

The Worship of God

Longing To Believe

December 23, 2018

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: Preludes on *In Dulci Jubilo* and *The First Noel* Wilbur Held

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: Choral Prelude on *In Dulci Jubilo* Johann Michael Bach

CHORAL INTROIT Zebulon M. Highben

The Lord shall come and not be slow; his light is soon appearing. Prepare, you sinners, here below who are these tidings hearing. Arise, O sleepers, trim your lamps! Your king eternal, Lord on high, in humble form and lowly, transforms a simple oxen stall into a throne most holy.

* PROCESSIONAL CAROL 155: “Angels We Have Heard on High” GLORIA
(*The congregation rises as the organist begins the hymn.*)

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Ashley and Bruce Berry, Chandler, Millar, and Powers

* CALL TO WORSHIP Grady Davis

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

People: We are ready. Come, Lord Jesus.

Deacon: Advent calls us to believe that the Messiah comes to us and for us.

People: We believe. Come, Lord Jesus.

Deacon: Advent calls us to recognize that the Messiah brings light to dispel darkness and hope to those who do not know peace.

People: We behold him. Come, Lord Jesus.

Deacon: 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.

Deacon: 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!

* 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 French melody (15th century)/arr. Thomas Helmore (1854)

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

MEDITATION

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

Minister: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: “And the Glory of the Lord” from *Messiah* G. F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* CAROL 151: “The First Noel” THE FIRST NOEL

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

HANDBELL OFFERTORY: A Night at the Manger Matthew Compton

* 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: “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 GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON: “Longing To Believe: Wisdom” Dr. Wright

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We long to believe that there is something beyond us of which we are a part, and that our lives matter.

We long to believe in God who cares about us and holds our life, and with whom we are united now and forever.

We long to believe that justice and goodness are at work in the world, and that we bear Christ to the world day by day.

We long to believe that God’s wisdom will guide us to truth, and that we find truth as we wonder, question, and search.

We long to believe that Christmas makes a difference, and that the gift of Christ begins our journey of faith.

THE CALL TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

* RECESSIONAL CAROL 164: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” IN DULCI JUBILO
(*Persons desiring membership in our church are invited to come forward during the singing of this hymn.*)

* THE BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

* ORGAN POSTLUDE: Giga (*In Dulci Jubilo*) Norman Dello Joio

* 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
Millar Berry
Acolyte

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister
Phil Valera
Guest Organist

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music
Chandler Lamm
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 "Longing to Believe." We explore some of the ways we long to believe as we grow in faith. 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. 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

Longing . . . To Believe
December 24 - 6 o'clock p.m.
Communion
Chris Ellis, violinist ✧ Lakeside Soloists

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