

# *The Worship of God*

## *CHRISTMAS EVE*

December 24, 2015

Six O'Clock P.M.

PRELUDE: Celebrated Air

J.S. Bach

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Marshall McDonald and Steven Sharp Nelson

Christopher Ellis, violin; Amy Shortt, piano

INTROIT: "The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon"

arr. Michael Clawson

Ann Sawyer 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

Marion and Ray Weathers

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

\* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Laura O'Neal

*Tonight's offering will be shared with People of Faith - Filling in the Gaps (POF-FIGS), which provides emergency rent and utility assistance to keep local families in their homes.*

\* ORGAN OFFERTORY: A Christmas Pastorate

Charles Callahan

\* THE DOXOLOGY

AWAY IN A MANGER

**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.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON:

Luke 2:1-20

Madi Adkins

SOLO: "O Holy Night"

Adolphe Charles Adam/arr. Mark Hayes

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining; It is the night of the dear Savior's birth! Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night, O holy night, O night divine! Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his Gospel is peace. Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother and in his name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise his holy name! Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

Ann Sawyer, soloist

THE HOMILY

"Starry Stranger, Guiding Light"

Dr. Wright

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

DUET: "What Can I Give Him?"

Marjorie Jones

What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part. But what I can I give him, give my heart.

Bo Browder and Chase Joyner, soloists

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.”*

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION: Gesu Bambino Ave Maria Pietro Yon  
Giulio Caccini/arr. Patrick M. Lieberger

*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.*

## 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: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Charles Callahan
- \* 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
Madi Adkins Lay Reader	Brenda Accurso Guest Organist	Chris Ellis Violinist
Reynolds Cobb Acolyte	Spencer Edwards Torch Bearer	Jacob Watkins Crucifer

Bo Browder, Chase Joyner, Ann Sawyer, Amy Shortt  
Soloists

We welcome our guest musicians who lead us in worship on this night. Chris Ellis 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. Brenda Accurso is an organist, conductor, and singer from Temple, TX, with a passion for working in churches. She earned her undergraduate degree in Piano Performance from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, and a Masters degree in Sacred Music from the University of Notre Dame. She recently moved to Raleigh from South Bend, IN, with her husband Michael, and four-month-old son John.

*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  
Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27804*