

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT • DECEMBER 22, 2013 • 11:00AM

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.

Angels From The Realms Of Glory

1 Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth

*Come and worship come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King*

2 Shepherds in the fields abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with man is now residing
Yonder shines the infant Light

3 Saints before the altar bending
Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord descending
In His temple shall appear

4 All creation join in praising
God the Father Spirit Son
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

At this time, children 4k-2nd grade are invited to go to Kids Time. Kids Time is a dynamic worship service that caters to younger children and prepares them to participate in the worship service. The children will return prior to Communion.

Your Name

1 As morning dawns and evening fades
You inspire songs of praise
That rise from earth to touch Your heart
And glorify Your name

*Your Name is a strong and mighty tower
Your Name is a shelter like no other
Your Name let the nations sing it louder
For nothing has the power to save
But Your Name*

2 Humbly to the earth You came
Born into this world to save
God with us Emmanuel
Now we adore Your Name

God with us Emmanuel
God with us Emmanuel
God with us Emmanuel
Now we adore Your Name

Glenn Packiam | Paul Baloche | ©2006 Integrity's Hosanna! Music
Vertical Worship Songs

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-17 (p. 488)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

Matthew 1:18-25 (p. 681)

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.

MESSAGE

Sermon Series:

Let Us Walk In The Light Of The Lord

“The God Who Was, Is, and Will Be ‘With Us’”

The Rev. Patrick Dominguez

(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.

Sermon Notes

THE APOSTLES CREED (said together)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth;

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.

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.

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

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Leader: Almighty God, your Son is the head of the Church: We ask you to bless your holy catholic Church.*

People: That she may continue to be the pillar and foundation of truth until we dwell with you.

Leader: Father, you sent your Son into this world to seek and save the lost: We pray for the mission of your Church.

People: That as the body of Christ, we might display your love and lead many to repentance.

Leader: Lord, you have established all authorities on this earth: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world.

People: That they may recognize you as the one true King.

Leader: Lord Jesus, for our sake you wore a crown of thorns and bore the cross: Have mercy on the poor, the sick, the oppressed, the prisoner and all who suffer.

People: Comfort them with your presence and remind them of the certain hope that you will return in glory and make all things new.

Leader: (You are invited now to add your intercessions, silently or aloud.)

Leader: Heavenly Father, hasten the coming of your Kingdom, and grant that we your servants who now live by faith may joyfully behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty. Amen.

**The term "holy catholic Church" refers to the Church worldwide.*

CONFESSION OF SIN (said together)

Leader: "Come near to God and he will come near to you....Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." (James 4:8,10)

Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

Most merciful God, we confess to you, before the whole company of heaven and one another, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed and in what we have failed to do. Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

Leader: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

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

People: And also with you.

WELCOME and OFFERING

When Love Came Down

1 When Love came down to earth
And made His home with men
The hopeless found a hope
The sinner found a friend
Not to the powerful
But to the poor He came
And humble hungry hearts
Were satisfied again

*What joy what peace has come to us
What hope what help what love*

2 When ev'ry unclean thought
And every sinful deed
Was scourged upon His back
And hammered through His feet
The innocent is cursed
The guilty are released
The punishment of God
On God has bought me peace

3 Come lay your heavy load
Down at the Master's feet
Your shame will be removed
Your joy will be complete
Come crucify your pride
And enter as a child
For those who bow down low
He'll lift up to His side

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Stuart Townend

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: Is the Father with us?

People: He is.

Leader: Is Christ among us?

People: He is.

Leader: Is the Spirit here?

People: He is.

Leader: This is our God.

People: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Leader: We are His people.

People: We are redeemed.

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.

