

The Worship of God

Completely Forever: Changed by the Coming of Christ

December 11, 2016

THE THIRD 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.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

ORGAN PRELUDE: Improvisation on "Gaudete" from *Piae Cantiones* Mark Pichowicz

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

HANDBELL MEDITATION: O Sing a Song of Bethlehem Judy Phillips

CHORAL INTROIT: "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" J.S. Bach

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

* PROCESSIONAL CAROL 164: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" In Dulci Jubilo
(The congregation rises as the organist begins the hymn.)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

People: Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Minister: Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

People: And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Sue Daughety, Libba Robbins, and Ann Winstead

* THE GLORIA PATRI REGENT SQUARE

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

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

Come and worship, come and worship, Light of light: our Star, our Sun.

* THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL ADORATION: Medieval Gloria Vijay Singh

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Et in terra pax, pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. Adoramus te, Glorificamus te. Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloria tu am. Glory to God in the highest! And on earth, peace to men of good will. We praise you. Thank you. We glorify you. Glory to God in the highest! We give thanks to thee for thy great glory.

FAMILY DEDICATION

*Today we celebrate the dedication of William Gabriel Tillman,
born on March 4, 2016 to Greyson and Michael Tillman.*

HOMILY

THE COVENANT

Minister: Do you parents present your child before God, in solemn dedication?

Parents: We do.

Minister: Do you commit yourselves as parents to bring up your child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Parents: We do.

Minister: Do you promise to instruct your child in the teachings of Jesus Christ and in the practice of prayer, and to provide guidance in the development of a Christlike character?

Parents: We do.

Minister: Do you promise, to the best of your ability, so to shape your home life, by your words and by your example, that your child will naturally come to an open confession of Christ as Lord and enter into the fellowship and service of the church?

Parents: We do.

Minister: As a congregation, what pledge do you make to these parents?

People: We rejoice in this new life that has come into your family, and we pledge to you our support, encouragement, and prayers as you seek to raise your child in a Christian home. We further pledge to do our part in nurturing your child's growing faith through worship, teaching, and service.

THE UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, our heavenly Parent, we have received our children in trust from you. Acting as stewards of this holy trust, help us to love our children unselfishly, and to guide them into righteous living. We pledge our lives to the fulfillment of this holy calling, and pray for your divine help through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

THE BLESSING OF THE CHILD

CHORAL BLESSING

James R. Murray

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

MEDITATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* CAROL 159: "There's a Song in the Air!" Christmas Song
Children in grades K-5 will leave for Children's Church.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

HANDBELL OFFERTORY: O Come, All Ye Faithful John F. Wade/arr. Michael R. Keller

* THE DOXOLOGY VENI EMMANUEL

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM: "People Look East" Hal H. Hopson

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People look east and sing today: Love the guest is on the way. Furrows be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow'r may flourish. People look east and sing today: Love the rose is on the way. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledgling time has chosen. People, look east and sing today: Love the bird is on the way. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today, Love the star is on the way. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People look east and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way. People look east and sing today. Rejoice!

THE GOSPEL LESSON:

Luke 1:46b-55

SERMON:

“Completely Forever: Joy Unknown Before”

Dr. Wright

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

As people of faith we believe in God's promises,

But with the coming of Christ we sing a triumphal song of hope.

We believe God has always watched over his people with love,

But with the coming of Christ we discover the mystery of redeeming love.

We believe God intends for his people to know happiness,

But with the coming of Christ we receive a joy unknown before.

We believe God desires wholeness for all his people,

But with the coming of Christ we experience the gift of God's peace.

We believe that when we open our hearts and lives to Immanuel, God-with-us,

The coming of Christ changes us forever . . . completely forever.

THE CALL TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

* RECEPTIONAL CAROL 155:

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Gloria

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

* THE BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

* ORGAN POSTLUDE: Praeludium und Fuge

Johann Kuhnau

* Congregation stands.

The poinsettias and wreaths adorning the sanctuary and 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
Ramsey Ward
Acolyte

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister
Mark Pichowicz
Organist

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music
Michael Waters
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 "Completely Forever: Changed by the Coming of Christ." 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.

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.



Advent at Lakeside

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