

2 TIMOTHY 4:8B

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT › DECEMBER 7, 2014

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 Long Expected Jesus

1 Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley | Rowland H. Prichard This arrangement by Fernando Ortega © 2008 Curb Songs | Cerdo Verdo Music Fernando Ortega

Oh Our Lord

*Oh our Lord
Oh our Lord
How majestic is Your Name in all the earth*

1 We behold the breaking dawn
The light that shines over ev'ryone
We look to You we long for You oh Lord

2 We behold the rising sun
The earth awakes Your hope has come
We look to You we long for You oh Lord

3 We behold the falling rain
Like waters rise flood this place
We reach for You we cling to You oh Lord

Oh Your Name is a light in the darkness
Oh Your Name is the word of truth
Oh Your Name! Oh Your Name!

David Leonard | Leslie Jordan | Paul Baloche
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Integrity's Praise! Music | Leadworship Songs

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Psalm 85

1 Lord, Your heart in love has yearned
On Your lost and fallen land;
Isr'el's race is homeward turned,
You have freed Your captive band:
*You have borne Your people's sin,
Covered all their deeds of ill;
All Your wrath is gathered in,
And Your burning anger still.*

2 Will You not in mercy turn?
Turn, and be our life again,
That Your people's heart may burn
With the gladness of Your reign.
*Show us now Your tender love;
Your salvation, Lord, impart;
I the voice divine would prove,
List'ning in my silent heart:*

3 List'ning what the Lord will say,
"Peace" to all that own His will:"
To His saints that love His way,
"Peace," and "turn no more to ill."
*You that fear Him, now at hand
Now salvation health you find,
That the glory in our land,
As of old, may dwell enshrined.*

4 Mercy now and justice meet,
Peace and truth kiss and embrace;
Faith from earth is springing sweet,
Justice looks from her high place.
*Nor will God His goodness stay,
Nor our land her bounteous store:
Marking out her Maker's way,
Righteousness shall go before.*

Trinity Psalter (Modernized) | Eric Bolash
©2005 Eric Bolash Music

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

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11 (p. 511)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

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

People: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

Mark 1:1-8 (p. 707)

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.

MESSAGE Sermon Series: All Who Love His Appearing

"Good News for Bad Times"

The Rev. Patrick Dominguez

(There is a 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.

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.

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: Father, we pray for the ministry of Jobs for Life in our city.

People: Show your power in every Jobs for Life class, so that those seeking work will find employment and know the truth of their identity in Christ.

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: Father, hear us now as we bring our own needs before you.
(You are invited to offer 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 phrase "holy catholic Church" means the Church worldwide.*

CONFESSION OF SIN (said together)

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.

*The absolution of sin is to be pronounced by a priest who symbolically stands in the authority of God to forgive the sins of those who truly repent (Matthew 16:19, John 20:23).

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

People: And also with you.

WELCOME and OFFERING

Glory Revealed

A voice cries in the wilderness
Prepare the way of the Lord
And make straight in the desert
A highway for our God

And ev'ry valley will be raised
And ev'ry mountain be made low
And the ground it will be level
And the rough places smooth

*And then we will see
The glory of the Lord
All eyes will see
The glory of the Lord revealed
O the glory of our Lord revealed*

Go up to a high mountain
Lift up your voice with strength
Saying, "See your God;
Behold He comes with power!"

Imana

*Imana Ishimwe**

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Candi Pearson-Shelton

*Means "God be praised" in Kinyarwanda

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.

Just As I Am

1 Just as I am without one plea
But that Thy Blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee
O Lamb of God I come I come

2 Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot
To Thee Whose Blood can cleanse each spot
O Lamb of God I come I come

Charlotte Elliott | William Batchelder Bradbury
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Here Is Love

1 Here is love, vast as the ocean
Loving kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life our Ransom
Shed for us His precious blood
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He will never be forgotten
Throughout Heav'n's eternal days.

*Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He will never be forgotten,
Throughout Heav'n's eternal days.*

2 On the mount of crucifixion
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers
Poured incessant from above,
Heaven's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

No love is higher, No love is wider
No love is deeper, No love is truer

3 Let me all Thy love accepting
Love Thee, ever all my days;
Let me seek Thy kingdom only
And my life be to Thy praise;
Thou alone shalt be my glory,
Nothing in the world I see.
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me
Thou Thyself hast set me free.

William Rees/Robert Lowry/Matt Redman
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Forever Reign

1 You are good, You are good
When there's nothing good in me
You are love, You are love
On display for all to see
You are light, You are light
When the darkness closes in
You are hope, You are hope
You have covered all my sin

2 You are peace, You are peace
When my fear is crippling
You are true, You are true
Even in my wandering
You are joy, You are joy
You're the reason that I sing
You are life, You are life
In You death has lost its sting

*(Oh) I'm running to Your arms
I'm running to Your arms
The riches of Your love will always be enough
Nothing compares to Your embrace
Light of the world forever reign*

3 You are more, You are more
Than my words will ever say
You are Lord, You are Lord
All creation will proclaim
You are here, You are here
In Your presence I'm made whole
You are God, You are God
Of all else I'm letting go

My heart will sing no other Name
Jesus, Jesus

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Jason Ingram | Reuben Morgan

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.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost
Amen

Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken
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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. Our next class will be held January 10 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 Lee Hilts (lee@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 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 at Apostles

The following are some events taking place at Apostles. For more info, please visit our website.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Worship Services—8:30am & 11:00am

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

Muffins & More (Women)—10-11:30am: 208
Women in the Word (Women)—7-9pm: 201

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Prayer—1-3pm: Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Sleepyheads (Men)—7:15-8:15am: 208
Women's Christmas Tea—10-11:30: FH
Leadership Council—7-9pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

Men's Fraternity (Men)—6:00-8:00am
Advent Choir Practice—6-8pm: Sanctuary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Advent Choir Practice—9am-12noon: Sanctuary

PRIDE FOR PARENTS ADVENT/CHRISTMAS MISSION

DONATE: Please bring a new, unwrapped toy or article of clothing 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. There is a drop off box in the church lobby for your donation. We will collect through next Sunday, December 14.

