**The bulletin cover art,** *For Those in Darkness,* by Lauren Wright Pittman, is used by permission from *A Sanctified Art*.

**Leading and supporting worship today:**

Preacher: Brandon Melton Liturgists: Lisa Hebacker, Judy Dove

Usher Captain: David Sharer Director of Music: Terri Nicotera

Acolyte: Charles Barlow Organist: Ju Hyun Kim

Sound Technician: Chuck Nicotera Elder in Charge: John Minor

Chancel Guild: Stacy Askew Prayer Deacon: Stacy Askew

Advent Wreath: Nifty Sixties Group Children’s Church: Krista Allen, Alena Freer

*\*All who are able, please stand.  
Please silence all electronic devices***.**

NRPC NEWS and EVENTS

**Anniversaries:** Jamie & Ed Gordon, 12/13

**Birthdays:** Caroline Allen, 12/11; Linda May, 12/11;  
Margaret Spransy, 12/11; Doug Durbin, 12/12; Sarah Bales, 12/13;   
Jon Wenge, 12/13

**NRPC Advent celebration** is tonight in the sanctuary with the Christmas Pageant and beautiful music from the NRPC Orchestra. Immediately following, dinner will be served by the Men of NRPC in the Faith Ministries Building followed by the Pie Auction.

**TShirt Sales** We will be taking orders for new NRPC tshirts every Sunday during December. Short Sleeve shirts will be $10 and Long Sleeve tshirts are $14.00. Add $2 for XXL. Stop by our table and place your order! Shirts will be ready in January.  
  
**Cover-to-Cover** We invite the entire congregation to read the bible cover-to-cover in 2019 as a sign of our commitment to GROW in our faith and love God with all our hearts, minds, and lives. We will begin this journey on December 31, 2018, and we invite you to follow Eugene Peterson's reading plan in *The Daily Message*. If you wish to purchase a copy for $23, please email [office@nraleighpc.org](mailto:office@nraleighpc.org) by Dec 13. Copies of the reading plan are available as you enter the Narthex or as a link in the enews.

**Consecration Sunday update-** Thank you to those that have returned your commitment cards. To date we have received 94 pledges (out of 165-member families), totaling $331,606. If you have not provided your commitment card for 2019 please place it in the offering plate or return to the church office. Cards are available in the Narthex.

**End of Year Giving** Please note that all year end contributions must be received in the Church Office by 5:00 PM on December 31, 2018 or postmarked by December 31, 2018 to be claimed as a 2018 donation.

THIS WEEK AT NRPC

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday 12/9 | 8:45 AM-9:15 AM  9:15 AM-10:15 AM  10:30 AM  4:30 PM | Youth Bells (S)  Sunday School (F)  Worship (S)  Christmas Pageant (S)  and Advent Dinner (F) |
| Monday 12/10 | 6:30 PM | Fellowship with Books (O) |
| Tuesday 12/11 | 10:30 AM  1:15 PM  7:00 PM | Tuesday Morning Bible Study (L)  Staff Meeting (A)  Adult Bells (S) |
| Wednesday 12/12 | 6:00 PM  6:00 PM  7:00 PM | Finance Committee (A)  Advent Bible Study (F)  Adult Choir (S) |
| Thursday 12/13 | 10:00 AM | Women’s Spirituality (F) |
| Friday 12/14 | 7:15 AM – 8:00 AM  6:00 PM | Men’s Bible Study (L)  Parent’s Night Out (F) |
| Saturday 12/15 |  |  |
| Sunday 12/16 | 9:15 AM-10:15 AM  10:30 AM  5:30 PM | Sunday School (M)  Worship (S)  Youth Group (O) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Locations Legend: | |
| F=Faith Ministries Building  L=Library  A=Admin Office  P=Pastor Office  E=Educator Office | S=Sanctuary; N=Narthex  T1, T2=East Trailer  T3, T4=Southwest Trailer  T5, T6=Northwest Trailer  M=Multiple locations |

*Ministers:* All the Congregation

*Pastor:* Lisa Hebacker LisaHebacker@nraleighpc.org

*Director of CE:* Brandon Melton BrandonMelton@nraleighpc.org

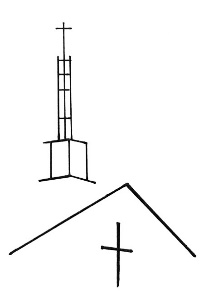
*Director of Music*: Terri Nicotera TerriNicotera@msn.com

*Church Organist*: Ju Hyun Kim [Kim](mailto:kimjuhyun81@gmail.com)juhyun81@gmail.com

*Office:* Caroline Parker Office@nraleighpc.org

We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

CCLI # 2043894



**North Raleigh**

**Presbyterian Church**

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

11905 Strickland Rd

Raleigh, NC 27613

919-848-9529

northraleighpc.org

**We extend a warm welcome to our guests!**

We are glad that you are worshipping with us.

