

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT • DECEMBER 8, 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.

Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates

1 Lift up your heads you mighty gates
Behold the King of glory waits
The King of kings is drawing near
The Savior of the world is here

2 O blest the land the city blest
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed
O happy hearts and happy homes
To whom this King of triumph comes

3 Fling wide the portals of your heart
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'ns employ
Adorned with prayer and love and joy

4 Redeemer come we open wide
Our hearts to Thee here Lord abide
Thine inner presence let us feel
Thy grace and love in us reveal

Catherine Winkworth | Georg Weisell | T. Williams (Truro)
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King Of Heaven

1 Jesus let Your kingdom come here
Let Your will be done here in us
Jesus there is no one greater
We need You more than ever
Show the world Your love

*King of heaven come down
King of heaven come now
Let Your glory reign
Shining like the day
King of heaven come*

2 We are children of Your mercy
Rescued for Your glory
We cry Jesus set our hearts towards You
That ev'ry eye would see You lifted high

*King of heaven come down
King of heaven come now
Let Your glory reign
Shining like the day
King of heaven come
King of heaven rise up
Who can stand against us
You are strong to save in Your mighty name
King of heaven come*

King of heaven come
King of heaven come

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Paul Baloche | Jason Ingram

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 main worship service. The children will return prior to Communion.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 / O Come O Come Emmanuel

*Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!*
**May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!**

*Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!*
**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!**

1 O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

*Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel*

*May they fear you while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!*
**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!**

*In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!*

2 O come thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go (*refrain*)

*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.*
**Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his glory!
Amen and Amen!**

3 O come thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight (*refrain*)

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SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10 (p. 491-492)

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 3:1-12 (p. 682)

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.

MESSAGE

Sermon Series:

Let Us Walk In The Light Of The Lord

"Up From the Stump"

The Rev. Patrick Dominguez

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

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

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!"

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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.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand
Ponder nothing earthly minded
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth
Our full homage to demand

2 King of kings yet born of Mary
As of old earth He stood
Lord of lords in human vesture
In the body and the blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away

4 At His feet the six-winged seraph
Cherubim with sleepless eye
Veil their faces to His presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry
Alleluia alleluia
Alleluia Lord Most High

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How Deep The Father's Love For Us

1 How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

2 Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

3 I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

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Jesus Messiah

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names

Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel

The Rescue for sinners

The Ransom from heaven

Jesus Messiah, Lord of all

All our hope is in You

All our hope is in You

All the glory to You God

The Light of the world

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Chris Tomlin | Daniel Carson | Ed Cash | Jesse Reeves

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.

How Great Is Your Faithfulness

1 Now unto the King who reigns over all

And never changes or turns

Unfailing justice unfading grace

Whose promises remain

Yes Your promises remain

The heavens ring

The saints all sing

Great is Your faithfulness

From age to age we will proclaim

Great is Your faithfulness

How great is Your faithfulness

2 Ev'rything changes but You stay the same

Your Word and kingdom endure

We lean on the promise of all that You are

And trust forevermore

We will trust forevermore

Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman

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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 8

Worship Services—8:30am & 11am
Christmas Pageant—10-10:50am

Tuesday, December 10

Prayer—2-4pm: Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 11

Women's Christmas Tea—10-11:30am

Thursday, December 12

Men's Fraternity—6:45am-8am

Holiday Events

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. This Sunday, Dec 8 is the last chance to buy tickets - 2 tickets for \$5 for this event (one for you and one for a guest). Childcare will be provided. *Questions? Contact Lauren Mann at laurenEmann@yahoo.com.*

Poinsettias

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@apostles-raleigh.org with (1) "in honor of" or "in memory of", (2) the person's name, and (3) who is giving the gift.

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!)

Looking for a way to serve for Christmas? This year we will be having two services with childcare instead of just one. Consider serving in the nursery on Christmas Eve at either the 3:00 or 5:00 service. In the past, some families have served in one service and attended the other one together. *Email cathy@apostles-raleigh.org if you are interested.*

Apostles Children's Ministry

Nursery—The lesson for this week is Luke 1: John is born. 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: "Listen Carefully and Obey" the story of Joseph from Matthew 1:18-25. 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

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—This Sunday night, December 8th, the Vine Community will gather for its monthly 2nd Sunday Supper and for the annual *White Elephant Christmas Party & Gift Exchange*. Please join us at the Jordan's house (702 E Hargett St) at 7pm for all of the festivities, food & fellowship. We'll provide dinner. You just bring your favorite Christmas cookie / treat to share as well as a wrapped gift for the white elephant exchange (not to exceed \$20 in value).

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
Contact Prissy Stufflebeam (prissy@nc.rr.com, 876-0429) or Elizabeth Nichols (enicholssl@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

Financial Update

July 1, 2013—December 2, 2013

Budgeted contributions	\$696,880
Actual contributions	\$620,240

This leaves us \$76,639 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.

Apostles Student Ministry

December 7: Christmas tree delivery

December 8: The DEAL 11am

December 8: Small groups meet at normal times

Christmas Trees are on sale now! You can order them on Sunday mornings or place the order through Apostles' website. *The last day to order trees is Tuesday, December 3!*

"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 &
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Kara Smith
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