



FROM  
GENERATION  
TO GENERATION...  
*We can choose a better way*

## Cover Art: “The Courageous Choice”

by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Matthew 1:18-25 | Silk painting with digital drawing and collage

When Joseph learns that his engagement has turned into a scandal, he decides to dismiss Mary quietly. While this choice may seem like a compassionate one, it's also a passive choice, one with little cost to Joseph but great consequences for Mary. As an unmarried mother, she and her child would be incredibly vulnerable, shunned by society, perhaps cut off from family support and resources. This choice means Joseph's reputation remains unharmed while pregnant Mary will live on with mounting shame and threats cast upon her.

While Joseph is thinking about all of this, perhaps deliberating about how he will delicately manage the social perceptions of this unexpected turn in his life, an angel comes to him in his dreams. What I find most interesting is that the angel doesn't command Joseph; instead he simply says, “Don't be afraid.” He essentially says: “Don't be afraid of the social stigma. Don't be afraid to become a parent through adoption. Don't be afraid to experience a love greater than you have ever known. Don't be afraid to make the courageous choice, the one that will not only change your life, but the lives of Mary and Jesus and so many generations who will come after you.”

In this image, I've captured Joseph in the liminal space where his dreams will soon shape his reality. He rests his head on a folded blanket, which represents the woven tapestry of his ancestors who also made difficult choices for good. Gold interconnecting lines, like the roots and branches of a family tree, envelop him, symbolizing the beautiful web of regeneration that will come from his courage.

As we reflect on the Christmas story through Joseph's experience, may we, too, have the courage to choose a better way.

—Lisle Gwynn Garrity

*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*

# The Worship of God

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

### Gathering Music

### Welcome

Anna Beth Cross

### ✠ Opening Carol 259      “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

**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:**

Refrain:

**Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing; yonder shines the Infant Light:** (refrain)

**Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen His natal star:** (refrain)

**Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending in His temple shall appear:** (refrain)

**Tho’ an infant now we view Him, He will share His Father’s throne;  
Gather all the nations to Him; every knee shall then bow down:** (refrain)

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

Julie Green, Cynthia Griesedieck,  
Lilly Moody, Mia Ng

### Children’s Sermon

April Alston

### Family Dedication

The Andrew Family

### Pastoral Prayer

Anna Beth Cross

✠ *Please rise in body or spirit.*

*As our offertory anthem is sung, please feel free to place your offering in the plates on either side of the center aisle in the back of the sanctuary, or you can also give online by scanning the QR code on the back of this worship bulletin.*

## **Offertory Anthem**

**"A Star"**  
GBC Choir

from *The Seven Noels*  
by Pepper Choplin

A star, rising in the east, a messenger of holy peace.  
A star, shining o'er the earth; the herald of a royal birth.  
Upon the darkness shines a light,  
and from the Lord there comes a sign.  
Behold, a virgin shall conceive  
and bear a son, and shall call his name "Emmanuel"!

A star of heavenly design, revealing hope to humankind.  
A star, a witness of his care, the answer to the ancient prayer.  
For unto us a child is born,  
for unto us a Son is given.  
The government shall be upon His shoulder.  
He shall be called "Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God,  
the Everlasting Father, the Everlasting Father, the Everlasting Father,  
the Prince of Peace."

A star, shining through the night, illumining  
the Way, the Truth, the Life.

## **✠ Doxology for Advent**

VENI EMMANUEL;  
Words by Thomas Ken, 15th Century French Melody

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

## **Prayer of Dedication**

Cathy Perkinson

## **Scripture Reading**

Matthew 1:18-25

Ramona Taylor

## **Sermon**

*"We Can Choose a Better Way"*

Chrissy Williamson

## Silent Reflection

### Invitation

Chrissy Williamson

### † Musical Response

“Joseph Was Troubled”

BUNESSAN;

Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette,

Traditional Gaelic Melody, arr. Tom Fetteke

Joseph was troubled by what he knew!  
Mary was pregnant; what should he do?  
He wanted justice — not to cause shame.  
He would dismiss her, placing no blame.

Joseph was sleeping; that night he dreamed.  
Nothing was really as it had seemed.  
"Don't be afraid — make Mary your wife.  
God has a plan for your baby's life."

Hearing that message, Joseph obeyed,  
Seeing a new path God's love had made.  
He stood by Mary, waiting that birth,  
Seeing God's Son there — Savior of earth!

God, when our troubles seem far too great,  
Help us to listen, wonder and wait;  
Sometimes the world is not as it seems.  
Give us your vision; give us your dreams.

### Celebrating Community

Chrissy Williamson

### Benediction

### Postlude

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Tim Hendrix

arr. Alice Jordan

## A Time of Dedication



### Logan John Andrew

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Romans 15:13

We welcome to Greystone this morning Logan John Andrew, son of Luke and Blair, and brother to Laurel. Through this dedication, the family pledges to raise Logan in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and Greystone pledges our support in their efforts so that when Logan reaches an appropriate age he may choose for himself to follow Jesus Christ as Lord.

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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by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

We are blessed for all the gifts and pledges we have received so far this year! As we strive to once again finish the year strong in support of our programs and missions opportunities, we wanted to make you aware that we have set up two Sundays as Catch-up Sundays. These dates are November 13 and December 11. We also wanted to make you aware of several ways of giving to Greystone.

**Give by Cash:**

- Offering plate during Sunday service or the drop box on the wall outside of the church office

**Give by Check:**

- Offering plate during Sunday service or the drop box on the wall outside of the church office
- MAIL TO: secured mailbox:

Greystone Baptist Church  
7474 Creedmoor Rd. Box 302  
Raleigh, NC 27613

**Stock, Mutual Fund, or other Investment Instrument:**

- Investments should be electronically transferred from your brokerage firm direct to Greystone's account with Morgan Stanley.
- Contact the Financial Secretary ([Finance@greystonechurch.org](mailto:Finance@greystonechurch.org)), or the church office for the information your broker will need to initiate the transfer to Greystone.
- Contact the Financial Secretary to notify them of your gift. They will need to know the investment and amount transferred so they can be prepared to update your contribution record and send a confirmation letter of the gift once it is received.

**Auto-Debit from your financial institution, which was submitted on a pledge card. Initiated by and maintained by Greystone Financial Secretary:**

- Changes noted on pledge card: Auto-Debit will be automatically updated by the Financial Secretary. The new pledge amount will begin in January.
- Any other changes to your auto-debit amount: Notify the Financial Secretary.

**Recurring contribution YOU have set up through Greystone's online giving using Vanco / ACS:**

- Giver is responsible to update: Login to your Vanco/ACS account to update your recurring amount, or to make an additional gift.

**Recurring contribution YOU have set up through a Bill Pay system at your Financial Institution:**

- Giver is responsible to update: Login to your Financial Institution online banking/Bill Pay account to update your recurring amount, or to make an additional gift.

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