

# The Worship of God

December 30, 2012

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: Six Variants on *Es ist ein 'Ros' entsprungen* Gerald Near

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: Interlude on the Coventry Carol W. S. Lloyd-Webber

CHORAL INTROIT C. Kocher/arr. David Willcocks

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold. As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward beaming bright, So, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to thee.

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 150: "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" MENDELSSOHN  
*(The congregation rises as the organist begins the hymn.)*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Before the miracle of the new life,

**People: We stand in wonder.**

Minister: Before the mystery of the Word made flesh,

**People: We stand in awe.**

Minister: Before the power of Love Incarnate,

**People: We stand amazed.**

Minister: God be with us in our worship, lest our words be empty and glib.

**People: God be with us to surprise us once again with your grace. Thanks be to God!**

Peggy Haymes, adapted

\* 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

\* LITANY OF ADORATION

*The congregation will sing the response to the tune REGENT SQUARE.*

*Choir: Come and worship, come and worship. Worship Christ, the newborn King!*

Minister: Blessed are you, O Christ, our God; you were before time began, and came to the world to save us. Blessed are you, Sun of Righteousness; you shine with the Father's love and illumine the whole universe.

**People: Come and worship, come and worship. Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

Minister: Blessed are you, Son of Mary; born a child, you shared our humanity. Blessed are you, son of David; born to rule, you received gifts from the wise men.

**People: Come and worship, come and worship. Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

Minister: Blessed are you, Son of Man; baptized by John, you saved us from ourselves. Blessed are you, Heavenly King; teaching and preaching, healing and comforting, you proclaimed the kingdom.

**People: Come and worship, come and worship. Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

Minister: With all the voices of heaven we celebrate the coming of our Savior. Let heaven and earth shout their praise. With all the creatures on earth we sing and dance at your birth. Praise and glory to you, O Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: Come and worship, come and worship. Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

## CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

THE CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Forgive us, O God, for we have sinned. The lights of the season remind us that you are the Light of the World, but our eyes are drawn to other lights that sparkle and shine. We sing the songs of the season, but our hearts are lured by other tunes. We enjoy the warmth of Christian fellowship but the chill of commercialism numbs our souls. Shine your light, that we may find our way to you. Sing louder so that our hearts will hear your song. Surround us with your love so that our spirits will be warmed with the grace of your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### MEDITATION

THE EPISTLE LESSON: Galatians 3:23-29; 4:4-7

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

\* HYMN 162: "What Child Is This?" GREENSLEEVES

\* OFFERTORY PRAYER

ORGAN OFFERTORY: Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella David M. Cherwien

\* 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: "O Holy Child" Michael Cox

Sing alleluia. O Holy Child, the Blessed One. Child of God, a little Son. The Seed of Hope 'til now unborn, as tiny blossom greets the morn. Sing alleluia. Who knows the fate of such a flow'r to be cut down in fullest hour? Rejoice today this blessed morn, for fragrant bud of hope just born. Sing alleluia.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: John 1:1-18

HOMILY: "Grace Upon Grace" Rev. Edwards

\* HYMN 167: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in Jesus Christ and the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.**

**We believe in the One whose Spirit glorified a little town; and whose Spirit still brings joy to people all over the world in towns both large and small.**

**We believe in the One for whom the crowded inn could find no room, whom the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand, whose life was among common people, and whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.**

**We believe in the One who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible, whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home had love for its only wealth, who looked at people and made them see what God's love saw in them.**

**We believe in the One who, by love, brings sinners back to purity and lifts human weakness up to meet the strength of God.**

THE CALL TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN 143: "Joy to the World" ANTIOCH  
*(Persons desiring membership in our church are invited to come forward during the singing of this hymn.)*

\* THE BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

\* ORGAN POSTLUDE: Joy to the World David Cherwien

\* Congregation stands.

*We are grateful for the Memorial Poinsettias that adorn the sanctuary,  
remembrances of those persons who have filled our lives with love and joy.  
You may take your poinsettias following the service today.*

#### **THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP**

Jody C. Wright  
*Senior Minister*  
Spencer Edwards  
*Acolyte*

Elizabeth Edwards  
*Associate Minister*  
Mark Gansor  
*Organist*

Amy Shortt  
*Minister of Music*  
Chandler Cobb  
*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 worshipers 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 of our ministry, we will meet our budget 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 Tuesday, January 1.

*The artwork on the cover is "Nativity and Annunciation to the Shepherds,"  
by Bernardino Luini, 1520-25, Musée du Louvre, Paris.*

#### **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  
1501 Sunset Avenue  
Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27804*