



Let the Little Children Come by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

WORSHIP SERVICE
MARCH 15, 2026
4TH SUNDAY IN LENT
614 Griffis Street, Cary, NC 27511
www.carypresbyterian.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP – 10:30 A.M.

Gathering

(* Please stand as you are able.)

Gathering Chime

Prelude

Prelude in B Minor

Chopin

Welcome and Announcements

*Introit

Just As I Am, without One Plea (v. 2)

No. 442

*Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*Call to Worship

God loves the field mouse.

God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.

God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

God loves the child who rocks and claps.

God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.

God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

**God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens,
standing strong over all of us.**

God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

There is no bit of creation that God does not love.

So let us worship this good-news God!

Amen.

*Hymn

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

No. 182

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.

God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.

Fortunately for all of us, God also said,

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."

By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings, we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.

May this good news change our lives!

Amen.

Silent Confession

Kyrie

Lord Have Mercy Upon Us

Arr. Johnson

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the Kyrie. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody starts with a whole rest, followed by a quarter rest, and then a series of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy up - on us." are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes: C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3. The lyrics "Christ, have mer - cy up - on us." are written below. The third staff concludes the phrase with quarter notes: C3, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2, D2, C2. The lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy up - on us." are written below. The piece ends with a double bar line.

CCLI# 3015474

Assurance of Pardon

***Response**

Let Us Return to the Lord

Come, let us re - turn to the Lord.
You who are torn, God will heal you; you who are
crushed, God will bind you up.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff contains the melody for 'Come, let us re - turn to the Lord.' The second staff continues with 'You who are torn, God will heal you; you who are'. The third staff concludes with 'crushed, God will bind you up.' The notes are simple, using quarter and half notes with stems.

Prayer for Illumination

Suzie Steger

Scripture Reading

Matthew 19:13-15

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 24:17-22

Message

*Protection and Care for the Vulnerable
Tell Me Something Good*

Alan Bancroft

HymnSee the Precious Children*

Strickland/White



See the pre-cious chil-dren seat-ed on the lap of Christ our Lord
See the pre-cious wi-dowed wo-men glean-ing har-vests from the field
See the pre-cious for-eign stran-gers as they car-ry all they own
See the pre-cious dis-poss-essed ones ask-ing for some food to eat
See the pre-cious world im-pov-erished by our ma-lice and our greed



Called the great-est in the king-dom, held so gent-ly and a-dored They
Then re-turn-ing to their kit-chen to pre-pare their dai-ly meal They
To a land that's full of dan-gers for the pow-er-less and prone They
Sleep-ing un-der star-ry heav-ens, dai-ly liv-ing on the streets They
Hu-mans, a-ni-mals, and pla-net cry-ing out for some re-lief We're



are pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ti-ny toe In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who holds their bro-ken hearts In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who made their home-land, too In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who loves them as a child In their
all pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ho-ly thing In our



weak-ness they're held by love as each day they learn and grow
sor-row they're held by love that re-deems each fra-gile part
jour-ney they're held by love as they start each day a-new
hun-ger they're held by love as they guard their hu-man pride
liv-ing we're held by love as we care for ev-ery being

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Time With Our Children

Jennifer Pierce

Responding

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

Reap What You Sow
'Grace Notes' Ensemble

Choplin

*You will sow what you reap, reap what you sow.
What you plant in the kingdom will surely grow.
And what you grow with love will surely bloom,
And the fruit of the Spirit will come back to you.*

*Do not tire from doing good and never give up
when your road gets rough.
For one day soon a great reward you'll see
from the good you've done when the harvest comes.*

*When the harvest comes, you will reap what you sow,
sow what you reap.
What you plant in the Kingdom will surely keep
until the day you hear the words of the Lord:
"Well done, my child, well done my child,
come taste the joy of heaven's reward.*

*You will sow what you reap, reap what you sow.
What you plant in the kingdom will surely grow.
And what you grow with love will surely bloom,
And the fruit of the Spirit will come back to you.*

***Lenten Doxology**

Praise God through-out these for - ty days. Praise

The first line of musical notation is in 2/2 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef and the bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Praise God through-out these for - ty days. Praise".

Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the Spir-it who im -

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the Spir-it who im -".

parts God's love in Christ in - to our hearts. A - men.

The third line of musical notation concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "parts God's love in Christ in - to our hearts. A - men.".

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Lord in your goodness: Hear our praise; Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.



Original Hymn for “Tell Me Something Good”

by Anna Strickland for *A Sanctified Art*

Title of Hymn

“See the Precious Children”

inspired by Matthew 19:13-15, Deuteronomy 24:17-22

Author Statement

We love the image of Jesus welcoming the children—their cute little faces, their stubby little legs just learning to walk. It’s easy to forget the underlying message beneath the saccharine glaze we’ve painted over the centuries. Jesus told the disciples over and over that the kingdom of God belongs to the last and least. The weak. The powerless. The ones who are overlooked.

Each verse of this hymn draws us deeper into compassion for the people Jesus loved, inviting us to see each group of people through the same lens we see the precious children: widows, immigrants, the unhoused, even the earth crying out for relief. What verses would you add? Who else is overlooked?



Fourth Sunday in Lent

the good news is... protection and care for the vulnerable

Let the Little Children Come

by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Inspired by Matthew 19:13-15

11"x14" Acrylic, gold leaf, pen on paper

For my little niece, Angelina, whose art rests at the heart of this composition, and in whose joy we glimpse the Kingdom of God—alongside her sisters, Angelika and Ariona.

At the center of this work is a drawing made by my five-year-old niece, Angelina. I watched her joyfully scribble it in under three minutes, churning out drawing after drawing and handing each one to me with an eager smile. In this piece, she first drew a self-portrait (her wearing a crown), then graciously decided to include me (taking some creative liberties in giving me a third arm!).

I imagine the scene in Matthew 19: toddlers walling, little ones slipping from their parents' arms, parents offering apologetic glances toward

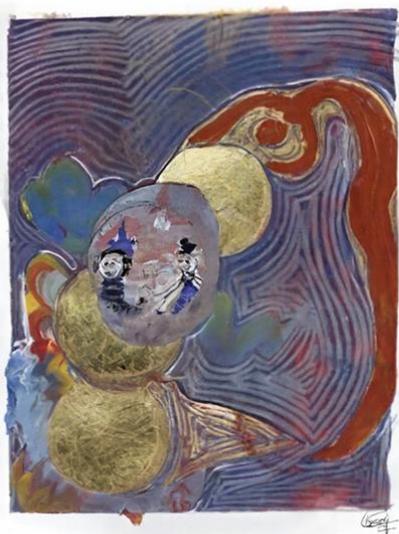
the frowning disciples as the scene around Jesus grows increasingly disorderly and loud. Those of us who've participated in group infant baptisms and baby dedications (when one cries, the chain reaction begins!), have led children's sermon moments with restless kids squirming about, or had the joy of watching our little ones participate in a kids' choir performance that goes delightfully rogue, can easily relate.

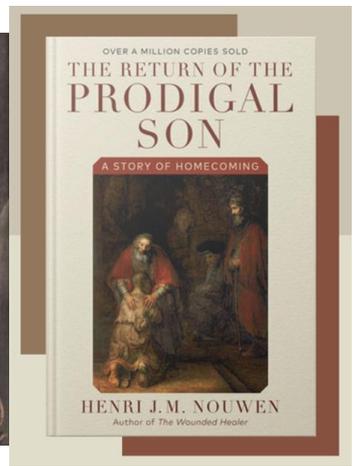
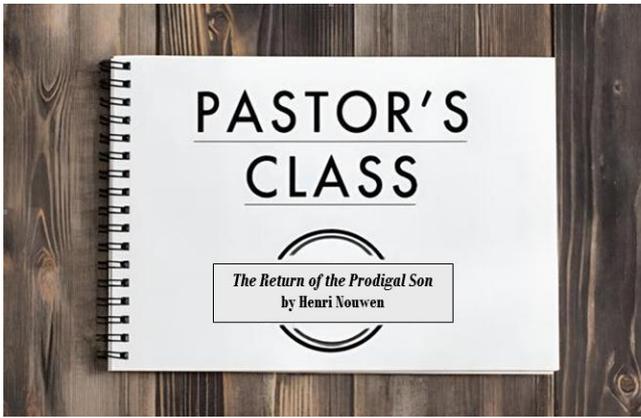
The disciples, feeling the weight of being seen as serious leaders alongside their rabbi, Jesus, may have tried to preserve a sense of reverence by shooing away the parents bringing their children to him. Yet here, Jesus reorients his disciples (and us) away from the illusion of control and reminds us that it is the joyful, unruly, sincere presence of a child to whom the kingdom truly belongs. Just a chapter earlier, in Matthew 18, Jesus tells his followers that unless they become like little children, they will not even enter the kingdom. Surely the disciples thought Jesus couldn't mean that literally—right?

