

First Reformed Church of Cary

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

Rev. George Van Arnam, Minister
Dr. Loñieta Cornwall, Music Director

The Gathering

Prelude

Hand Bell Ensemble

Congregational Concerns

Votum

Introit

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

Chancel Choir

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Approach to God

***Call to Worship**

May our souls magnify God.

May our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.

God gives rest from all that afflicts us.

God goes with us wherever we go.

This is the God of mysteries, of prophecies and promises.

**This is the God who lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry
with good things.**

May our souls magnify God.

May our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.

***Unison Prayer**

**God of justice and joy, we gather together in your name to
proclaim the good news of your presence among us. Where
there is oppression, we will speak a word of your liberating
love. Where there is sorrow, we will sing a song of your
healing love. Where there is fear, doubt or confusion, we will
shine the light of Jesus Christ, your incarnate love, in whose
name we pray. Amen.**

***Hymn of Praise #174**

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, although we want to be a people of justice, we are too comfortable with the way things are. Although we want to stand with the oppressed, we find it easier to stay in our comfortable seats. Although we want to rejoice in the coming of Jesus, our busy schedules prevent us. Forgive our reluctance to enter wholeheartedly into the good news of your incarnation. Heal our pride, our need to be in control, our acceptance of the status quo. Transform our lives into a garden where justice and joy grow in abundance. Amen

Silent Confession

Unison Words of Assurance

Mary said to the angel, *“How can this be?”* The angel said, *“Do not be afraid... nothing is impossible with God.”* In God’s boundless love we are forgiven. Amen.

***Gloria Patri #546**

“Glory Be to the Father”

The Word of God

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Jeremiah 31:10-14

***Hymn** *“What Wondrous Love Is This”* Insert

Scripture 1 John 5:7-12

Sermon *“Varieties of Love”*

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 *“What Child Is This?”*
Mandy Shafer, Flautist

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

***Offertory Prayer**

Congregational Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

***Closing Hymn #159** *“What Child Is This?”*

***Benediction** *“While We Are Waiting, Come”*

***Postlude**

*Those that are able please stand