

The Worship of God
Everlasting Lovingkindness: God's Journey to Us

December 24, 2017

CHRISTMAS EVE

Six O'Clock P.M.

PRELUDE: Sonata in D

G.F. Handel

Christopher Ellis, violin; Mark Pichowicz, organ

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

arr. Michael Clawson

Jaye Biggs and Amy Shortt

* PROCESSIONAL CAROL 149: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"
(The congregation rises as the organist begins the hymn.)

REGENT SQUARE

* THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Wright

Minister: Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free.

People: From our fears and sins release us; Christ in whom our rest shall be.

Minister: You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;

People: Dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.

Charles Wesley

* THE GLORIA PATRI

GLORIA

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

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

* THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Edwards

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE

Greyson, Michael, Michael-Jon
Kathryn Grace, and Gabriel Tillman

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 162: "What Child Is This"

GREENSLEEVES

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Sheila Martin

*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 AND VIOLIN OFFERTORY: Christmas Pastorale

Charles Callahan

* THE DOXOLOGY

THE FIRST NOEL

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.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

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, woolly, 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

Catherine Cobb and Maggie Paszek

THE GOSPEL LESSON:

Luke 2:1-20

Elizabeth Paszek

THE HOMILY

"God's Journey to Us: Immanuel"

Dr. Wright

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

Jaye Biggs and Amy Shortt

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."

MEDITATION: Ave Maria

Giulio Caccini/arr. Patrick M. Lieberger

Millar Berry and Elizabeth Paszek

VIOLIN MEDITATION: Panis Angelicus

César Franck

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.

MEDITATION: Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light. The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced, and at his blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced. Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night that gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light. Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell, from paradise to earth He came that we might with Him dwell. O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Bo Browder and Chase Joyner

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: Fanfare on *Antioch* Gerre Hancock

* 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.

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Jody C. Wright
Senior Minister

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music

Elizabeth Paszek
Lay Reader

Mark Pichowicz
Organist

Chris Ellis
Violinist

Anna Adkins
Acolyte

Andersen Cobb
Torch Bearer

Madi Adkins
Crucifer

Jaye Biggs, Bo Browder, Catherine Cobb, Chase Joyner, Elizabeth Paszek, Maggie Paszek, 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.

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 "Adoration of the Shepherds" by Agnolo Bronzino 1539-40.

Christmas Eve Communion



Lakeside Baptist Church

*1501 Sunset Avenue
Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27804*