

The Worship of God

Longing to Believe

December 16, 2018

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: Noël and Variations: *Joseph est bien marié* (Joseph is Well Married) C. Balbastre

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PIANO REFLECTION: Good King Wenceslas John Mason Neale/arr. Alfred Daniel Edwards, pianist

ORGAN MEDITATION: A Virgin Most Pure Andrew Gant

CHORAL INTROIT Zebulon M. Highben

The Lord shall come and not be slow; his light is soon appearing. Prepare, you sinners, here below who are these tidings hearing. Arise, O sleepers, trim your lamps! Their flames so swiftly burning reveal the path to hope and peace, the dawn for which you're yearning.

* PROCESSIONAL CAROL 124: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" PICARDY
(The congregation rises as the organist begins the hymn.)

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Carol Lucas and Cornelia Singletary

* CALL TO WORSHIP: Luke 1:68-75 Robert Sykes

Deacon: Blessed be the God of Israel who looks favorably on all people; who is raising up a mighty Savior from the house of David;

People: A Savior who delivers us from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Deacon: We have received this mercy, promised to our ancestors,

People: And with thanksgiving, we worship and serve God in holiness and righteousness all our days.

Deacon: Through the tender mercy of God, those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death know healing and light, and they will be guided in the way of peace.

People: Blessed be the God of Israel for the prophecies of old are being fulfilled.

* 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: "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 GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:7-18

CANTARE ANTHEM: "Alleluia Incantation" Andrew Miller
Alleluia, Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* CAROL 160: "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming" ES IST EIN ROS
Children in grades K-5 will leave for Children's Church.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

ORGAN OFFERTORY: Shepherd's Pipe Carol arr. Dale Wood

* THE DOXOLOGY THE FIRST NOEL

**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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM: "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion" G.F. Handel
O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise. Say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! The glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Isaiah 40:9; Isaiah 60:1

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:26-35

SERMON: "Longing to Believe: Hope and Love" Dr. Wright

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We long to believe that there is something beyond us of which we are a part,
and that our lives matter.**

**We long to believe in God who cares about us and holds our life,
and with whom we are united now and forever.**

**We long to believe that justice and goodness are at work in the world,
and that we bear Christ to the world day by day.**

**We long to believe that God's wisdom will guide us to truth,
and that we find truth as we wonder, question, and search.**

**We long to believe that Christmas makes a difference,
and that the gift of Christ begins our journey of faith.**

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: Magnificat J. F. Dandrieu

* 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
Catherine Cobb
Acolyte

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister
Phil Valera
Guest Organist

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music
Carson Browder
Crucifer

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

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

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

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.

SERVICE OF CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHTING

December 16 - 6 o'clock p.m.
A service of lessons and carols telling the story of Jesus' birth
Chancel and Alleluia Choirs
Lakeside Ringers

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 "Longing to Believe." We explore some of the ways we long to believe as we grow in faith. 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. 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.

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