While I've been busy making art, Angelina has been busy being an artist. I surely could learn a thing or two from her about inheriting the kingdom. ---Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Look

Contemplate the gold shapes in the image. What do they represent to you?





News from The Pastor's Class

Beginning today in the Fellowship Hall Annex at 9:15.
the class will begin studying
Henri Nouwen's *The Return of the Prodigal Son*,
Nouwen's sensitive reflection on the story from Luke 15:11-31
as well as Rembrandt's painting of the same name.

Pastor Paul says: 'I expect that this study of the book will take a few weeks.
I have put it in the church master calendar for three to begin with.'

The book is available by order from Amazon
and copies are also in stock at area Barnes & Noble stores.

LENTEN STUDY: *TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD*

A thoughtful conversation about artwork, reflections, and poetry
in the '**Tell Me Something Good**' devotional booklet
from *A Sanctified Art*. resumes in the parlor
on **Sunday mornings, March 22 and 29 at 9:15 a.m.**

This Week at Cary Presbyterian Church

Website and Online Member Directory: www.carypresbyterian.org

Sunday, March 15 4th Sunday in Lent	9:15 a.m.	Children's Faith Formation: K-5 th Grade (C. Ed. Wing)
	9:15 a.m.	Middle School Faith Formation (Youth Rooms)
	9:15 a.m.	Pastor's Class: <i>The Return of the Prodigal Son</i> (FH Anx)
	9:15 a.m.	Discovery Class (100)
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship Service (In Person & Online)
	11:30 a.m.	BTH Kit Assembly for PDA (Fellowship Hall)
	11:30 a.m.	Earth Care Team (Library)
Monday, March 16	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting (Parlor)
	11:00 a.m.	CPP Staff Meeting (100)
	6:15 p.m.	GSA Jr. Troop 1951 (Youth Area)
	6:30 p.m.	BSA Troop 232G (Fellowship Hall)
	6:30 p.m.	Personnel Team (Zoom)
	7:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 232 Den Meetings (C. Ed. Bldg.)
Tuesday, March 17	7:00 p.m.	Budget & Finance (Zoom)
	7:00 p.m.	BSA Troop 232B (Youth Area)
Wednesday, March 18	5:45 p.m.	Duke MBSR Mindfulness Course (Youth Rooms)
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, March 19	9:00 a.m.	Connections Group (Parlor)
	1:00 p.m.	Ukelele Music Group (100)
	7:00 p.m.	Stephen Ministry (100)
Friday, March 20	7:00 p.m.	Courage, Strength, & Hope / Alateens (Youth)
	7:00 p.m.	Al-Anon / Courage, Strength, & Hope (101/102)
Saturday, March 21	11:00 a.m.	Staying Put; Health & Wholeness Event (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, March 22 5th Sunday in Lent	9:15 a.m.	Children's Faith Formation: K-5 th Grade (C. Ed. Wing)
	9:15 a.m.	Middle School Faith Formation (Youth Rooms)
	9:15 a.m.	Pastor's Class: <i>The Return of the Prodigal Son</i> (FH Anx)
	9:15 a.m.	Lenten Study: <i>Tell Me Something Good</i> (Parlor)
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship Service (In Person & Online)
	11:30 a.m.	Be The Hands Coffee & Treats Event (Fellowship Hall)
	11:30 a.m.	More Light Team ()



Use this QR code to visit our website resource page for Lent & Easter.