



Carrollton Presbyterian Church

A Heart In The City

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022
11:00 AM



PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

We welcome you to Carrollton Presbyterian Church. Let the Musical Meditation be a call to reverent silence in which all may become aware of God's presence.

CENTERING MOMENT

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

MUSICAL MEDITATIONS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Pitts, Redner, & Williams

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

OPENING SENTENCES

Greg Stewart

Rejoice in the Lord; again, rejoice!
Be gentle to all: the Lord is near!

PRELUDE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Lewis H. Redner

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Preston Family

What brings you joy?

Sand between my toes, mountain air

What brings you joy?

Laughter of loved ones, working in the earth

What brings you joy?

Looking at the stars, lingering around the table after a meal

Today we light the candle of joy. May its light remind us of all the good news this season brings.

May its light remind us of the many sources of joy in our lives, and may that joy
not only draw us closer to one another, but closer to God.

*HYMN

Come Sing, O Church in Joy!

GTG # 305

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

Without fail, God wiggles into the cracks of our lives, and we are made better for it. So with that confidence, let us join together in our prayer of confession.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious,
to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt.
A million times a day we could choose the better way, but so often we don't.
Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel.
Comparison and critique lead the charge.
Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph.
Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood.
Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.
Give us the courage to love even bigger than before,
and the wisdom to choose a better way.
Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

Family of Faith, hear this good news: We who have chosen wrong, are given a second chance. We who have lost our way, are welcomed into community. We who feel alone, are seen, held and known. No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way, God continues to be a God of second chances, community and love.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

Just as we have been forgiven in Christ, let us forgive and be at peace with one another.
The peace of our Lord be with you.
And also with you!
Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

*GLORIA PATRI

GTG # 581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end! A-men. A—men*

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN

(All children are invited to come forward for a conversation with Pastor Kate)

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Greg Stewart

READING FROM THE PROPHETS

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

Isaiah 35:1-10
Pew Bible OT Page # 663

Greg Stewart

ANTHEM

Advent Noel

Patrick M. Liebergen

GOSPEL READING

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Matthew 1:18-25
Pew Bible NT Page # 1

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

SERMON

Generation to Generation:
We Can Choose a Better Way

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

GTG # 129

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who offers second chances and does not hold grudges.
We believe in a God who opens the door to new life and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost.
We believe in a God who believes in us - believes that we can make a difference, that we can choose grace over comparison, love over hate, peace over war.
And so we strive to live our lives in love. We strive to listen as Joseph listened, and to be the people that God calls us to be.
It's all that easy, and it's all that hard. This we believe. Amen.

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

God has told us what is good; and what does the Lord require? To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. Let us offer the gifts of our live and our labors.

Greg Stewart

OFFERTORY

My Soul In Stillness Waits
(You are invited to bring your offering to the plate on the Communion Table)

*THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

GTG # 606

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

FOLLOWING GOD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN

O For A World

GTG # 372

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

*POSTLUDE

We Three Kings of Orient Are
The livestream does not end until the conclusion of the Postlude.
Please refrain from talking until after the Postlude.

John Henry Hopkins, Jr.

* You are invited to stand, if able

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

<u>Interim Pastor:</u>	Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes
<u>Liturgist:</u>	Greg Stewart
<u>Music Director:</u>	Julie Lowry
<u>Organist:</u>	Bryant Hand
<u>Pianist:</u>	Leslie Goldsmith
<u>Musical Meditations:</u>	Don Rice
<u>Virtual Worship Technicians:</u>	Keith and Robin Ellison, Steven Gross, Jared Price, & Jane Taylor
<u>Ushers:</u>	Andy & Mary Anne Taylor

Carrollton Presbyterian Church

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December Elder on Call

Julie Chibbaro

Phone: 404-788-8352

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Liturgy by:

Rev. Sarah Are Speed from A Sanctified Art: From Generation to Generation

Bulletin Cover Photo:

The Courageous Choice by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity