

## *The Worship of God*

December 24, 2013

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

Six O’Clock P.M.

PRELUDE:

Sonata in D  
Christopher Ellis, violin

G.F. Handel

\* PROCESSIONAL CAROL 104: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” DIVINUM MYSTERIUM  
*(Please remain seated during the first two stanzas. Rise during the organ interlude.)*

Duet: 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!

By his Word was all created; he commanded; it was done:  
heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one,  
all that sees the moon’s soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun, evermore and evermore!

*\*Organ Interlude: Please stand as you are able.*

**\*All: O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore!**

**O ye heights of heaven, sing praises; angels and archangels sing!  
And on earth let all the faithful now your joyous anthems ring,  
Ev'ry tongue Christ's name confessing, countless voices answering, evermore and evermore!**

**Christ, to thee with God Creator, and O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:  
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!**

Ann Sawyer and Amy Shortt, soloists

\* 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

ADESTE FIDELES

**Glory to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Praise we the Trinity – Three in one;  
Sing alleluia! Welcome the Messiah; O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

\* THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Edwards

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE Leslie, Matt, Elizabeth & Maggie Paszek

CAROL 128: “One Candle Is Lit” Cradle Song  
*Please remain seated during the singing of this carol and the lighting of the candles on the Advent Wreath.*

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 Spencer Edwards

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 “Peace Beyond Understanding” Dr. Wright

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

SOLO: “Little Lamb, Who Made Thee?” W.B. Caldwell

Little lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee, gave thee life, and bade thee feed by the stream and o’er the mead; gave thee clothing of delight, softest clothing, wooly, bright; gave thee such a tender voice, making all the vales rejoice? Little lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee? Little lamb, I’ll tell thee; Little lamb, I’ll tell thee: He is called by thy name, for He calls Himself a lamb, he is meek, and he is mild, he became a little child; I a child, and thou a lamb, We are called by his name. Little lamb, God bless thee! Little lamb, God bless thee!

William Blake

Eliza Craig Parker, soloist

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.

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

**O God, having celebrated this moment with you and with each other, and with hearts made warm and wills made strong through bread and cup, enable us to reflect the love of Christ in our hearts. Help us to celebrate his birth in gratitude, in unselfish love and cheerful service, that it may be a blessing to us and an offering of thanksgiving to you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

- \* 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 The Reverend Dr. Gaylord L. Lehman, Pastor of Lakeside Baptist Church from 1966-1998.*

*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 <i>Senior Minister</i>	Elizabeth Edwards <i>Associate Minister</i>	Amy Shortt <i>Minister of Music</i>
Spencer Edwards <i>Lay Reader</i>	Mark Gansor <i>Organist</i>	Chris Ellis <i>Violinist</i>
Henry Williams <i>Acolyte</i>	Sara Raper <i>Torch Bearer</i>	Katy Jaber <i>Crucifer</i>

Eliza Craig Parker, Ann Sawyer, 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, N. C. 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, N.C. 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 "The Adoration of the Shepherds" by Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo, 1751-53.

# Christmas Eve Communion



*Lakeside Baptist Church  
1501 Sunset Avenue  
Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27804*