

# The Worship of God

## Christmas Reflections

December 14, 2014

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: Saviour of the Heathen, Come  
Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

J. S. Bach  
David M. Cherwien

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: The First Nowell

Gordon Young

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 149: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"  
*(The congregation rises as the organist begins the hymn.)*

REGENT SQUARE

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: We hear the good news of great joy when God calls light and life out of chaos,

**People: But the light is too bright and the voice unfamiliar.**

Minister: We hear the good news of great joy when the bow of promise appears in the sky,

**People: But the clouds are still dark and threatening around us.**

Minister: We hear the good news of great joy when the prophets call us to repentance and justice,

**People: But our sin is great and has grown so comfortable for us.**

Minister: We hear the good news of great joy when the angel announces the coming of the Messiah,

**People: But the promise of peace and good will sounds too good to be true.**

Minister: We hear the good news of great joy when we look into the face of the Christ child,

**People: And there we see the Light, the Promise, the Joy of Emmanuel, the good news of God with us!**

\* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Winnie and Philip Johnson, Hilary Johnson, Dexter David

\* 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

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 61:1-4, 8-10

YOUTH ANTHEM: "We Await the Love You Bring"

Herb Frombach/arr. Robert Lau

Baby, tiny baby, unaware of this night, lying in a manger where a star shines so bright. But one day your story will be known throughout the earth. O Jesus, tiny baby, how amazing is your birth. God's love, this is God's love, as he sends us his Son crying in a manger, now his story's begun. We wait for the boy who will become a king. O Jesus, tiny baby, we await the love you bring. Joy to the World! Children, all God's children, with their eyes all aglow. They all need to know this baby as they wonder and grow. His love and wisdom he will give to you each day. O Jesus, tiny baby, come and show us the way. Joy to the world! Bring us joy; joy to the world. We await the love you bring.

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: Tidings of Comfort and Joy: Fantasy on *God Rest Ye Merry* arr. Childers

\* 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: "O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem" from *Messiah* G.F. Handel  
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. Isaiah 40:9; Isaiah 60:1

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:26-38

SERMON: "Reflections of Joy: The Angels" Dr. Wright

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**When beloved songs replay the story of Jesus' birth,  
May we reflect with our lives Christ's coming to our world.**

**When familiar scriptures retell the promise of the Messiah,  
May we reflect with our lives Christ's coming to our world.**

**When daily prayers call out for comfort and hope,  
May we reflect with our lives Christ's coming to our world.**

**When giving and receiving bring excitement and gratitude,  
May we reflect with our lives Christ's coming to our world.**

**When Christmas offers opportunity to reflect on all God has done for us,  
May we reflect with our lives Christ's coming to our world. Amen.**

THE CALL TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

\* RECESSIONAL CAROL 164: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" IN DULCI JUBILO  
*(Persons desiring membership in our church are invited to come forward during the singing of this hymn.)*

\* THE BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

\* ORGAN POSTLUDE: O Come, All Ye Faithful David M. Cherwien

\* 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*  
Spencer Edwards  
*Acolyte*

Elizabeth Edwards  
*Associate Minister*  
Mark Gansor  
*Organist*

Amy Shortt  
*Minister of Music*  
Charlie Lane  
*Crucifer*

Lakeside website: [lakesidechurchrmt.org](http://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.

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children in kindergarten through grade 5 are invited to participate in Children's Church with Matt and Leslie Paszek 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.

### 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.

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Please join us in Sugg Foyer this evening at 5 o'clock p.m. as we taking 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 "Christmas Reflections." We consider some of the characters in the Christmas story and the ways in which they reflected on or thought about what was happening to them and around them. We also consider ways in which our lives may reflect the truths that arise from the coming of Christ to our world. The paraments on the pulpit and lectern, along with the ministers' stoles, provide us with visual cues about the meaning of our faith.*

*We welcome our guests and would like for you to know more about Lakeside Church and its ministry. MI 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. 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.*

*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  
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