

The Worship of God

Completely Forever: Changed by the Coming of Christ

December 18, 2016

THE FOURTH 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: Veni, Veni, Emmanuel Hendrik Andriessen

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: Interlude on the Coventry Carol W.S. Lloyd-Webber

CHORAL INTROIT: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Michael Praetorius/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

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Long ago heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds and eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem.

People: As we tell the Christmas story over and over, may our temporal lives be caught up in the eternal through that same child.

Minister: May we join shepherds and all the heavenly host in praising the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

People: May all of creation rejoice with songs of gladness and walk in the way of peace.

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Kristen and Max Miller and Betty Lane Winslow

* 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 Old German Tune, arr. R. L. Pearsall

In dulci jubilo let us our homage shew; our heart's joy reclineth in praesepio and like a bright star shineth, Matris in gremio. Alpha es et O, Alpha es et O.

MEDITATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-20

ANTHEM: "Creation Will Be at Peace" Anna Laura Page

In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease; in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace. The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the cow and bear will feed, their young will play together; a little child will lead. The leopard and goat will graze, the lion will feed on straw. They will war no more; a child will lead them all.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* CAROL 153: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" CAROL

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

ORGAN OFFERTORY: Improvisation Mark Pichowicz

* THE DOXOLOGY AWAY IN A MANGER

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.

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: "Completely Forever: Peace, God's Highest Glory" Dr. Wright

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

As people of faith we believe in God's promises,

But with the coming of Christ we sing a triumphal song of hope.

We believe God has always watched over his people with love,

But with the coming of Christ we discover the mystery of redeeming love.

We believe God intends for his people to know happiness,

But with the coming of Christ we receive a joy unknown before.

We believe God desires wholeness for all his people,

But with the coming of Christ we experience the gift of God's peace.

We believe that when we open our hearts and lives to Immanuel, God-with-us,

The coming of Christ changes us forever . . . completely forever.

THE CALL TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

* RECESSIONAL CAROL 135: "Blessed Be the God of Israel" Merle's Tune
(Persons desiring membership in our church are invited to come forward during the singing of this hymn.)

* THE BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

* ORGAN POSTLUDE: Fourth Sunday in Advent Alexis Chauvet

* 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
Elizabeth Paszek
Acolyte

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister
Mark Pichowicz
Organist

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music
Beth Seagroves
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.

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 "Completely Forever: Changed by the Coming of Christ." 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.

SERVICE OF CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHTING

December 18 ✧ 6:00 p.m. ✧ Harp Prelude beginning at 5:40 p.m.
A service of lessons and carols celebrating the birth of Christ
Adult, Youth and Children's Choirs, Adult Handbell Choir

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

December 24 ✧ 6:00 p.m.
"Completely Forever: Changed by the Coming of Christ"
Chris Ellis, violinist
Lakeside Soloists: Sue Cataline, Maggie and Elizabeth Paszek, Amy Shortt

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 worshipping 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