Come And Stand Amazed You People

1 Come and stand amazed you people
See how God is reconciled
See His plans of love accomplished
See His gift this newborn child
See the mighty weak and tender
See the word who now is mute
The beloved whom we covet
In a state of low repute

2 See how humankind received Him
See Him wrapped in swaddling bands
Who as Lord of all creation
Rules the wind by His commands
See Him lying in a manger
Without sign of reasoning
Word of God to flesh surrendered
At whose birth the angels sing

3 O Lord Jesus God incarnate
Who assumed this humble form
Counsel me and let my wishes
To your perfect will conform
Light of life dispel my darkness
Let your frailty strengthen me
Let your meekness give me boldness
Let your burden set me free
Let your sadness give me gladness
Let your death be life for me

Dale Grotenhuis | Klaas Hart

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I Am The Bread Of Life

1 I am the Bread of life
You who come to Me shall not hunger
You who believe in Me shall not thirst
No one can come to Me
Unless the Father draw them

*And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up
And I will raise you up on the last day*

2 The bread that I will give
Is My flesh for the life of the world
And you who eat of this bread
You shall live forever, you shall live forever

3 I am the Resurrection, I am the Life
You who believe in me
Even if you die, you shall live forever.

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In Christ Alone

1 In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand

2 In Christ alone! who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
'Til on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live

3 There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Til He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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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.

Go Tell It On The Mountain

*Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born*

1 While shepherds kept their watching
Over silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth

3 Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

John W., Jr. Work © Words: Public Domain
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DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

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, January 18 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.*

The Ebenezer: Apostles' Blog—Would you like to hear stories about how the Lord is working in and through the people and ministries of Apostles? Check out our blog! www.apostles-raleigh.org/blog/

This Week @ Apostles

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

Sunday, December 22

Worship Services—8:30am & 11am
Birthday Party for Jesus—10-10:50am

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Services—3pm, 5pm & 11pm

December 25-December 27

Church Offices are Closed

Christmas Events and Information

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!) There will be a drama for the Christmas Eve message this year at all 3 services. Since it will not be a normal sermon, 3 year olds will be able to join their families in the service. Childcare will still be provided for children birth through 2 years old (Babybeams, Littlebeams, and Middlebeams). There will be no Sonbeams nursery.

Looking for a way to serve for Christmas?

We are still in search for 4 more people to serve in the nursery at the 5pm service on Christmas Eve. Thank you to those of you who have already filled the other needs! If you are looking for a way to serve on Christmas Eve and can work in the nursery during the 5pm service, please email cathy@apostles-raleigh.org.

Benevolence Offering on Christmas Eve

We will be taking up an "above and beyond" offering at our Christmas Eve services for the Benevolence Ministry here at Apostles. Our Benevolence Ministry serves and supports people in our church family and outside of our church family. In the past year Apostles has been able to help people with rent assistance, utility bills, food, and counseling.

Apostles Children's Ministry

Nursery—The lesson for this week is Luke 2:8-20; Shepherds at the stable. The December memory verse is "For unto us, a child is born" Isaiah 9:6.

December Mission Focus—Operation Christmas Child – Children can still place their offerings/contributions to the Light House in the Kids Time room which will help the boxes get to children around the world.

Kids Time—This week's lesson is: "Tell Others About Jesus" and the text is Luke 2:8-20. Our memory verse is John 8:12 (#4 on the "Seeds of Faith" CD).

Sunday School—The 4 year olds through 3rd grade report to the Kids Time room. 4th-5th go to room 208. Children's Sunday School will begin again on January 12.

Big Time—We have Big Time on the 1st and 3rd weeks of each month at both services. There is not Big Time this week. Memory Verse is 1st Corinthians 16: 13-14 (#10 on the "Seeds of Courage" CD).

Getting Involved at Apostles

Children's Sunday School—Sundays at 10am—For ages birth through 5th grade—Begins again January 19

Adult Sunday School—Sundays at 10am—Begins again January 19

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—Contact 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 | Begins again January 13
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 |
Begins again January 13
Contact Prissy Stufflebeam (prissyst@nc.rr.com, 876-0429) or 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 | Begins again January 14
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

December Financial Update

July 1, 2013-December 19, 2013

Budgeted contributions	\$816,880
Actual contributions	\$719,606

This leaves us \$97,274 behind in what we expected to have received this first six months of our fiscal year. We continue to keep our expenses down, but please lift up our finances in prayer as a large part of our budget is received in the month of December.

End of Year Statement Information

You can now monitor your financial giving. Simply log in to Apostles Link. At the top right, below your name, click on "Go to my profile". At your profile page, click on the "Financial" tab where you can see your most recent history and even print a giving statement.

Apostles Student Ministry

"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

Robin Floch
Director of Children's Ministry

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

Megan Gilcrest
Fellows Intern

CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES

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