

The Worship of God

STARRY STRANGER, GUIDING LIGHT

December 20, 2015

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: Prelude on "The Holly and the Ivy" Herbert Sumsion

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: Christmas Everett Titcomb

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" Regent Square

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Advent calls us to open our hearts and minds and hands as we prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

People: We are ready. Come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: Advent calls us to recognize that the Messiah comes in peace to all people.

People: We behold him. Come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: Advent calls us to experience the Messiah in our midst and to see in him the face of God.

People: We welcome him. Come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: Advent calls us to proclaim that the Messiah has come.

All: Arise, shine; for our light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Deb and Dale Parker

* 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 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: Micah 5:2-5a

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: O Hail this Brightest of Days J.S. Bach

* THE DOXOLOGY GREENSLEEVES

**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.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM: "Light Everlasting" Olaf C. Christiansen

O Light everlasting, O Love never failing. Illumine our darkness, and draw us to thee; may we from thy Spirit receive inspiration that all thy creation thy wisdom may see. Make known to all nations! Thy salvation! Make known to all nations, thy peace, thy peace and salvation, and help us, O Father, thy temple to be.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:39-45

SERMON: "Starry Stranger, Guiding Light to Peace" 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 144: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" ST. LOUIS
(Persons desiring membership in our church are invited to come forward during the singing of this hymn.)

* THE BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

* ORGAN POSTLUDE: Praludium und Fuge Johann Kuhnau

* 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
Madi Adkins
Acolyte

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister
Mark Pichowicz
Interim Organist

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music
Georgia Morris
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.

SERVICE OF CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHTING

December 20 ✧ 6:00 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.

"Starry Stranger, Guiding Light"

Chris Ellis, violinist

Lakeside Soloists:

Bo Browder, Chase Joyner, Ann Sawyer, Amy Shortt

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 "Starry Stranger, Guiding Light," borrowed from a poem by Richard Crashaw (1613-1649) titled, "A Hymn of the Nativity." Our Advent journey will follow this guiding light to discern who this "Starry Stranger" is. 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.

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