



Common Thread

December 10, 2023 9:15AM

The prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist call through the ages:
"Prepare the way of the Lord!" This second Sunday of Advent
we gather to do just that. Welcome.



Song – Song of Hope

All things bright and beautiful You are. All things wise and wonderful You are.
In my darkest night, You brighten up the skies. A song will rise.

I will sing a song of hope; sing along, "God of heaven, come down, heaven come down."
Just to know that You are near is enough. God of heaven, come down, heaven come down, yeah.

All things new, I can start again; Creator God, calling me Your friend.
Sing praise, my soul, to the Maker of the skies. A song will rise.

I will sing a song of hope; sing along, "God of heaven, come down, heaven come down."
Just to know that You are near is enough. God of heaven, come down, heaven come down.
Oh, sing a song of hope; sing along, "God of heaven, come down, heaven come down."
Just to know that You are near is enough. God of heaven, come down, heaven come down.
Hallelujah, sing. Hallelujah, sing, sing. Oh, hallelujah, sing.

Women: Sing a song of hope; sing along, "God of heaven, come down, heaven come down."
All: Just to know that You are near is enough. God of heaven, come down, heaven come down.
Oh, sing a song of hope; sing along, "God of heaven, come down, heaven come down."
Just to know that You are near is enough. God of heaven, come down, heaven come down, yeah.

Robbie Seay, Taylor Johnson, Ryan Owens, Chase Jenkins, Tedd Tjornhorn & Dan Hamilton
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Welcome & Announcements

Advent Reading

Paulo, Leticia, Victor & Sofia DeOliveira

Leader: In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1).

Leader: We light the first two candles as symbols of Christ our Hope and Christ our Peace. May the Word sent from God through the prophets lead us to the way of salvation.

ALL: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Children's Message

Prayer Time & Lord's Prayer

(Prayer cards are available to share your joys and concerns and may be placed in the prayer box by the door, or you may email them to prayerrequests@stjamesraleigh.org, where they will then be shared with our Prayer Chain.)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Song – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Words by Charles Wesley, Music by Rowland H. Prichard; arr. Don Chapman ©2004 Hearts to God. CCLI# 1374588

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 40: 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.
A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers; the flower fades, [when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.
The grass withers; the flower fades,] but the word of our God will stand forever.
Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"
See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Message

Pastor Dan Baer

Song – Let It Rise

Let the glory of the Lord rise among us, let the glory of the Lord rise among us.
Let the praises of the King rise among us, let it rise.

Let the songs of the Lord rise among us, let the songs of the Lord rise among us.
Let the joy of the King rise among us, let it rise.
Oh, let it rise. Oh, let it rise.

Let the glory of the Lord rise among us, let the glory of the Lord rise among us.
Let the praises of the King rise among us, let it rise.

Let the songs of the Lord rise among us, let the songs of the Lord rise among us.
Let the joy of the King rise among us, let it rise.
Oh, let it rise. Oh, let it rise. Let it rise, let it rise.

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Benediction

Sharing Offerings

Out to Discipleship, and Into the World to Serve

Today's Greeters: William & Dawn Robertson

Today's Sound Operator: Matoka Snuggs

Today's PowerPoint Operator: Tucker Thorpe

Next Week's Greeters: Chris, Lori, Holli & Lilli Bradley

Next Week's Sound/PowerPoint Operator: Paulo DeOliveira

We have a nursery available for infants through age 4. An usher will be glad to direct you. We always welcome children of all ages to join us in worship, and Worship Activity Bags are available at the entrance if your child would like one.

*If you are visiting us today, welcome! Please take a moment to fill out a visitor card, (found on the worship table), and return it to the offering basket or one of the greeters.
Thank you for worshipping with us at St. James today!*



Scan this code to give your offering online!

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rev. Dan Baer, Lead Pastor..... | dan@stjamesraleigh.org |
| Martha Brown, Office Manager..... | office@stjamesraleigh.org |
| LaTonia Tyner & Brenda Smith, Finance Office — Onsite Tuesdays only..... | finance@stjamesraleigh.org |
| Wanda Ramm, Music Director..... | music@stjamesraleigh.org |
| Jeff Bottoms, Organist/Accompanist..... | music@stjamesraleigh.org |
| Sue King, Assistant Organist..... | sue@stjamesraleigh.org |
| Bailey Martin, Youth Director..... | youth@stjamesraleigh.org |

Church Office & Food Pantry Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Church Office: 919-876-5796

Pastor's Cell: 919-801-1647

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| Church Website..... | www.stjamesraleigh.org |
| Church Office Administration email..... | office@stjamesraleigh.org |
| Children's Ministries email..... | kidsmin@stjamesraleigh.org |
| Prayer Requests email..... | prayerrequests@stjamesraleigh.org |

What to know this week...

