

The Worship of God

A Season of Expected Surprises

December 23, 2012

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

PRELUDE: Livre de Noels

Louis Daquin

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: Ave Maria

J.S. Bach/arr. Charles Gounod

Christopher Ellis, violinist

CHORAL INTROIT

Joan Collier Fogg

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth, giving a promise of safety and worth. When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

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

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Alicia, Jerry, and Jed Hamrick

* CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 35

Minister: Come, brothers and sisters, and worship the God who offers us the promise of true peace: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

People: The desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

Minister: Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God . . . He will come and save you."

People: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

Minister: The redeemed of the Lord shall return to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

People: The Prince of Peace comes! Let us rejoice!

* 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

J.S. Bach

Break forth, O beautiful 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.

MEDITATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a

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 heavenly 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 PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* CAROL 144: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" ST. LOUIS

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

ORGAN OFFERTORY: Gigue in F

G. F. Handel

Christopher Ellis, violinist

* 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: "Dona Nobis Pacem"

Giulio Caccini/arr. James A. Moore

Dona nobis pacem

Grant us your peace.

Chris Ellis, violinist

THE GOSPEL LESSON:

Luke 1:39-56

SERMON:

"Surprising 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 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: Toccata on *Divinum Mysterium*

John McCreary

* 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
Michael Waters
Acolyte

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister
Mark Gansor
Organist

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music
Mary Frances Raper
Crucifer

*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 is "A Season of Expected Surprises." We reflect on the ways in which our expectations of Christ's coming continue to surprise us. The paraments on the pulpit and lectern provide us with visual cues about the meaning of our faith. The color of the season is purple, indicative of 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. We begin and end our worship following the cross, a symbol of God's self-giving love for us all.

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

December 24 - 6 o'clock p.m.

Communion

"Expected Surprises"

Chris Ellis, violinist

Ann Sawyer and Amy Shortt, soloists

STEWARDSHIP REMINDER

As the end of the year approaches, please remember to fulfill your commitment to our ministry budget. You are a generous and faithful congregation and we are grateful. Please complete your giving this week so that we can honor all of our ministry obligations. The church office will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 25 and 26, but will be open the rest of the week.

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