

The Worship of God

Starry Stranger, Guiding Light

December 6, 2015

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Eleven O'Clock

The worship of God begins with the music of the organ and offers 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 guests and share your friendship with those around you. Wireless hearing aids are available in the narthex.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

ORGAN PRELUDE: O Thou of God the Father J.S. Bach

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: The Holy Boy John Ireland

CHORAL INTROIT French Melody, 15th Century

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

* PROCESSIONAL CAROL 125: "Come, O Long Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL
(The congregation rises as the organist begins the hymn.)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Advent calls us to open our hearts and minds and hands as we prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

People: We are ready. Come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: Advent calls us to recognize that the Messiah comes in love to all people.

People: We behold him. Come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: Advent calls us to experience the Messiah in our midst and to see in him the face of God.

People: We welcome him. Come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: Advent calls us to proclaim that the Messiah has come.

All: Arise, shine; for our light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Witten, Travis, Ramsey, and Duffy Ward

* 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 coming King."

* THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE: I John 1:1-7

HOMILY "Starry Stranger, Guiding Light to Love" Dr. Wright

MESSIAH, PART I

by George Frederic Handel

OVERTURE (String Quartet)

RECITATIVE (Tenor) Isaiah 40:1-3

Comfort ye my people saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness. Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

AIR (Tenor) Isaiah 40:4

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

CHORUS Isaiah 40:5

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

RECITATIVE (Bass) Haggai 2:6-7; Malachi 3:1

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts: Yet once a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. And I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come. The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the Covenant, whom you delight in; behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

AIR (Bass) Malachi 3:2

But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire.

CHORUS Malachi 3:3

And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

RECITATIVE (Alto) Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel, God with us.

AIR (Alto) AND CHORUS Isaiah 40:9; Isaiah 60:1

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain. O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God! Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

RECITATIVE (Bass) Isaiah 60:2-3

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

AIR (Bass) Isaiah 9:2

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

CHORUS Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

OFFERTORY: PASTORAL SYMPHONY String Quartet

RECITATIVES (Soprano) Luke 2:8-11,13

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them. Fear not; for behold, I bring good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

CHORUS Luke 2:14

Glory to god in the highest, and peace on earth, goodwill towards men.

AIR (Soprano)

Zechariah 9:9-10

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King cometh unto thee; He is the righteous Savior, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

RECITATIVE (Alto)

Isaiah 35:5-6

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

AIR (Alto and Soprano)

Isaiah 40:11; Matthew 11:28-29

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. Come unto Him, all ye that labor, come unto Him that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

CHORUS

Matthew 11:30

His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

* THE BENEDICTION

* CHORUS

Revelation 19:6; 11:15; 19:16

Hallelujah: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

* ORGAN POSTLUDE:

* Congregation stands.

This presentation of Part I of Messiah is made possible by the Virginia Lancaster Robertson Fund, established by her family to honor the life of Mrs. Robertson, a Charter Member of Lakeside, and to provide for performances of Messiah.

The poinsettias and wreaths that adorn the sanctuary, the narthex, and the doors of the church are given to the glory of God and in memory or in honor of loved ones. Memorial brochures listing these gifts are available in the narthex.

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Jody C. Wright
Senior Minister

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music

Acolyte

Mark Pichowicz
Interim Organist

Crucifer

Lakeside website: lakesidechurchrmt.org
Children's worship aids are available in the narthex.
Childcare is available in the Preschool Building.

The season of Advent is a time of preparation when we celebrate the coming of Christ as a babe many years ago and anticipate his return sometime in our future. The theme of our Advent worship this year is "Starry Stranger, Guiding Light," borrowed from a poem by Richard Crashaw (1613-1649) titled, "A Hymn of the Nativity." Our Advent journey will follow this guiding light to discern who this "Starry Stranger" is. The paraments on the pulpit and lectern, along with the ministers' stoles, provide us with visual cues about the meaning of our faith. The color of the season is purple, used to indicate royalty and suffering alike, a reminder of Christ's kingship and the suffering he endured for us all. The symbol is comprised of the two Greek letters, chi and rho, the first two letters in the Greek word Christos, meaning Christ. 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. Similarly, we begin and end our worship following the cross as a symbol of God's self-giving love for us all.



Advent at Lakeside

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