

The Worship of God

January 8, 2012

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Eleven O'Clock

The worship of God begins with the music of the organ. We encourage you to use this time for meditation and reflection. Please refrain from conversation which would disturb others. Following the service, greet our visitors and share your friendship with those around you. Wireless hearing aids are available in the narthex.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

ORGAN PRELUDE: La Crèche

Alexandre Guilmant

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: Go Tell It

Timothy Albrecht

CHORAL INTROIT

Johann Georg Ebeling

Come, then, let us hasten yonder! Here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder! Love him who with love is yearning! Hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 173: "As with Gladness" DIX
(The congregation rises as the organist begins the hymn.)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Break forth into singing for God has visited and comforted his people.

People: We rejoice because the Spirit of Christ reigns among us.

Minister: Our hearts rejoice because the sins and sorrows of this world crumble under the wonder of God's love.

People: Our souls rejoice because the One who created all things welcomes us as brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ.

Minister: We rejoice because the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

People: With heart and soul and voice, we rejoice that the Word is Light and Life to all, and the darkness cannot overcome it. Thanks be to God!

* THE GLORIA PATRI MENDELSSOHN

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son,

Glory be to God the Spirit, Ever three and ever one.

Mighty kings bow down before him, Hail the long awaited birth.

Shepherds worship and adore him, King of heaven and Lord of earth.

With the angels let us sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

* THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL ADORATION

J.S. Bach

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light and usher in the morning; ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning. This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be, the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

THE CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

As we celebrate the birth of the Christ, we confess, O God, that had we been around that first Christmas, we might have missed it. Our daily activities of home and work, the bustle of the marketplace, and the call of friends to play might have caused us to ignore the setting of the sun and to miss the odd star that had no business being where it was. Forgive us our inattention to you and to one another. Open our eyes to the wonders around us and our hearts to the persons beside us, for they well may be messengers of Christmas joy.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

MEDITATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6

ANTHEM: "Light Everlasting"

Olaf C. Christiansen

O Light everlasting, O Love never failing. Illumine our darkness, and draw us to thee; may we from thy Spirit receive inspiration that all thy creation thy wisdom may see. Make known to all nations! Thy salvation! Make known to all nations, thy peace, thy peace and salvation, and help us, O Father, thy temple to be.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* HYMN 167: "Go Tell It on the Mountain" GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN
Children in grades K-5 will leave for Children's Church.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

ORGAN OFFERTORY: Rigaudon

Andre Campra

* THE DOXOLOGY AWAY IN A MANGER

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM: "Whence Is That Goodly Fragrance Flowing?" French Traditional Carol/arr. Willcocks

Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing, stealing our senses all away? Never the like did come a-blowing, shepherds, in flow'ry fields in May, whence is that goodly fragrance flowing, stealing our senses all away? What is that light so brilliant, breaking here in the night across our eyes? Never so bright, the day-star waking, started to climb the morning skies? What is that light so brilliant, breaking here in the night across our eyes? Bethlehem! There in manger lying, find your Redeemer, haste away, run ye eager footsteps hieing! Worship the Savior born today. Praise to the Lord of all creation, Glory to God the fount of grace; may peace abide in ev'ry nation, goodwill in men of ev'ry race.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON: "Where Are the Wise Men Now?" Dr. Wright

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Minister: When our hope stretches thin and the divide between the human and the divine appears broader than our faith can bridge, God reveals himself in our midst.

People: "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all."

Minister: When our perception of God's love is based upon who we are, what we do, or what we have, God reveals himself in our midst.

People: "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all."

Minister: When life is empty of joy and devoid of all contentment, when God's favor seems reserved for a select few, God reveals himself in our midst.

People: "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all."

Minister: When illness, stress, misfortune, and grief turn our lives into chaos, when we cry for peace but there is none to be found, God reveals himself in our midst.

People: "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all."

Minister: When we feel alone, unable to speak to God or hear any response, when light is absent and darkness prevails, God reveals himself in our midst.

**People: "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all."
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

THE CALL TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

* RECESSIONAL HYMN: "Sing of God Made Manifest" ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

(Persons desiring membership in our church are invited to come forward during the singing of this hymn.)

Sing of God made manifest in a child robust and blest,
to whose home in Bethlehem where a star had guided them,
magi came and gifts unbound, signs mysterious and profound:
myrrh and frankincense and gold grave and God and King foretold.

Sing of God made manifest when at Jordan John confessed,
"I should be baptized by you, but your bidding I will do."
Then from heaven a double sign—dove-like Spirit, voice divine—
hailed the true Anointed One: "This is my beloved Son."

Sing of God made manifest when Christ came as wedding guest
and at Cana gave a sign, turning water into wine;
further still was love revealed as he taught, forgave, and healed,
bringing light and life to all who would listen to God's call.

Sing of God made manifest on the cloud-capped mountain's crest,
where the Law and Prophets waned so that Christ alone remained:
glimpse of glory, pledge of grace, given as Jesus set his face
toward the waiting cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.

* THE BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN

* ORGAN POSTLUDE: Chant du Roi René

Alexandre Guilmant

* Congregation stands.

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Jody C. Wright
Senior Minister
Charlie Lane
Acolyte

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister
Mark Gansor
Organist

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music
Ben Winstead
Crucifer

Children's worship aids are available in the narthex.

Bibles and Wireless Hearing Aids are available in the Prayer Room off the narthex.

Childcare is available in the Preschool Building.

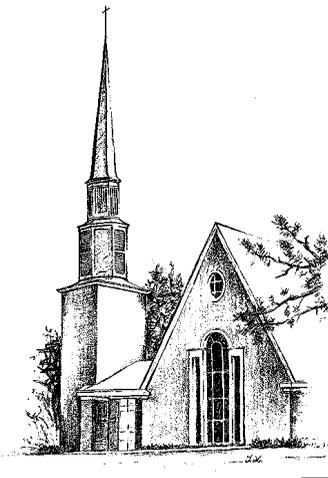
The paraments on the altar and pulpit, along with the ministers' stoles provide us with visual cues about the meaning of our faith. The color of the season of Epiphany is white, reminder of the light that guided the magi and of our own charge to be light to the world. The Celtic Cross with its circle symbolizes the sacrificial love and eternal nature of God. The Acolyte brings light to the altar as a reminder of Christ, the Light of life, and leads us out of the sanctuary as a reminder that we are to take this light to the world. In the same way, we begin and end our worship following the cross as a symbol of God's self-giving love for us all.

WE WELCOME OUR GUESTS

We welcome our guests and would like for you to know more about Lakeside Church and its ministry. Members of Lakeside are persons on a journey of faith. Our church seeks to be a worshipping and serving community where the gospel of Jesus Christ is modeled and proclaimed.

Our church is Baptist by tradition and heritage, but in our worship and practice we seek to move beyond the label of a denomination to incorporate the richness of other Christian traditions. In our community service we support many ecumenical ministries that convey God's love beyond the lines of any denomination.

We receive members by affirmation of their faith or by transfer from other Christian churches. We honor the previous baptism of persons coming to Lakeside from other Christian denominations. If you are interested in knowing more about our church and its ministries, please fill out a guest card or speak to one of the ministers or members.



Worship at Lakeside

Lakeside Baptist Church
1501 Sunset Avenue
Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27804