Calendar this week:

TODAY, 12/10: Common Thread contemporary worship, 9:15AM in Carson Hall
Discipleship Hour, 10AM throughout church campus
Sanctuary traditional worship, 11AM in the Sanctuary
Johnson Music Recital, 2PM in Carson Hall (private)
***Kids Club/Youth Caroling, meet 3pm in Carson Hall**
Congregational Care, 4PM in Room 12
NA, 7PM in Saints Hall

Mon, 12/11 Acts Bible Study, 10:30AM in Room 12
Raleigh STE Open Help Workshop, 1PM in Room 12
GS Troop 4331, 6:30PM in Montague Hall

Tues, 12/12 Library Committee, 9AM in the Library
Staff Meeting, 10:30AM in the Office
GS Troop 733, 6PM in Montague Hall

Wed, 12/13 **Mary Brown Meeting & Luncheon, 10AM in Carson Hall**
Christmas Cantata Rehearsal, 6:30PM in the Music Room
Choir Rehearsal, 7PM in the Music Room/Sanctuary

Thurs, 12/14 New Hope Strummers, 6:15PM in the Music Room
CT Band, 7PM in Carson Hall

Sat, 12/16 GS Troop 1042, 10AM in Montague Hall
Liturgical Dance Practice, 10AM in Saints Hall

Sun, 12/17 Common Thread contemporary worship, 9:15AM in Carson Hall
Discipleship Hour, 10AM throughout church campus
Christmas Cantata - Sanctuary traditional worship, 11AM in the Sanctuary
Youth Christmas Party, 4PM in Montague Hall
NA, 7PM in Saints Hall

Today's Food Pantry discussion originally scheduled for 12PM has been postponed. More information will be provided later.

Please join the Kids Club/Youth as they go out caroling to our homebound members THIS EVENING! Meet at 3PM in the church lobby, and after we finish, we'll return to Carson Hall for cookies & cocoa! All members of the church are invited to come participate!

Christmas Cantata next Sunday: Please join us at 11AM Sanctuary Worship next week (December 17) for the choir's presentation of A Weary World Rejoices, a Christmas cantata. Listen with wonder as the choir brings the glow of Christmas hope alive through music and song!

There are still a couple of Angels left on our Angel Tree! This year we are aiding children in foster care and at Wilburn Elementary. Please sign out your angel on the clipboard under the tree, shop for the requested gift item, and return your presents wrapped with the angel or number attached to St. James by December 17. Thanks for playing Santa to some hopeful, underprivileged children!

Raleigh SeniorTechEd: If you need help with any tech devices or apps, drop by Room 12 tomorrow (December 11) at 1PM to get some help from Raleigh SeniorTechEd. Their Open Help Workshop is an opportunity to drop by – no registration necessary – and get answers to your questions.

Are you looking for a relaxing way to focus on the meaning of Christmas? Don't forget that there are many Advent and Christmas books for all ages available in the Ann Bridgers Library. Stop by and check out some for your holiday reading!

Advent devotionals still available! This year's Advent devotional booklet is *The Gift of the Present*, provided by Society of St. Andrew. It is available today in both worship centers and the counter of the Welcome Center. You can access a digital copy here: [2023 Advent-Booklet.pdf](#) or email Martha to send you a link. We have a limited number of copies available, so please limit one per family.

The **Christmas Post Office** is open and ready for business in the church lobby! Feel free to drop off Christmas cards to other church members in the designated alphabetical slots, and don't forget to check to see if you have holiday mail! We're accepting donations for cards not picked up by Christmas Eve that will need to be mailed: just place donations in the cardinal box. Thanks!



- 12/10 Kids Club/Youth Caroling to Homebound members - followed by cocoa & cookies, meet 3PM in church lobby - All are welcome to join us!
- 12/17: All Angel tree presents returned to church!
- 12/17 Sanctuary Choir Cantata: *A Weary World Rejoices* 11AM in worship
- 12/17 Youth Christmas Party: Your Favorite Things, 3PM in Montague Hall
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Morning worship, including Kids/Youth Skit, 10AM in Carson Hall
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:
 - Common Thread Candlelight Service, 5PM in Carson Hall
 - Sanctuary Worship Candlelight Service, 7PM in Sanctuary
- 12/31 Combined 5th Sunday Worship: Lessons & Carols, 10AM in Sanctuary