

The Worship of God

December 31, 2017

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: Noël and Variations *Joseph est bien marié* (Joseph is well married) C. Balbastre

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: Of the Father's Love Begotten

arr. Wilbur Held

CHORAL INTROIT

Plainsong, 13th Century; harm. C. Winfred Douglas

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, Christ is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 148: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ADESTE FIDELES
(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 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: "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" J.S. Bach

Break forth, O beauteous 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.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

THE CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, O Lord, if we have let all of the trappings of this season crowd out the meaning of it. Forgive us if the nativity scene has become obscured by wrapping paper and tinsel and colored lights. And forgive us, O Lord, if we dare to walk away from Christmas untouched and unchanged, if having heard it all before, we miss seeing the Christ who still comes to us. Grant us ears to hear, eyes to see, and a story to tell of a God who still becomes flesh and walks among us.
Peggy Haymes

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

MEDITATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Isaiah 9:2-7

Carson Browder

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* HYMN 147: "Away In a Manger" AWAY IN A MANGER

* OFFERTORY PRAYER Sheila Martin

ORGAN OFFERTORY: Noël and Variations *Où s'en vont ces gais bergers* C. Balbastre
(Where are these happy shepherds going?)

* 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 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: John 1:1-14

HOMILY: "Witness to the Light" Rev. Edwards

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

As God's children we wait for the Christ.

We are unsettled by the harsh realities of life,

And we long for the salvation that has been promised to us.

As people of faith we pray for the Messiah to come.

We long for our darkness to be dispelled by the light of hope,

And we await liberation from all oppression.

As sisters and brothers we ready ourselves for the Savior.

We await the Christ child who shall disturb our assumptions about one another,

And teach us how to live together in peace.

As disciples of Jesus we tell the good news of his birth.

We teach one another of his love and mercy,

And live, certain that he is in our midst.

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: Noël and Variations *Tous les Bourgeois de Châtres* C. Balbastre
(All Citizens of Châtres)

* 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.*

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
Will Robillard
Acolyte
Phil Valera
Guest Organist

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister
Mark Pichowicz
Organist

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music
Carson Browder
Crucifer
Jim Wiggs
Guest Conductor

*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 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 Monday, January 1.

The artwork on the cover is "Nativity" by Jean-Baptiste-Marie Pierre (1714–1789).

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*