

ANNOUNCEMENTS www.allgather.org/calendar

IFC: Join us for this special opportunity to serve others at the IFC kitchen on Christmas day 9:30-12. For more information contact Sheana Funkhouser, sheanafunkhouser@gmail.com or 919-593-0695

Creekside Christmas: Thank you to all that contributed! We were able to give 63 Walmart gift cards to our Creekside community.

Christmas Eve Service: Join us at 6pm for our Christmas Eve Service here at Creekside.

No Sunday Service: Please note that there will be no Sunday service Dec 27th. Enjoy your time with family and friends. We will see you in the new year! Services will begin again Sunday Jan 3rd 2016.

WAYS TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Tithes and offerings can be placed in the black box on the back table, given electronically online through your banks Bill Pay service (sent to the church address, see below), by Dwolla or Paypal. For questions, contact Sheana Funkhouser, sheanafunkhouser@gmail.com

INFORMATION & CONNECTING

To find out more about the Gathering Church, or to connect, please fill out a card on the back table and place it in the black box.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

<u>END OF YEAR FINANCIAL GOAL</u>	<u>GIVING THROUGH NOVEMBER</u>	<u>REMAINING GOAL</u>
\$391,000	\$252,000	\$101,000

CHURCH STAFF

Mark Acuff – Lead Pastor (mark@allgather.org)
Jeff Crawford – Music Director (jeff@allgather.org)
Lindsay Rogers – Kids' Ministry Director (lindsaybrogers@gmail.com)
Matthew Greg – Youth Director (matthew@allgather.org)
Emily Faison – Administrative Assistant (emily@allgather.org)

CHAIR OF LEADERSHIP TEAM

Bill Funkhouser (bill_funkhouser@med.unc.edu)

www.allgather.org | facebook.com/allgather | @allgather | @markacuff

Church office at Hamilton Centre: 1415 W NC54 Ste. 114, Durham, NC 27707
p – 919.797.2884, f – 919.908.1171

December 20, 2015

Luke 1:39-56



Magnificat – Jan Richardson

ADVENT III : PEACE

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found

-Isaac Watts

WELCOME TO THIS WORSHIP SERVICE OF THE GATHERING CHURCH

Whether you come today as a skeptic, seeker, or believer, our hope is that you will sense the welcome of God, the love of others, and the opportunity to join Jesus Christ in sharing the grace of God with all people.

GOD WITH US

INGRAM/JORDAN

Well You've come to bring peace, To be love, to be nearer to us; Well You've come to bring life, To be light to shine brighter in us Oh Emmanuel God with us	Well You've come to be hope To be a shield for Your honor and name Well You've come to take sin, To bear shame, and to conquer the grave Oh Emmanuel God with us
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Our deliverer, You are Savior In Your presence we find our strength Over everything, our redemption God with us You are God with us	You are here, you are holy, We are standing in your glory
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Written by Jason Ingram & Leslie Jordan © 2012 Integrity's Praise! Music CCLI # 6460237

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

KING JOHN/WADE

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	O come, let us adore him Christ the Lord Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above Glory to God, all glory in the highest
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**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,**

Lyrics by John Francis Wade (1751) and by King John IV of Portugal (Public Domain)

COMMUNION

Each Sunday, we remember that we only find life in Jesus, through the love he demonstrated by his death on the cross. So, bringing nothing, we come and receive his grace in the Bread and the Cup that he offers to those who follow him.

PRAYER

If you would like to have someone pray for you or for any other need, you will find Prayer Team members at the back of the gym who will gladly pray with you.

I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

LONGFELLOW/MARKS

I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old familiar carols play And wild and sweet the words repeat Of peace on earth, good will to men	And in despair I bowed my head There is no peace on earth, I said For hate is strong and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men
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I thought how, as the day had come The belfries of all Christendom Had rolled along the unbroken song Of peace on earth, good will to men	Then pealed the bells more loud and deep God is not dead, nor doth he sleep The wrong shall fail, the right prevail With peace on earth, good will to men
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Music by Johnny Marks (1956) Lyrics "Christmas Bells" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1863)

JOY TO THE WORLD

WATTS/MASON

Joy to the World , the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.	No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.
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Joy to the World, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.	He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders, of His love.
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Lyrics by Isaac Watts (1719) Music by Lowell Mason (1839) (Public Domain)

IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon a midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth, goodwill to men
From heavens all gracious King!
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world

Music – "Carol" Richard Willis (1850) Lyrics – "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" Edmund Sears (1849)

WILLIS/SEARS

Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing

O ye beneath life's crushing load
Whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing
Oh rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN/YOUTH AND GREETING ONE ANOTHER

Children and Youth are dismissed to participate in their various classes. As they leave, meet and welcome those around you, especially those you might not know. Feel free to fill in the front and center areas.

NOTES

WELCOME

LUKE 1:39-56

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark, the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark, the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see

WESLEY/MENDELSSOHN

Hail the incarnate deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark, the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace
Hail the Son of Righteousness
Light and life to all he brings
Ris'n with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark, the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Written by Charles Wesley (Lyrics) 1739 and Felix Mendelssohn (Music) 1840 (Public Domain)

CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight
And my weakness you did not spurn
So from east to west shall my name be blest
Could the world be about to turn?

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of you justice burn
Wipe away all the tears
For the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn**

Though I am small, my God, my all
You work great things in me
And your mercy will last
From the depths of the past
To the end of the age to be

HOPSON/COONEY

Your very name puts the proud to shame
And to those who would for you yearn
You will show your might,
Put the strong to flight
For the world is about to turn.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower
Not a stone will be left on stone
Let the king beware for your justice tears
Ev'ry tyrant from his throne
The hungry, poor shall weep no more
For the food they can never earn
These are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed
For the world is about to turn

Though the nations rage from age to age
We remember who holds us fast
God's mercy must deliver us
From the conqueror's crushing grasp
This saving word that our forebears heard
Is the promise which holds us bound
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God
Who is turning the world around

Written by Hal Hopson and Rory Cooney (based on Irish Traditional) ©2005 Birnamwood Publications/GIA Publications

CCLI# 380042