

Greystone Staff

Chrissy Tatum Williamson, Senior Pastor
April Alston, Associate Minister, Children and Preschool
Anna Beth Cross, Associate Minister, Students and Digital Discipleship
Christian McIvor, Minister of Worship, Music, and the Arts
Pam Phillips, Weekly Preschool Director
Steve Rose, Property Manager
Annette Variano, Administrative Assistant

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With Us:



Office Hours.: 8:30-4:30 PM (M-Th) | Ph: (919) 847-1333 | Email: office@greystonechurch.org
Website: www.greystonechurch.org | Facebook: [@greystonebaptistchurch](https://www.facebook.com/greystonebaptistchurch) | Instagram: [@greystonechurch](https://www.instagram.com/greystonechurch)
Greystone Baptist Church | 7509 Lead Mine Road, Raleigh, NC 27615



How does a
weary world
rejoice? *We sing stories
of hope*

Greystone Prayers and Praises

- Linda Hollingsworth
- Ramona Taylor
- Chris Allen
- Amy Davis' father, Mack Thorpe
- Amy Davis' mother, Brenda Paschal
- Susan Burnette's friend, Debbie Strader
- Eldred Lindsey, Katie Lindsey's mother
- Joe LeNoir III's grandmother-in-law, Gleena Bright
- Rosemary Stevens' sister
- Greystone friend, Annabel Settle
- Natalie Herrmann's family on the death of her Mother, Lois Pfeifer, 12/1/23
- Marlene Adams' family on the death of her brother, Lonnie Boyd, 12/6/23
- Ben Mallard's family on the death of his grandmother, Genora Mallard, 12/6/23
- Chris Austin's family on the death of his father, James Austin, 12/11/23

Join us in celebrating the birth of
Avery Elaine Hollingsworth
November 30, 2023
daughter to Michael and Lindsey, sister to Preston

We pray for all those suffering from the devastation of war, terror, and violence.

Residential Health Care Facilities / Long Term Care

- Calyx Living, Fuquay-Varina: John Clark
- Springmoor (SHC): Joan Hobson, Debbie Reynolds, Dorothy Rutledge
- Sunrise at North Hills: Sharon Wertz

Minister On-Call: Christian McIvor, Phone: (919) 817-8975

*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

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

Pastoral Prayer

Steve Rose

Invitation

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

† Musical Response 279

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

W ZLOBIE LEZY;
Traditional Polish Carol

**Infant holy, Infant lowly, for His bed—a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, Noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ, the Babe, is lord of all! Christ the Babe, is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story— tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ, the Babe, was born for you! Christ, the Babe, was born for you!**

Celebrating Community

Christian McIvor

Benediction

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Postlude

“Sing We Now of Christmas”
Pam Weis

Traditional French Melody
arr. Jason W. Krug

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The Worship of God

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gathering Music

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God
(Song of Mary)”

MORNING SONG;
Words by Miriam Therese Winter,
Music from Wyeth’s *Repository of Sacred Music*

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

FRENCH CAROL;
Traditional French Carol, arr. Tom Fettke

“There’s a Star in the East
(Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow)”

FOLLOW;
Black Spiritual

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout
(Canticle of the Turning)”

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN;
Words by Rory Cooney, Irish Melody

Prelude

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella/
When Blossoms Flowered Mid the Snows”
Cynthia Griesedieck

arr. Liz Story

Welcome

Anna Beth Cross

Call to Worship

One: How does a weary world rejoice?

All: We sing songs of hope.

We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.

We tell the stories of what could be.

We listen for God’s word.

We resist the temptation to give up or give in.

We remember Mary’s song.

We gather for worship.

We hope.

We hope.

Against all odds, we hope.

One: Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making.

Let us worship holy god.

One: How does a weary world rejoice?

How do we give peace and love a voice?

How do we find joy in suffering?

In grateful hope, together we will sing.

† Please rise in body or spirit.

† **Opening Carol 286**

“Once in Royal David’s City”

IRBY; Words by Cecil F. Alexander,
Music by Henry J. Gauntlett

Once in royal David’s city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall.
With the poor, and mean, and lowly
Lived on ear, our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood’s pattern;
Day by day like us He grew.
He was little, weak, and helpless;
Tears and smiles like us He knew.
And He qeeleth for our sadness,
And He swarth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him
Thro’ His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav’n above.
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

*During the last stanza of our Opening Carol,
all children are invited to come forward for today’s children’s sermon.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Taylor Family

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus

Luke 2:1, 3-7

Cathy Perkinson

Carol 262, Stanzas 1 and 3

“Away in a Manger”

The Angels

Luke 2:8-14

Aaron Ng

Carol 278, Stanzas 1 and 3 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

The Shepherds

Luke 2:15-20

Laura Nelson

Carol 265, Stanzas 1 and 2

“The First Noel”

The Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-12

Lou Dawson

Carol 288, Stanzas 1 and 5

“We Three Kings”

Pastoral Prayer

Steve Rose

Offertory Carol 249

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him— born the king of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him— Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; Sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye bright hosts of heav’n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

(Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given:
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

(Refrain)

† **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**

Michael-David Rowe

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:46-55

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Sermon

“Songs of Hope”

April Alston