

The Worship of God

May 28, 2017

ASCENSION 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 and turn off or silence all electronic devices. Following the service, greet our visitors and share your friendship with those around you.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

ORGAN PRELUDE: O Filii et Filiae Hendrik Andriessen

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: Variations on *America* (Variation II) Charles Ives

CHORAL INTROIT Taizé

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy. Alleluia!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 110: "You Servants of God" HANOVER
(The congregation rises as the organist begins the hymn.)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: We gather to worship God.

People: Most loving God, you are the holy Joy that first sent the stars spinning across space.

Minister: You are the creative Joy that destined life on this earth.

People: You are the loving Joy that made humanity to crave for your fellowship.

Minister: You are the redeeming Joy that became human flesh in Jesus of Nazareth,

People: You are the deathless Joy that promises to complete all that you have begun.

Minister: Scatter our hesitation and stir any dismal spirits.

People: In word and song and silence, we worship you with a joy reflected in all creation.
Bruce Prewer, adapted

* THE GLORIA PATRI 35 GREATOREX

* THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL ADORATION Eric Thiman

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, even lift them up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of Hosts, he is the King of glory.

MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE

LITANY OF REFLECTION

Minister: As we worship, let us offer a moment of remembrance.

People: We remember fallen soldiers, law enforcement officers, and other public servants for the sacrifice they made for the sake of others.

Minister: Let us offer our thanksgiving for what other people have done for us.

People: We thank God for brave men and women who have given their lives so that we may worship without fear.

Minister: Let us offer a moment of grateful silence; for a moment is the least we can do for those who gave their eternity for us.

silent reflection

UNISON PRAYER OF HOPE

God of every nation, as we remember those who gave their lives for our sake, let us be stirred to action in their memory. We confess that we have not done all that is possible to promote peace and justice in our world. We have not loved our neighbors, let alone our enemies. Forgive us for failing to live up to your commandments. Empower us to work for your Kingdom in this world, and welcome us by your grace into your Kingdom in the next. Amen.

ANTHEM: "The Mansions of the Lord" Nick Glennie-Smith/arr. Benjamin Harlan

To fallen soldiers let us sing, where no rockets fly nor bullets wing; our broken brothers let us bring to the mansions of the Lord. No more bleeding, no more fight, no prayers pleading through the night; just divine embrace, eternal light in the mansions of the Lord. Where no mothers cry and no children weep, we will stand and guard though the angels sleep; all through the ages safely keep, the mansions of the Lord.
Randall Wallace

MEDITATION

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 24:44-53

Minister: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* HYMN 722: "This Is My Song" FINLANDIA

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

ORGAN OFFERTORY: Improvisation Mark Pichowicz

* THE DOXOLOGY LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

This morning we give thanks for the Down East Radio Reading Service, an all volunteer program broadcast at no charge to the legally blind of Nash, Edgecombe, and Wilson counties. The acolyte brings forward the unique radio receiver and places it on the altar.

PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM: "If Ye Love Me" Philip Wilby

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; E'en the spirit of Truth. And ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

THE HISTORY LESSON: Acts 1:1-11

SERMON: "Lucky Jesus" Dr. Wright

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and that he came that we might have fullness of life.

He came, not for one time, but for all time, and dwells among us now as Savior, Guide, and Friend.

In his ministry, he demonstrated the Father's love for us, and taught us how we might love one another.

By his suffering, God identified with our suffering, and experienced firsthand the anguishing results of sin.

Through his resurrection, Christ proclaimed the eternal power of life over death and salvation over sin, thereby securing our hope.

We believe that through commitment, obedience, and service to others, we respond to God's astonishing love, and proclaim Christ's good news until he comes again. Amen.

THE CALL TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

- * RECESSIONAL HYMN 633: "Lead On, O Cloud of Presence" LANCASHIRE
(Persons desiring membership in our church are invited to come forward during the singing of this hymn.)
- * THE BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN
- * ORGAN POSTLUDE: Today God's Only-Gotten Son J.S. Bach
- * Congregation stands.

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
and in memory of Mary Lucille Farmer by John Farmer and Hope Reese.*

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Jody C. Wright <i>Senior Minister</i>	Elizabeth Edwards <i>Associate Minister</i>	Amy Shortt <i>Minister of Music</i>
Madi Adkins <i>Acolyte</i>	Mark Pichowicz <i>Organist</i>	Andersen Cobb <i>Crucifer</i>

*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 Litany of Reflection and Prayer of Hope are adapted from materials by Rev. Robb McCoy.

The paraments on the altar and pulpit, along with the ministers' stoles, provide us with visual cues about the meaning of our faith. Today is Ascension Sunday when we celebrate Christ's return to heaven and resumption of his unity with God. The color of the day is white, symbolic of Christ's sovereignty and his compassionate rule over our lives. 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.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BAGS

Worship bags are available in the narthex and have a variety of items that will help to make worship more meaningful for our children. Please return them to the narthex following worship.

WIRELESS HEARING AIDS

Wireless hearing aids are available in the Prayer Room off the narthex. Please ask an usher to assist you with a set. You may return the hearing aid to the Prayer Room following worship.

OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

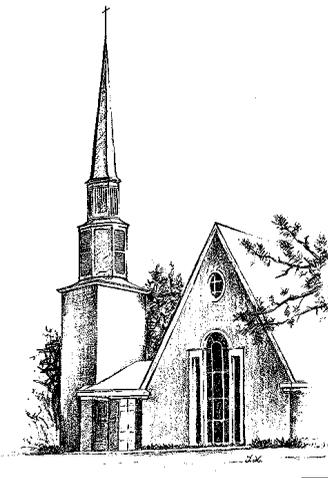
In observance of Memorial Day, the church office will be closed tomorrow, May 29. It will be open the remainder of the week from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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.



Ascension at Lakeside

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