

The Worship of God

STARRY STRANGER, GUIDING LIGHT

December 13, 2015

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. Wireless hearing aids are available in the narthex.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

ORGAN PRELUDE: Pastorale 'Gesu Bambino' Pietro A. Yon

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

HANDBELL MEDITATION: Silent Night, Holy Night arr. Michael Hellman

CHORAL INTROIT 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.

* PROCESSIONAL CAROL 124: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" PICARDY
(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 joy 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 Patty Farber-Schirman and Mary Jo Williamson

* THE GLORIA PATRI GLORIA

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

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

* 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.

MEDITATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 12:2-6

ANTHEM: "Domine Fili Unigenite" from *Gloria* Antonio Vivaldi

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* CAROL 164: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" IN DULCI JUBILO
Children in grades K-5 will leave for Children's Church.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER Stancel Barnes

HANDBELL OFFERTORY: I Saw Three Ships arr. Sandra Eithun

* 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: "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" German Carol/arr. John Kingsbury

Joseph dearest, Joseph mine, I shall rock this child divine; God shall reward thee with peace sublime in Paradise, so says the Virgin Mother. Mary, dear one, lady bright, glad I cradle this child tonight, glad I welcome the heav'nly light of Paradise; he sings the Virgin Mother. *To us he cometh on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day, all lowly born; hail him Savior and to him pray this happy morn.*

Jesu, Jesu, loose us, save us, free us, gentle Jesu. Peace, good-will, he brings to all, blessings from heaven to great and small; blessings on those who on him call, who lowly lies beside the Virgin Mother. Gladly come and kneel to him, humbly come and pray to him, joyful come and bow to him, that's born for us of Mary, Virgin Mother.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON: "Starry Stranger, Guiding Light to Joy" Dr. Wright

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**As God's children, we are unsettled by the harsh realities of life,
and long for the salvation that has been promised to us.**

**As people of faith we yearn for our darkness to be dispelled by the light of hope,
and bring us liberation from all oppression.**

**As sisters and brothers, Christ disturbs our assumptions about one another,
and teaches us to live together in peace.**

**As disciples of Jesus, we tell the good news of his birth, teach one another his love and mercy,
and follow his light, confident that he dwells among us.**

THE CALL TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

* RECESSIONAL CAROL 150: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" MENDELSSOHN
(Persons desiring membership in our church are invited to come forward during the singing of this hymn.)

* THE BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

* ORGAN POSTLUDE: Advent Everett Titcomb

* Congregation stands.

*The poinsettias and wreaths that adorn the sanctuary 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
Anna Adkins
Acolyte

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister
Mark Pichowicz
Interim Organist

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music
Foster McAdams
Crucifer

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

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.

BIBLES AND LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AVAILABLE

Bibles and several large print hymnals are available for your convenience and are located in the Prayer Room off the Narthex. Please ask an usher as you enter the sanctuary.

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.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children in kindergarten through grade 5 are invited to participate in Children's Church with Jennifer Cobb today. The children will leave from the sanctuary during the second hymn by the south door to the right of the chancel area. Parents may meet their children in the Youth Building following worship.

CAROLING TO OUR MEMBERS AT HOME

Please join us in Sugg Foyer this evening at 5 o'clock p.m. as we take the music of the season to our members at home. A time of food and fellowship will follow in Robbins Hall in the Kincheloe 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.

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 worshiping 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