

The Worship of God

A Season of Expected Surprises

December 16, 2012

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: Partita on *In Dulci Jubilo* Kevin Hildebrand

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: Forest Green John Leavitt

CHORAL INTROIT Joan Collier Fogg

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Savior is born. When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

* PROCESSIONAL CAROL 140: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" SHEFFIELD
(The congregation rises as the organist begins the hymn.)

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Marion and Ray Weathers

* CALL TO WORSHIP Philippians 4:4-7

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.

* THE GLORIA PATRI ADESTE FIDELES

Glory to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;

Praise we the Trinity – Three in one;

Sing alleluia! Welcome the Messiah;

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

* THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL ADORATION J.S. Bach

Break forth, O beautiful 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.

MEDITATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 12:2-6

YOUTH ANTHEM: "The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon" arr. Michael Clawson

The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay. In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel. For all to see there was a star shining in the East, beyond them far. And to the earth it gave great light and it continued both day and night.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* CAROL 170: "How Great Our Joy" JUNGST
Children in grades K-5 will leave for Children's Church.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

HANDBELL OFFERTORY: Ding, Dong, Merrily on High arr. Lloyd Larson

* 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: "The Cherry Tree Carol" arr. David Willcocks

Joseph was an old man, and an old man was he, when he married Mary in the land of Galilee. And as they were walking through an orchard so good, where were cherries and berries as red as any blood. O then bespoke Mary, with words both meek and mild, "Pluck me one cherry, Joseph; for that I am with child." "Go to the tree then, Mary, and it shall bow to thee; and you shall gather cherries by one, by two, by three." Then bowed down the highest tree unto our Lady's hand; "See," Mary cried, "see, Joseph, I have cherries at command." "O eat your cherries, Mary, O eat your cherries, now; O eat your cherries, Mary, that grow upon the bough." Then Mary plucked a cherry, as red as any blood; then Mary went she homewards all with her heavy load.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:7-18

SERMON: "Surprising Joy" Dr. Wright

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the gospel which began in Bethlehem. We believe in the One whose spirit glorified a little town, of whose coming only the shepherds saw the sign, for whom the crowded inn could find no room; and for whom the wise men bowed in wonder.

We believe in him whose life changed the course of history, whose love transformed our own lives, and whose grace redeemed us from sin and death. We believe that he brought joy to the world and offers peace to us all. Thanks be to God.

THE CALL TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

* RECESSIONAL CAROL 149: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" REGENT SQUARE
(Persons desiring membership in our church are invited to come forward during the singing of this hymn.)

* THE BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

* ORGAN POSTLUDE: Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel* Andrew Carter

* 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
Madison Webb
Acolyte

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister
Mark Gansor
Organist

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music
Barkley Browder
Crucifer

*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.

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 is "A Season of Expected Surprises." We reflect on the ways in which our expectations of Christ's coming continue to surprise us. The paraments on the pulpit and lectern provide us with visual cues about the meaning of our faith. The color of the season is purple, indicative of 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. We begin and end our worship following the cross, a symbol of God's self-giving love for us all.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children in kindergarten through grade 5 are invited to participate in Children's Church with Sue Daughety 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.

TODAY AT LAKESIDE

12:00 p.m. . . Diaconate, Conference Room
4:30 p.m. . . . Lakeside Ringers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
5:00 p.m. . . . Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
5:15 p.m. . . . Children Meet in Choir Suite to Robe
5:15 p.m. . . . Youth Meet in the Narthex
6:00 p.m. . . . Service of Carols and Candlelighting

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