Susan Blazier
at susanblazier@yahoo.com or 919-280-6302.

Muffins & More—2nd & 4th Mondays | 10am-11:30am
Contact: Sue Barclay (suebarclay@juno.com, 783-5043) or Cheryl Andrassy (candrassy@nc.rr.com, 781-4370). No childcare is provided.

Women in the Word—Mondays | 7pm-9pm
New study beginning Jan 6: Sheila Walsh's study, "The Shelter of God's Promises"
Contact Elizabeth Nichols
(enicholsslp@gmail.com or 266-1930)

"Breaking Free"* by Beth Moore—Tuesdays | 12:30-2:00 PM | Study of "Breaking Free" by Beth Moore (*newest updated version)
Contact Liz Rickner | eb2926@nc.rr.com | 919-301-8569

Men's Ministry

<http://apostles-raleigh.org/mens-community-groups/>

Blackwater Group—Thursdays | 7am-8am
Location: Ragsdale-Liggett Conference Room:
2840 Plaza Place, Suite 401, Raleigh 27612
Contact Eric Bolash | 919-368-5234 | eric@apostles-raleigh.org

Sleepy Heads—Wednesdays | 7:15am-8:15am
Location: Church of the Apostles, Room 201
Contact Ed Bailey | 919-832-7305
| bailey@redeagle-co.com

Men's Fraternity—Thursdays | 6:45am-8:00am
Location: Church of the Apostles, Room 204
Contact Barney Ford (608-239-8182 | cbf1945@gmail.com) & Bruce Berger (919-783-5900 | bruceberger@mac.com)

Band of Brothers Group—Wednesdays | 7am
Location: Panera Bread at Crabtree Mall
Contact Curt Blazier | curtblazier@gmail.com

Branch & Vine Relationship—Tuesdays | 7pm
Contact Frank Andrassy | 919-649-5480

Apostles Link Update

Please bring a new unwrapped toy for the Pride for Parents Christmas Store.

Pride for Parents is a ministry that provides new toys and clothes for local low-income parents to purchase at a reduced cost. Beginning next week, there will be a drop off box in the church lobby for your donation.

The Pride for Parents Store prefers to have small number of higher priced items, rather than many lower priced items. Feel free to purchase a gift with another family or with your Community Group, if desired. Educational, creative and non-violent gifts are great items to consider. If you'd like to buy a bike, consider making a cash donation designated for a bike so that all bikes available for sale can be the same (Checks can be made out to "The Encouraging Place" with "Pride For Parents" on the memo line). Please leave price tags on gifts to help facilitate store staff in pricing items.

We also need volunteers to help run the store on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from December 5-21. The Encouraging Place, one of our ministry partners, is helping bring back the Pride for Parents Christmas Store. *The volunteer coordinator is Spencer Daniel and she can be reached at pride4parents@gmail.com or leave a message at (888)526-7642.*

Apostles Student Ministry

December 1—10:00 Doughnuts and 11:00 The Deal

"The Deal" Student Worship in Youth Room

At 11:00am the first three Sundays of the month The Deal worship kicks off. This is a full blown worship experience designed to engage the mind and heart of junior and senior high students. This service not only employs technology, drama, and creativity, but is also designed and led by students.

Welcome to Church of the Apostles

We pray that you know God's presence as you worship with us today. The words to the songs and the order of service are printed in this bulletin.

Holy Communion is open to all who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Children are welcome to receive communion at their parent's discretion. It is our custom to use wine during communion. If you choose not to partake of the wine, you can receive grape juice from the smaller chalices on the end of the serving lines.

Please fill out a yellow Connection Card found under the seat in front of you. Then either place it in the offering basket, or, after the service, take it to the Connections Table for a complimentary gift bag. We invite you to use the card to inform us of any prayer requests or questions about Church or the Apostles.

Please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. While our members and regular attendees will be participating, we do not want you to feel that it is required of you. Thank you for joining us today.

Apostles Church Staff

Patrick Dominguez
Senior Pastor

Ford Jordan
Associate Pastor

Lee Hilts
Executive Director

Marsha Whyte
Administrative Assistant

Laynette Rustin
Financial Administrator

Cathy Williams
Nursery Coordinator

Eric Bolash
Associate Pastor

Curt Solomon
Director of Student Ministries

Jonathan Noël
Director of Music

Julie S. Barnes
Communications &
Building Administrator

Kara Smith
Assistant Director of Student
Ministries

Ashley Crutchfield
Raleigh Fellows Director

CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES

333 Church at North Hills Street
Raleigh, NC 27609

Phone: 919-782-0550 · Fax: 919-876-5890

Pastoral Care Emergencies: 919-283-2682

E-mail: info@apostles-raleigh.org

Website: www.apostles-raleigh.org