

The Worship of God

December 24, 2014

CHRISTMAS EVE

Six O'Clock P.M.

PRELUDE:

Sonata in D
Christopher Ellis, violin

G.F. Handel

INTROIT: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Plainsong, 13th Century/harmony 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! 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!
Carol Lucas and Amy Shortt

* 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 MENDELSSOHN

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

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

Mighty kings bow down before him, Hail the long awaited birth.

Shepherds worship and adore him, King of heaven and Lord of earth.

With the angels let us sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

* THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Edwards

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE Betsy and Bill Waters

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 144: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ST. LOUIS

* OFFERTORY PRAYER
Tonight’s offering will be shared with My Sister’s House and The Christian Men’s Fellowship Home, both of which provide shelter and hope for individuals in crisis.

* ORGAN OFFERTORY: A Christmas Pastorale Charles Callahan

* THE DOXOLOGY VENI EMMANUEL

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THE GOSPEL LESSON:

Luke 2:1-20

Henry Williams

DUET: “Breath of Heaven (Mary’s Song)” Chris Eaton and Amy Grant/arr. Lloyd Larson

I have traveled many moonless nights, cold and weary with a babe inside and I wonder what I've done. Holy Father, you have come and chosen me now to carry your Son. I am waiting in a silent prayer; I am frightened by the load I bear. In a world as cold as stone must I walk this path alone? Be with me now. *Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of Heaven. Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me your holiness, for you are holy, Breath of Heaven.* Do you wonder as you watch my face, if a wiser one should have had my place? But I offer all I am for the mercy of your plan. Help me be strong, help me be, help me.
Carol Lucas and Amy Shortt

THE HOMILY “Reflections of Wonder: Mary” Dr. Wright

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

TRIO: “Silent Night” arr. Mark Patterson
Daniel Edwards, Gilliam Parker, Eliza Craig Parker

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: "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

Madi Adkins and Eliza Craig Parker

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: O Come, All Ye Faithful David M. Cherwien
- * 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 tonight.

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Jody C. Wright
Senior Minister

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music

Henry Williams
Lay Reader

Mark Gansor
Organist

Chris Ellis
Violinist

Eliza Craig Parker
Acolyte

Trevor Graham
Torch Bearer

Andersen Cobb
Crucifer

Madi Adkins, Daniel Edwards, Gilliam Parker, Eliza Craig Parker, Carol Lucas, 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 is a graduate of East Carolina University and Florida State University. Chris has played 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 "Nativity and Annunciation to the Shepherds" by Bernardino Luini 1520-25.

Christmas Eve Communion



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