Please visit our table in the Narthex that we may extend to you a personal welcome from the people of   
North Raleigh Presbyterian Church.

Childcare is available in the nursery

located in the Faith Ministries Building.

Children’s bulletins and Bibles   
are located at the back of the sanctuary,  
as are hearing assistance devices and large print bulletins.

*The mission of North Raleigh Presbyterian Church is to be a*

*welcoming community serving Jesus Christ through*

*engaged discipleship.*



**GATHERING**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please find the Friendship Pad   
and pass it down the pew so all may sign.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP adapted by Frances Brienen

God of promise, we live in a wilderness of strident voices and deafening silences. As we wait for the land of promise, teach us the ways of new living, lead us to where we hear your word most clearly, renew us and clear out the wastelands of our lives, prepare us for life in the awareness of Christ’s coming, when the desert will sing and the wilderness will blossom as the rose. Amen.

PRELUDE *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* K. McChesney

Youth Bells

*As the acolyte processes with the light,  
we welcome the presence of Jesus Christ, light of the world,  
 into our worship.*

**\***CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

One: We gather because we are waiting.

**All: We are waiting for the coming of Christ anew.**

One: We work because we are waiting.

**All: We are waiting for a world of love and justice.**

One: With all the faithful of every time and place   
we bear witness to the light of Christ:

**All: With Zechariah, whose tongue was loosened in praise,   
we sing a song of blessing,   
for the God of Israel has visited us  
and brought our liberation near.**

One: We light this candle as a sign of the promise that God is always with us.

One: We light this candle as a sign of the promise that God has delivered us from fear.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

One: We worship because we are waiting.

**All: We are waiting for God, whose glory is about to be revealed.**

One: Let us worship God!

**\*HYMN 82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*\*All who are able, please stand.  
Please silence all electronic devices***.**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Following the Call to Confession   
please observe a moment of silent confession.

O Lord, you have blessed us and looked favorably upon us. Forgive us when we live as if we are not redeemed. Move us to trust in you, our mighty savior. O Lord, you have shown us mercy and remembered your covenant. Forgive us when we are merciless and faithless. Move us to serve you without fear, in holiness and righteousness. Have mercy on us, O God. By your grace, forgive us our sins. By your light, deliver us from darkness. By your Holy Spirit, guide us in the way of peace. Amen.

\*DECLARATION OF GOOD NEWS

One: Friends, in the name of Jesus Christ,   
we are loved and accepted, forgiven and freed!

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**\*THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

One: Please share the peace of Christ with your neighbors.

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (refrain only)

Glo-ria in excelsis Deo!   
Glo-ria in excelsis Deo!

**PROCLAIMING**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Malachi 3:1-4

**ANTHEM** Comfort YeMichael Barrett  
 Youth Choir

**GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 1:68-79 **SHARING THE FAITH WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH**

*Preschool-1st grade may remain in worship**or attend Children’s Church.*

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 1:68-79   
  
 SERMON *Zechariah*

\*HYMN 109 *Blest Be the God of Israel*Verse 1 choir, Verse 2-3 all

ResponDING

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *A Brief Statement of Faith,* 11.4

We trust in God the Holy Spirit. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all people to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

**INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* arr*.* Paul Manz

\*DOXOLOGY

**Laud and honor to the Father; Laud and honor to the Son;**

**Laud and honor to the Spirit; Ever three and ever One.**

**One in might and one in glory, while unending ages run.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SENDING

\*HYMN 106 *Prepare, the Way, O Zion*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

**POSTLUDE** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* arr.Robert Lau   
As the acolyte recesses with the light,   
we affirm that Jesus Christ,   
the light of the world, leads us out for discipleship.

**CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

**✠ ✠ ✠**