

The Worship of God

Everlasting Lovingkindness: God's Journey to Us

December 17, 2017

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: Advent

Everett Titcomb

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

HANDBELL MEDITATION: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

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 140: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

SHEFFIELD

(The congregation rises as the organist begins the hymn.)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Chick Conley

Minister: The God who speaks comfort to us calls us here.

People: The God who addresses us with tenderness meets us here.

Minister: The God who guides us with gentleness cares for us here.

People: We come to prepare a way for the Lord,

Minister: We come to ready ourselves for the transformation of our lives.

People: For the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it.

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Linda Lee and JoAnne Scalf

* 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.

MEDITATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Deuteronomy 30:11-20

ANTHEM: "The Work of Christmas"

Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers, to make music from the heart.

Howard Thurman, *The Mood of Christmas*

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: Sussex Carol

arr. Jason W. Krug

* 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: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Michael Praetorious/arr. David Shand

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior, when half spent was the night.

Women's Ensemble

THE GOSPEL LESSON:

Luke 1:39-56

SERMON:

"God's Journey to Us: Freed for Righteousness"

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 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: Him the Shepherds Praise So Greatly

Helmut Walcha

* 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
Ramsey Ward
Acolyte

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister
Mark Pichowicz
Organist

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music
Spencer Edwards
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 Sheila Martin 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.

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 "Everlasting Lovingkindness: God's Journey to Us." We consider the ways in which the nature of God's love sent God on a journey long ago in search of us. 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 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.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 17 ✧ 6:00 p.m.

WE WELCOME OUR GUESTS.

A service of lessons and carols celebrating the birth of Christ. 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