

The Worship of God

Christmas Reflections

December 28, 2014

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Eleven O'Clock

The worship of God begins with the music of the organ. We encourage you to use this time for meditation and reflection. Please refrain from conversation which would disturb others. Following the service, greet our visitors and share your friendship with those around you. Wireless hearing aids are available in the narthex.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

ORGAN PRELUDE: Prièmer Suite de Noels

Claude Balbastre

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: Un Flambeau, Jeannette, Isabella

Christopher Uehlein

CHORAL INTROIT

16th century tune/arr. David Willcocks

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 143:

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Martin Luther

Minister: Little Child of God, laid in a manger, we adore your coming!

People: Now God is of our image, God is of our flesh and blood.

Minister: Now there is no difference at all between your body and ours. You are our Savior and our brother lying in a cot.

People: You join our human frailty, share our needs, and assure us of utter glory. Hallelujah!

* THE GLORIA PATRI

GLORIA

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son,

Glory be to God the Spirit, Ever three and ever one.

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

* THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL ADORATION

16th century tune/arr. David Willcocks

Ding dong! Merrily on high in heav'n bells are ringing; Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Minister: Most Loving God, because you knew how twisted and subject to evil our humanity had become, you sent us your Holy Son.

People: We name him Jesus, our Savior, for he has saved us from our sins.

Minister: Because you have stood in our shoes and understand how difficult it is to live by the rule of love in an often cold, unfeeling, and ruthless world,

People: We name him Jesus, our Savior, for he is this very day saving us from all our sins.

Minister: Because you have given us a gracious spirit, forgiving those who sin against us, and you call us to a ministry of reconciliation in a fractured world,

People: We proclaim him Jesus, our Savior, for he will save our world from its many sins.

Minister: God of Christmas grace, forgive and renew us all, that our lives may declare the wonders of that Holy Love that has called us out of darkness into glorious light.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

MEDITATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

ANTHEM: “On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

Neil Harmon

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us. Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo! His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth Bethlehem saw his birth; shepherds kneel before him, praise him and adore him. Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo! God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low beside his bed, lay their gifts before him, praise and adore him. Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo! On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring, praising Christ, heaven's King, born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us. Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* HYMN 147:

“Away in a Manger”

AWAY IN A MANGER

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

ORGAN OFFERTORY: As Joseph Was A-Walking

Appalachian Carol/arr. Franklin Eddings

* 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 2:22-40

HOMILY:

“Reflections of Incarnation: Simeon and Anna”

Rev. Edwards

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 HYMN 167:

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

(Persons desiring membership in our church are invited to come forward during the singing of this hymn.)

* THE BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

* ORGAN POSTLUDE: Noel Polonaise

Alexandre Guilmant

* Congregation stands.

The white poinsettias on the chancel are given to the glory of God and in memory of Webster Henry and in honor of Nancy Henry by the Henry family.

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Jody C. Wright
Senior Minister
Madison Atkins
Acolyte

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister
Mark Gansor
Organist

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music
Carson Browder
Crucifer

*Children's worship aids are available in the narthex.
Wireless hearing aids are available in the narthex.
Childcare is available in the Preschool Building.*

The paraments on the altar and pulpit, along with the ministers' stoles provide us with visual cues about the meaning of our faith. The color of the Christmas season is white, symbolic of purity and light. The Celtic Cross with its circle reminds us of the sacrificial love and eternal nature of God. The Acolyte brings light to the altar as a reminder of Christ, the Light of life. In the same way, we begin our worship following the cross as a symbol of God's self-giving love for us.

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.

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AVAILABLE

Several large print hymnals are available for the convenience of any worshippers who have trouble reading the pew hymnals. Please ask an usher for a copy 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.

YEAR-END GIVING

With your continued generosity and abundant support, we will meet our ministry obligations this year. If you have not yet completed your giving for the year, please do so as soon as possible. If you are able, consider an additional gift before the end of the year. All financial gifts must be received by noon on December 31 to be counted toward this year's giving.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

There will be no evening activities tonight. The church office will be closed Thursday, January 1.

The artwork on the cover is "The Holy Family" by Joseph Paelinck, ca. 1820.

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.

Christmas at Lakeside



*Lakeside Baptist Church
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Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27804*