



seeking
sanctuary

Fourth Sunday of Advent

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | CHILDREN'S NATIVITY

Sunday, December 19

*All are invited to sing during the congregational songs in worship!
We ask that you please **wear a mask at all times while indoors** out of an abundance of caution
and out of respect for the health and safety of all people joining us for worship.*

Prelude

"Fantasy on 'Hyfrydol'"
GBC Handbell Choir

by Hall H. Hopson

Welcome

April Alston

✠ Call to Worship

One: We are seeking —

All: deeper faith, a place to belong, the feeling that God is here in this room.

One: We are seeking —

**All: joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit,
a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.**

One: We are seeking —

**All: the freedom to be, the courage to love,
the conviction to act in the face of injustice.**

One: We are seeking, but here in this space,

All: We are found.

One: Take a deep breath. This is our sanctuary.

All: God is here. We are here. Let us find refuge in the love of God. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Mary Fran Perkinson
and Cathy Perkinson

Children's Nativity

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

Sylvia Cash

Carol 262

"Away in a Manger"
Stanzas 1 and 3

The Angels

Luke 2:8-14

Carol 278

"Angels We Have Heard on High"
Stanzas 1 and 3

The Shepherds

Luke 2:15-20

Carol 265

"The First Noel"
Stanzas 1 and 2

The Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-12

Carol 288

"We Three Kings"
Stanzas 1 and 5

Musical Reflection

“Close to Home”
Christian McIvor

Words and Music by
Christian McIvor ©2021

After all that we've been through,
We're homesick for the world we knew but wanting more.
Help us know what's good and true –
That in our hearts, O God, it's you we're longing for.
As we seek to build your kin-dom far and near,
Give us hope that lets us know that you're still here,
Close to home, close to home.

Help us now prepare a place
In us, O God, for you a space to break right through.
In our action and our word,
May your great love be felt and heard and all made new.
As we lay a strong foundation on your way,
Give us peace that lets us know you always stay
Close to home, close to home.

Help us always make the choice
To cry out loud and be the voice that welcomes all.
Let us show the whole world how
To create change, 'cause here and now is where we're called.
We will work for justice and equality,
Give us joy that for our neighbors we might be
Close to home, close to home.

Help us set your Spirit free,
In your abundance, let us be your open arms;
Shelter from the endless storm,
A refuge where all might stay warm and safe from harm.
Let us be a sanctuary of your grace,
Give us love that we might always make this place
Close to home, close to home.

Missions Moment

Laura Nelson

✠ Offertory Hymn 255

“Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming”

ES IST EIN' ROS';
Traditional German Carol

† Doxology

"Doxology for Advent"

VENI EMMANUEL;
Words by Thomas Ken,
Plainsong Melody adapt. Thomas Helmore

Em G C D⁷ G D G C G

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

5 Am Bm⁷ Em Am Em B⁷ Em A⁷ D Em

here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D⁷ G D Em Bm G

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15 C D⁷ Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Prayer of Dedication

Carla LeNoir

Anthem

"All Praise to Thee"
GBC Choir

by Elaine Hagenberg

All praise to Thee, eternal God,
Who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,
Dost take a manger for Thy throne,
While worlds on worlds are Thine alone.

Alleluia, alleluia...

Thou comest in the darksome night
To make us children of the light,
To make us in the realms divine,
Like Thine own angels, round Thee shine.

Alleluia, alleluia...

A little Child, Thou art our Guest
That weary ones in Thee may rest;
Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth,
That we may rise to heaven from earth.

Alleluia, alleluia...

Amen.

Meditation

"Seeking Sanctuary"

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Silent Reflection

Pastoral Prayer

Anna Beth Cross

Invitation

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

† Hymn of Response 256

"Love Has Come!"

CRANHAM;
Words by Christina Rossett
Music by Gustav Holst

Celebrating Community

Anna Beth Cross

Benediction

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

As you leave this service, your service begins:
Comfort the homesick.
Open your doors to others.
Seek sanctuary.
Be brave enough to go home by another way.
And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon.
In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son—
go in peace.

Postlude

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”
GBC Handbell Choir

arr. Brian Middleton

This week's mission offering benefits InterAct of Wake County. InterAct is a shelter and support system for victims of domestic violence and abuse in Wake County. InterAct saves lives, rebuilds lives, and secures safer futures for victims and survivors and their families. Our offerings of items for the moms and babies they serve will help those **Seeking Sanctuary** find safe and secure temporary homes as they begin to heal and rebuild their lives.

Christmas Eve's mission offering benefits Together For Hope. Together for Hope is a CBF missions initiative that serves the poorest counties in our nation, six of them being here in NC. Focusing on rural development and Asset Based Community Development, Together for Hope helps rebuild and strengthen communities from within in an effort to end endemic poverty. Through our monetary offerings the field personnel and their community partners will work together to make sure that all are **Invited Home**. **What to Bring:** money (cash or checks made to Greystone)

Next Sunday's mission offering benefits Healthcare Workers at WakeMed. Throughout the last 22 months our healthcare workers have worked tirelessly to respond to the Covid pandemic. They have spent countless hours away from family pulling extra shifts to treat the sick and quarantining to keep their own families safe. On this day, the Sunday after Christmas, our Greystone family traditionally gathers for donuts & coffee. Instead, our offering will go to provide the same for these healthcare workers. The gift cards collected will be distributed at WakeMed in an effort to say thank you, spread some Christmas cheer and as a prayer that these workers are able to stay **Close to Home** this Christmas. **What to Bring:** \$5 gift cards for coffee/donut places.

*Thank you to Cranberry Tree Farms for their gracious donation of wreaths
and for the beautiful Chrismon trees in the Sanctuary.*

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Greystone Prayers and Praises

- Birth of Thayer Richard McIvor, 12/1/21, to parents Christian and Chrissy, sisters Juliette and River
- Gwen Baine
- Charlotte Davis
- Duane Long
- Cathy Smith
- Chris Allen
- Carl Dawson's sister-in-law, Jo Dawson
- Sandra Hunt's father, Lloyd Parrish
- Joy Croom Griffin's husband, Ray Griffin
- Sylvia Cash's brother-in-law, Billy Walker
- Sylvia Cash's friend, Peggy Vaughan
- Sylvia Cash's friend, Juanita Luna
- Emily Tuttle's family on the death of her grandfather, David Forrest, 11/25/21
- John Vestal's family on the death of his sister-in-law, Kim Radwick, 11/22/21
- Deanna Choplin's family on the recent death of her cousin, Vic Thompson
- David Alston's family on the death of his great nephew, J. J. Ferguson, 11/22/21

Residential Health Care Facilities / Long Term Care

- Springmoor (SHC): Greta McMillan
- Sunrise at North Hills: Martha Castleberry, Sharon Wertz

Connect:

Church Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 PM (M-Th) | Phone: (919) 847-1333 | Email: office@greystonechurch.org

Website: www.greystonechurch.org | Facebook: @greystonebaptistchurch | Instagram: @greystonechurch



*With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones,
where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God's love
by word and deed to all people.*

Based on 1 Peter 2:5, 6