

Christmas Eve Communion



"The Adoration of the Shepherds" by Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo 1751-53.

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

The Worship of God Longing To Believe

December 24, 2018

CHRISTMAS EVE

Six O'Clock P.M.

PRELUDE: Meditation J.S. Bach/Charles Gounod
Christopher Ellis, violin; Phil Valera, organ
Ave Maria Giulio Caccini
Christopher Ellis, violin; Amy Shortt, piano
O Come, O Come Emmanuel Traditional French/arr. McDonald and Nelson
Christopher Ellis, violin; Amy Shortt, piano; Phil Valera, organ
Pat-a-Pan Bernard de La Monnoye
Elizabeth Paszek, pianist

INTROIT: "The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon" arr. Michael Clawson
Ann Sawyer and Amy Shortt

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

* THE CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Wright

Minister: There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!

People: There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!

Minister: And the star rains its fire while the angel choirs sing,

People: For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!

Minister: We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song

People: That comes down through the night from the heavenly throng,

Minister: And we welcome the glorious gospel they bring,

People: And we greet in the cradle our savior and king. Josiah G. Holland, 1879, alt.

* 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 Nancy and Bobby Ellis

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

CAROL:“Light A Candle Bright and Tall”DIX
Light a candle bright and tall for the Hope within our world.
Hope that heard the ages' call as the stars and planets whirled.
Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Hope, to us, we pray.

Light a candle bright and tall for the Peace we wish to know.
Peace on Earth for great and small God's Good News to us bestows.
Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Peace, to us, we pray.

Light a candle bright and tall for the Joy this season brings.
Joy like fountains brimming full. Through our world now let it ring!
Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Joy, to us, we pray.

Light a candle bright and tall for a Love which knows no end.
Love that comes to one and all. Fear and hatred to upend.
Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Love, to us, we pray.

Light a candle bright and tall for the Christ we greet today.
Christ has come, our all in all. With the angels, let us say:
Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Christ, to us, we pray.

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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

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

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

*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 PastoraleCharles Callahan

* THE DOXOLOGYGREENSLEEVES

**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.**

**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

DUET: “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”Mark A. Miller

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear
desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart. Born to save, born to heal, come, O savior,
come. While we wait, while we pray, come, Savior come. Hope of all heaven and earth, come,
Jesus, come. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine
all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.Amy Shortt and Jim Wiggs

THE GOSPEL LESSON:Luke 2:1-20Will Robillard

THE HOMILY“Longing . . . To Believe”Dr. Wright

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

SOLO: “Sweet Little Jesus Boy”Robert McGimpsey

Sweet little Jesus Boy, they made you be born in a manger. Sweet little holy child, we didn't
know who you were. Didn't know you'd come to save us Lord, to take our sins away. Our eyes
were blind, we couldn't see. We didn't know who you were. Long time ago you were born, born
in a manger low. Sweet little Jesus Boy, the world treats you mean, Lord, treats me mean, too.
But that's how things are down here. We don't know who you are. You have told us how, we are
trying. Master, you have shown us how even when you were dying. Just seems like we can't do
right. Look how we treated you. But please, Sir, forgive us, Lord. We didn't know twas you.
Sweet little Jesus Boy, born a long time ago. Sweet little holy child. And we didn't know who
you were.

Chase Joyner

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. Help us welcome you and fill us 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 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 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: “Mary, Did You Know?”

Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day walk on water? Mary did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you. Mary did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man? Mary did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand? Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod? And when you kiss your little baby, you have kissed the face of God. The blind will see, the deaf will hear and the dead will live again. The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the lamb. Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations? Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb? This sleeping child you're holding is the great I am.

Ann Sawyer and Jim Wiggs

VIOLIN AND ORGAN MEDITATION: Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

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: “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
Catherine Cobb and Maggie Paszek

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: Joy to the World

arr. Hal Hopson

* Congregation stands

The white poinsettias on the chancel are given to the glory of God and in memory of Webster and 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

Phil Valera
Organist

Chris Ellis
Violinist

Elizabeth Paszek
Pianist

AnnaAdkins
Acolyte

Sara Raper
Torch Bearer

Spencer Edwards
Crucifer

Will Robillard
Lay Reader

Catherine Cobb, Chase Joyner, Maggie Paszek, Ann Sawyer, Amy Shortt, Jim Wiggs

Soloists

We welcome violinist Chris Ellis back to Lakeside. He 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.

