

# First Reformed Church of Cary

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

Allison Wattenbarger, Guest Speaker

Dr. Loñieta Cornwall, Music Director

## The Gathering

Prelude

Congregational Concerns

Votum

Introit

*"While We Are Waiting, Come!"*

Chancel Choir

Lighting of the Advent Candle

## The Approach to God

### **\*Invitation to Worship**

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me.

**He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners.**

He has sent me to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion.

**They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.**

### **\*Opening Prayer**

**Holy God, we come before you this morning to celebrate your faithfulness to us and anticipate the redemption that is yet to come. Teach us to remember your steadfastness and your love that we might worship you with full and hopeful hearts as we await your coming again. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise #101**

*“This Is My Father’s World”*

**Call to Confession**

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. As we come before you, turn our hearts to repentance and greet us with mercy.**

**Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Beloved, it is true: Christ has sacrificed himself for us and our sins. In him we are washed clean. May the Father fill you with the Spirit to seek and do Christ’s will. Amen.

**\*Gloria Patri #546**

*“Glory Be to the Father”*

### **The Word of God**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture** Psalm 126

**\*Hymn** *“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”* Insert

**Scripture** Luke 1:46b-55

**Sermon** *“A God Who Does Great Things”*

### **Our Response to God**

**\*Confession of Faith** Apostles’ Creed (Page 12 Hymnal)

***We are and will continue to be a community that loves and worships God in the Reformed tradition for the purpose of actively caring for those in need around us.***

## **Reception of Gifts & Offerings**

**Ministry of Music**    *“He Has Done Great Things for Me”*  
Chancel Choir

**\*Doxology #544**        *“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

**\*Offertory Prayer**

**Congregational Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn #113**                                *“My Soul with Expectation”*

**\*Benediction/Response**  
*“While We Are Waiting, Come!”* Chancel Choir

**\*Postlude**

\*Those that are able please stand

We are pleased to welcome back Allison Wattenbarger. Allison is a third-year M.Div. student at Duke Divinity School. She grew up in Philadelphia; studied English at the University of Pennsylvania, and worked in Vancouver, B.C. before beginning at Duke. Allison has spent time in missions work in Tunisia, Italy, and Palestine, and is currently under care with the City Classis of the RCA.