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. Educational, creative, and non-violent gifts are great items to consider. If you'd like to buy a bike, please get one that is size 16" to 20". You can also simply donate money by writing checks to "The Encouraging Place" with "Pride For Parents" on the memo line (please do *not* make checks out to Church of the Apostles). Please leave price tags on gifts to help facilitate store staff in pricing items.

VOLUNTEER: We also need volunteers to help run the store on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from December 8-20. 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 919-438-0727.*

Apostles Children's Ministry

KidsTime—Join us in celebrating Advent! This week we're learning about how God can do the Impossible, and how the Lord blesses Zacharias and Elizabeth with a son (Luke 1).

BigTime- Join us in celebrating Advent! This week we're learning about how God can do the Impossible, and how the Lord blesses Zacharias and Elizabeth with a son (Luke 1).

Sunday School is in recess for December. We will resume January 18.

The Christmas Art Show is NEXT SUNDAY at 10am! We would love for your child to contribute something! Please make sure it is labelled with their name and dropped off at the church by **Wednesday, December 10.**

Children's Ministry Newsletter—This once/month newsletter has all the lessons for the month, upcoming dates to note, important announcements, and encouragement for child discipleship in your home. Don't receive it? *Email robin@apostles-raleigh.org to be added to the list.*

Christmas Eve Services

Our Christmas Eve Services will be held on December 24 at 3pm, 5pm and 11pm. Our family services will be at 3pm and 5pm and our 11pm service is our traditional candlelight service. Last year our bigger service was the 5pm service. Please consider coming to the 3pm or 11pm service this year to help make room for visitors at the 5pm service.

There will be a drama for the Christmas Eve message this year at all 3 services so 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.

Poinsettia Dedications for Christmas Eve

We will be decorating the Sanctuary with poinsettias for the Advent & Christmas Season. If you would like to give one in honor or in memory of someone, please make a check out for \$10 to Church of the Apostles with "Poinsettias" in the memo line. Then email Julie (julie@apostles-raleigh.org) with (1) "in honor of" or "in memory of", (2) the person's name, and (3) who is giving the gift. The list of dedications will be in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Women's Christmas Tea—This Wednesday, December 10

Join us for a sweet time to enjoy the season at the Women's Christmas Tea this Wednesday, December 10th from 10:00-11:30am. Our talented Taylor Leonhardt will be playing live music, we will have delicious food, warm beverages and a short message from Linda Lupien. Women of the church are invited to attend and extend an invitation to a friend, neighbor, co-worker or family member who is not connected with church. Child care is provided and invitations are available in the foyer. We are accepting food donations as well as \$5 donations to help cover costs. *Contact laurenEmann@yahoo.com with questions.*

Sara Groves Christmas Concert—December 14

On Sunday, December 14 at 7pm, Church of the Apostles will host 7-time Dove Award nominated Christian musical artist Sara Groves. The concert will take place in the Sanctuary here at Church of the Apostles. Our own Jonathan and Amanda Noël will also be playing a few of their songs.

We have a set amount of tickets for families and guests of Church of the Apostles and Holy Trinity Church, but this concert is also open to the general public, so buy your tickets now!

Tickets are on sale on our website: <http://apostles-raleigh.org/calendar/>

Celebration for Curt Solomon—Save the Date: December 22

As Curt Solomon has moved from serving as the Director of Student Ministries for over 10 years, to his new(ish) role as Assistant Pastor, we want to celebrate his time serving the students at Apostles. Former students, current students, families of former/current students, and former/current Student Ministry volunteers, please stop by for an open house on Monday, December 22, from 4-7pm at Bonnie McAdams' house (700 Marlowe Road). If you have contact with former students, please let them know these plans!

Apostles Student Ministry

Today

—Join us for the last "Deal" of 2014 at 11:00am in the youth room!

—There is no youth 10:00 hour—all youth and families are invited to attend the outreach meeting in the sanctuary at 10am.

Tonight

—Middle schoolers- CHRISTMAS PARTY 5:30-7pm this Sunday at COTA! Come wearing your best Christmas attire!

—High school small groups meet as usual!

Craft Fair—December 14th—Please contact Kara if you have a project you would like to submit something.

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 and place it in the offering basket when it comes around. We invite you to use the card to inform us of any prayer requests or questions about Church of 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

Chris Hendricks
Director of Student Ministries

Lee Hilts
Executive Director

Kara Smith
Assistant Director of Student
Ministries

Laynette Rustin
Financial Administrator

Julie Rossetti
Children's Ministry Assistant

Eric Bolash
Associate Pastor

Curt Solomon
Assistant Pastor

Robin Floch
Director of Children's Ministry

Jonathan Noël
Director of Music

Julie Barnes
Communications &
Building Administrator

Marsha Whyte
Administrative Assistant

Ashley Crutchfield
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