

The Worship of God

December 24, 2012

CHRISTMAS EVE

Six O'Clock P.M.

PRELUDE:

Sonata in D
Christopher Ellis, violin

G.F. Handel

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 CAROL 148:

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Adeste Fideles

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

* THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Wright

Minister: To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen mother mild;

People: This little Child, of lowly birth, shall be the joy of all the earth.

Minister: Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, make thee a bed, soft, undefiled,

People: Within my heart, that it may be a quiet chamber kept for thee.

Minister: My heart for very joy doth leap, my lips no more can silence keep,

People: I too must sing, with joyful tongue, that sweetest ancient cradle-song:

Minister: Glory to God in highest Heaven, who unto us his Son hath given!

People: While angels sing, with pious mirth, a glad New Year to all the earth.

Martin Luther, 1531; trans. Catherine Winkworth

* 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

Rev. Edwards

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE Brandy, Bobby, Madi, and Anna Adkins
Sue and Ross Daughety

CAROL:

“A Candle Is Burning”

Away in a Manger

Please remain seated during the singing of this carol and the lighting of the candles on the Advent Wreath.

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright; a candle of Hope in December's dark night.

While angels sing blessings from heav'n's starry sky, our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.

A candle is burning, a candle of Peace; a candle to signal that conflict must cease.

For Jesus is coming to show us the way; a message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.

A candle is burning, a candle of Joy; a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.

Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow as Joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

A candle is burning, a candle of Love; a candle to point us to heaven above.

A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth; for Jesus is bringing God's Love to our earth.

We honor Messiah with Christ-Candle's flame; our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.

O come, all ye faithful, rejoice on this night as God comes among us, the Christian's true Light.

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THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

Isaiah 9:2-7

THE EPISTLE LESSON:

Titus 2:11-14

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* CAROL 145:

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Stille Nacht

THE GOSPEL LESSON:

Luke 2:1-20

Beth Seagroves

SOLO: “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Michael Praetorius/arr. Mark Hayes

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung. It came, a Floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior, when half spent was the night. This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere. True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens ev'ry load.

Ann Barnes. soloist

THE HOMILY

“Expected Surprises”

Dr. Wright

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

ORGAN MEDITATION: O Bethlehem

David M. Cherwien

THE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND SUPPLICATION:

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Minister: Let us confess our sins to God. *(silent confession)*

Minister: Lord Jesus, you came as a baby—humble, poor and defenseless. You are born into this world wherever you are received. Therefore help us welcome you so that we might be filled with new life.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Minister: Let us pray for peace, for the generosity of heart we know at Christmas to extend beyond this time to all times and to all peoples.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Minister: Let us pray for the church, for the unity of Christians and a spirit of cooperation among members of all congregations, for those called to leadership within the church, and for those who do not have a place to worship where they feel welcome.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Minister: Let us remember the poor and pray for the success of all efforts to alleviate suffering, for all who are seeking justice in public policy, and for all who share their blessings with others.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Minister: Let us pray for those who are sick, for those suffering a life-threatening illness, and for those in chronic pain. Let us remember those who feel isolated from the community, the homebound, those in nursing homes, and all who are dying with no one to care for them.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Minister: Let us ask God for what we need for Christmas: if we are lonely, if we long for past Christmases when we were children or when our children were little, if the people with whom we spend Christmas are difficult, if we are anxious or without enough money or enough time.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Minister: Good and gracious God, your Word becomes flesh in our midst. Listen to those needs we cannot express and help us to know your presence in this holy season; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Minister: As you, O God, shared your love and yourself with us in the person of Jesus, so he shared himself with us in loving us and giving himself for us. On that never-to-be-forgotten night, as he sat at the table and broke bread with his friends, he said: “Take and eat; this is my body which is broken for you. Remember me each time you do this.” After they had eaten, he took the cup, and said: “Remember me as you drink from this, for it is my life, poured out for you—the beginning of a new relationship with God.” Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may experience the presence of the Word-made-flesh. Breathe your Spirit in us that we may be one body with him, faithfully following and serving, rejoicing in the reality of his kingdom. Amen.

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

You are invited to come forward to receive communion. Forming two lines, use the center aisle as you approach the altar and the side aisles as you return to your seat. If you prefer to remain seated, a Deacon will serve you. This evening we will take the bread and the cup by intinction, dipping the bread into the common cup. You will take a piece of bread from the plate offered by a Deacon and dip it into the chalice offered by one of the ministers. You may then place the bread in your mouth. Appropriate responses upon receiving the bread or the cup are “Thanks be to God.” or “Amen.”

DUET: “What Child Is This?”

Traditional English Melody/arr. Lloyd Larson

Ann Sawyer and Amy Shortt, soloists

As you wait to receive communion, offer a prayer for family and friends. Pray for people with special needs, for all who sorrow or are lonely, for everyone who is hungry and homeless, and for each one who needs assurance of God’s love. After you have celebrated communion, offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the joys of this Christmas season, for the generous spirit of neighbors, for the love of family and friends, for this church and all it means to your life and this community, and for God’s gift of himself to us all.

VIOLIN MEDITATION: Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

UNISON PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Most gracious God, as we taste the promise of the feast you prepare for us in your kingdom, may we live for you and serve your children, as we have been served by the Child of Christmas, Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior. Amen.

Thom M. Shuman

* ORGAN INTRODUCTION: Fanfare on Antioch

Gerre Hancock

* CAROL 143: “Joy to the World”

Antioch

THE BLESSING

* POSTLUDE: Hallelujah Chorus

G. F. Handel/arr. Robert Gower

* Congregation stands

The white poinsettias on the chancel are given to the glory of God and in memory of Rev. Clarence Godwin and Dr. Charlie Godwin by Betty B. Godwin.

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 tonight.

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Jody C. Wright
Senior Minister

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music

Beth Seagroves
Lay Reader

Mark Gansor
Organist

Chris Ellis
Violinist

Elijah Bass
Acolyte

Jacob Watkins
Torch Bearer

Andersen Cobb
Crucifer

Ann Barnes and Amy Shortt
Soloists

We are delighted to have Christopher Ellis join us again for worship on this night. Chris is a native of Farmville, North Carolina and began studying violin at age ten. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree from East Carolina University and a Master of Music degree from Florida State University. Chris has been a member of the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra and the Tar River Symphony Orchestra in addition to playing with numerous orchestras in the Southeast. He and his family live in Greenville, North Carolina, and he teaches in Rocky Mount and Goldsboro.

Support for guest musicians who lead in worship at Lakeside is provided by the Jack Laughery Music Fund, established by his family and friends to honor his life and love of music.

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

Christmas Eve Communion



Lakeside Baptist Church

1501 Sunset Avenue

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