

# THE WORSHIP OF THE LORD

December 31, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas Day

## GATHERING MUSIC

### OPENING TO WORSHIP

PRUDENTIUS (c. 348 – c.410 AD),  
**LET THE ANGELS PRAISE GOD:**  
*Sing his praises heights of heaven,  
all you angels sing his praise,  
Let the mighty hosts of heaven sing in  
joyous praise of God;  
Let no tongue of humanity be silent,  
let all voices join the hymn.*  
HYMNS FOR EVERY DAY 22-24.

### CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

*Worship begins with the Voluntary. Please use this time to enjoy the sacred  
music and to prepare your heart and mind for an encounter with God.*

### VOLUNTARY

*I Saw Three Ships*.....arr. David Lasky  
Clyde Patterson

### WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Rev. J. Kenneth Byrd, Jr.

### EPISTLE READING: Galatians 4:4-7

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

The love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!  
**And also, with you!**

Loving God, we thank you for poets and composers without whose  
inspired work Christmas would not be Christmas.

All: **We thank you for Phillips Brooks, preacher extraordinary, who  
wove a spell of devout words around the little town where your Son  
was born long ago in the night.**

We thank you for George Frederick Handel, whose joyous strains of “Joy  
to the World” break like heaven’s own light around us, no matter how  
deep our darkness.

All: **We thank you for Martin Luther, a fighting reformer with the faith  
of a child, which enabled him to write “Away in a Manger” while  
battling earthly powers and the Devil himself.**

For these heralds of Christmas and countless others, known or  
nameless, we praise your holy name.

All: **Amen!**

### \*CAROL OF PRAISE NO. 88

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*.....MENDELSSOHN

### PSALTER: Psalm 148

Ross Strickland

### INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

*Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.*

### \*OFFERTORY CAROL NO. 113

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*.....KINGS OF ORIENT

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Linda Cooper

### \*A DOXOLOGY NO. 85.....THE FIRST NOWELL

### A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Byrd

### CONGREGATIONAL CHORUS NO. 106

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*.....W ZLOBIE LEZY

### JOYS/CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Byrd

### OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 61:10–62:3

### A CALL TO PRAYER AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Let the love that shaped Earth and heaven  
dwell within us this Christmas.  
Let the love that created humanity  
dwell within us this Christmas.  
Let the love that overcomes suffering and hatred  
dwell within us this Christmas.  
Let the love that causes us to rejoice with loved ones  
dwell within us this Christmas.  
Let the love that forgives and renews  
dwell within us this Christmas.  
Let the love that brings reconciliation after separation  
dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that brings the blessing of peace  
And may we share that peace  
with all people near and far.  
Let us pray.

### SHARING IN GOD'S WORD

**TIME Marches On!**  
Emphasis Text: Luke 2:22-40  
Rev. Byrd

### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Another Year Is Dawning*.....AURELIA

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Simeon beheld the Christ child and praised God, saying, “Master,  
now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your  
word, for my eyes have seen your salvation.” We have seen God’s  
light and God’s glory as well, here in this place. That light and glory  
lead us out from our worship into the world to serve. Go and share  
the light. Go and bask in the glory of Emmanuel, God-with-us, and  
see what God has in store in the year ahead.  
**Amen!**

### \*RESPONSE NO. 89

*O Come, All Ye Faithful refrain*..... ADESTE FIDELES

### \*CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

### \*POSTLUDE

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*.....MENDELSSOHN  
Karen Sawyer

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*\*Congregation stands, who are able*  
All scripture readings are from *The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version.*

### The Ministry of Worship

Rev. J. Kenneth Byrd, Jr., Pastor  
Blaine Pittman, Director of Music & Education  
Clyde Patterson, Organist  
Karen Sawyer, Church Musician

## Today

Deacons: Ross Strickland & Linda Cooper  
Children's Church: Rosemarie Evans  
Nursery & Toddlers: Judy Edwards

## 2023 Financial Summary for 52 Weeks

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Needed:	\$6,725.37	\$349,719.24
Received:	\$3,566.00	\$310,354.29

## Member Prayer Request

Tim Bartholomew	Herbert Hopkins	Claudia Mull
Wilbur Batchelor	Eric Jeffreys	Donald Parker
Janice Brown	Sue Jenkins	John Scheipers
Patsy Carty	Dot Morris	Jeremy Winstead
Weedie Hayes		

## Prayer on Behalf of Members

Ella Ames	Annette Carrico	Bill & Lily Mayo
Harrison Barnett	John Chamblee	J.R. McPherson
Gerald Butler	Rudy Frazier	Maryanne Davis Powell
Pam Butler	Joey Garrell	Louise Ramsey
John Byrd	Gerald Hale	David Sawyer
Veda Byrd	Kevin Hinsdale	Edith Skinner
Brenda Caldwell	Linda Jernigan	Janie Weaver
Family of Buddy Caldwell	Abby Mayo	Trudy Womack

## Card Ministry to the Homebound

<b>Bill Joyner</b> Somerset Court Room 107 918 Westwood Drive Rocky Mount, NC 27803	<b>June Joyner</b> 306 East Virginia Ave. Nashville, NC 27856
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**2024 Offering Envelopes  
are available now  
in the Fellowship Hall.**



## Ministry Team Leaders

Please turn in your 2023 Team Binder  
by **Sunday, January 7.**  
Binders can be dropped off in the NBC office  
or placed on the desk in the Fellowship Ship.

