

The Worship of God

Christmas Reflections

December 21, 2014

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.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

ORGAN PRELUDE: In Dulci Jubilo Johann Michael Bach
Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying John Ferguson

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: Cradle Song David Williams

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Our world is battered by violence, and we continue to build weapons and ignore the scars,

People: But we are approaching Bethlehem to welcome the Prince of Peace.

Minister: Our nation is weary from clutching our own agendas and shouting insults and accusations,

People: But we are approaching Bethlehem to welcome the Prince of Peace.

Minister: Our relationships are broken because we fail to act with compassion or speak with kindness,

People: But we are approaching Bethlehem to welcome the Prince of Peace.

Minister: Our souls are uneasy and our hearts are afraid from the chaos around and within us,

People: But we are approaching Bethlehem to welcome the Prince of Peace.

All: Guide us, O Prince of Peace, to claim your vision of peace in our world and in our lives.

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH C.B., David, Georgia, and Amira Morris

* 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: "Peace" PEACE TO ZION/arr. Kevin Siegfried
Peace unto Zion. Peace to the faithful, and a crown of rejoicing from your Heavenly Father.

MEDITATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-10

ANTHEM: "The Dream Isaiah Saw" Glenn Rudolph

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay, leopards will join with the lambs as they play,
wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade, blood will not darken the earth that God made.
*Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw: life redeemed from fang and claw.*

Peace will pervade more than forest and field: God will transfigure the violence concealed
deep in the heart and in systems of gain, ripe for the judgment the Lord will ordain.
*Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw: justice purifying law.*

Nature reordered to match God's intent, nations obeying the call to repent,
all of creation completely restored, filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.
*Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw: knowledge, wisdom, worship, awe.* Thomas Troeger
Daniel Crisp and John Wacker, percussionists; Barbara Valentine, pianist

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* CAROL 151: "The First Noel" THE FIRST NOEL

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

ORGAN OFFERTORY: Joy to the World Gordon Young

* 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: "Dona Nobis Pacem" arr. Margaret R. Tucker
Dona nobis pacem Grant us your peace.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON: "Reflections of Peace: Joseph" 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 153: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" CAROL
(Persons desiring membership in our church are invited to come forward during the singing of this hymn.)

* THE BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

* ORGAN POSTLUDE: Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates Wilbur Held

* 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
Chase Joyner
Acolyte

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister
Mark Gansor
Organist

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music
Spencer Bulluck
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 "Christmas Reflections." We consider some of the characters in the Christmas story and the ways in which they reflected on or thought about what was happening to them and around them. We also consider ways in which our lives may reflect the truths that arise from the coming of Christ to our world. 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.

6 O'CLOCK P.M. - SERVICE OF CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHTING

Choirs and Lay Readers will lead us in a retelling of the Christmas story through a series of lessons and carols.

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