



Making Room...



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 14, 2025 at Eleven O'Clock A.M.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The worship of God begins with the music of the organ. Use this time for meditation and reflection and please refrain from conversation which would disturb others. Please turn off or silence all electronic devices. Following worship, share your friendship with those around you.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Grammer

CHORAL INTROIT: "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates," Hymn 129, verse 2

TRURO

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and Love and joy.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 2: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

HYMN TO JOY

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Bill & Sue Bulluck

* CALL TO WORSHIP

inspired by Isaiah 35

Bill Hoyle

Leader: In the midst of the barren land,

People: flowers burst into bloom.

Leader: In the midst of the dry desert,

People: streams of water gush forth.

Leader: In the midst of sorrow and sighing,

People: joy and gladness dance together.

Leader: We shall see the glory of God!

People: Thanks be to God!

Laura Jaquith Bartlett

* GLORIA PATRI

ADESTE FIDELIS

**Glory to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
Praise we the Trinity – Three in One;
Sing alleluia! Welcome the Messiah;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

** Please stand as you are able.*

* INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Grammer

**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.**

MEDITATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

Isaiah 35:1-10

Mr. Ross

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL ADORATION: "Creator of the Stars of Night," Hymn 127, verse 1

CONDITOR ALME

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light, O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray
you, hear us when we call.

GOSPEL LESSON:

Matthew 11:2-11

Mr. Mauk

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SUNG RESPONSE:

"Write These Words"

John S. Wilson

Write these words in our hearts, we beseech you, O God.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Dr. Grammer

* OFFERTORY HYMN 125:

"Come, O Long-expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

(Children in grades k-5 are invited to leave for Children's Church during the singing of this hymn)

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Dr. Edwards

OFFERTORY

* 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 in the King of Israel.**

PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM: "*O Magnum Mysterium*"

Ivo Antognini

*O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderunt Dominum natum,
jacentem in praesepe!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt
Portare Dominum Christum. Alleluia!*

O great mystery,
and wondrous sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord
lying in their manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy
to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Latin translation by Ron Jeffers

SERMON:

"Making Room for Joy"

Dr. Grammer

RESPONSE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Dr. Grammer

**We believe our God is coming to save us,
that our wilderness and deserts will rejoice and blossom like flowers.
We believe in healing and restoration, that we will be made whole.
We believe in everlasting joy, coming in the promise of a baby born to us.
We believe in Advent joy, and hold fast to it in times of trial. Amen.**

- * RECESSIONAL HYMN 164: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” IN DULCI JUBILO
(Persons desiring membership in our church are invited to come forward during the singing of this hymn.)
- * BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN Dr. Grammer
- * POSTLUDE

The poinsettias and wreaths that adorn the sanctuary and the doors of the church are given to the glory of God and in memory or in honor of loved ones. The creche and scenery were given to the glory of God and in memory of Maggie Brown Branch and Glenda Branch Murray.

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Libby Grammer
Senior Minister

Lisa Meadows
Minister to Children

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister

Zack Ross
Organist

James Mauk
Minister of Music

Deacon Stinson
Acolyte

The Lakeside Chancel Choir

Lakeside Website: lakesidechurchrmt.org

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Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, the inaugural season of the Christian year. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ; thus, it is a season of both joyous and solemn expectation. The liturgical color is purple, symbolic of a spirit of preparation.

Making Room: Advent & Christmas at Lakeside. Advent is the season that prepares our hearts for the coming of Christ. We must make room for Christ's life and message in our lives as we hear these stories of hope, peace, joy, and love once more. And as we make room for that message individually, we also make room as a church family for Christ to come into our midst, as we welcome others in Christ's name, this season and always. All are welcome here, and we will make room for you.

Restrooms, including a wheelchair-accessible family restroom, are located in the hallway behind the sanctuary. Please ask an usher if you need directions. **Childcare** is available in the preschool building. If you have a young child who becomes restless during worship, you are welcome to utilize our **Kids' Corner** in the back of the sanctuary by the audio booth. **Children's worship bags** are available in the narthex and have a variety of items that will help to make worship more meaningful for our children. Please return them to the narthex following worship. **Bibles and several large print hymnals** are available for your convenience and are located in the Prayer Room off the Narthex. Please ask an usher as you enter the sanctuary. **Wireless hearing aides** are available in the Prayer Room off the narthex. Please ask an usher to assist you with a set. You may return the hearing aid to the Prayer Room following worship. **We are grateful for our choral scholars**, Jackson Baldwin, Esther Keller, Allison Benoit, and Jacob McCain, who enrich our music ministry in many ways. Choral Scholars and guest singers are supported by the Gossett-Biggs Music Fund. Anyone interested in supporting the fund is invited to designate a contribution.

LAKESIDE FELLOWSHIP AND MINISTRY

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember the following persons who need our prayers and support:

Breckenridge Retirement Center, 2500 Hunter Hill Road (04)

Sheila Whitley, Room 156

Kitty Askins Hospice Center, 107 Handley Park Ct., Goldsboro, NC 27534

Joyce Cuthrell (JC Cuthrell's mother)

The Lodge at Rocky Mount, 3322 Village Road (04)

Charlotte Gilliam, Room 205

Wake Medical Center, 3000 New Bern Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27610

Lois Abernathy

Wilson Medical Center, 1705 Tarboro Street, Wilson, NC 27893

Lois Creech (Doug Edwards' aunt), Room 407

At Home

Janice Bobbitt (Chuck Taylor's sister), 4204 Whitehurst Dr,
Wilmington, NC 28409

Robyn Edwards Chapman (Jeannette Pittman's cousin)

Dave Corn, 3611 Browning Place, Raleigh, NC 27609

Bob Davis (Dan Davis' brother), 427 McIver Street,
Greenville, SC 29601

Della and Lela Edwards, 211 River Bank Lane, Greenville, NC 27834

Michelle Costa Foster, 105 Gloucester Court (03)

Ethel Hines, 125 Cobblestone Court (04)

Bill Jones (Dorrie Wright's brother)

Jim Martin, 116 Cobblestone Court (04)

C.B. Morris, 1930 Northern Boulevard (04)

Cornelia Singletary, 15 Weatherstone Drive (04)

Patricia Taylor (Napoleon Taylor's wife), 514 Hammond Street (04)

Barbara Valentine, 112 Hickory Street, Greenville, NC 27858

Our Members-at-Home

Chuck Daniel (Brenda and Dennis Culpepper's nephew)

Margaret Harper, Cottage #5209-101, Magnolia Glen,
5301 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh, NC 27612

Cody Richardson, 1518 Fountain Branch Road (03)

Keith Abbott, 3413 Brookview Drive (04)

We offer our sympathy to Sam and Vel Johnson on the death of Sam's brother Michael Henry Johnson who died on December 4 in Hamilton, NC.

THIS WEEK AT LAKESIDE

Sunday, December 14: 3rd Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m. Worship, *Sanctuary*

11:20 a.m. Children's Church, *Children's Classroom*

4:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

5:00 p.m. Lakeside Ringers Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

5:15 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

5:30 p.m. Youth Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

6:00 p.m. Candlelight Lessons & Carols, *Sanctuary*

7:15 p.m. Topnotcher Party, *1412 Jeremy Ln.*

7:15 p.m. Music Ministry Party, *300 Wildwood Ave.*

Tuesday, December 16

10:00 a.m. Coffeehouse Writers, *Parlor*

Wednesday, December 17

NO MUSIC MINISTRY REHEARSALS

Thursday, December 18

12:00 p.m. Soul Space Prayer & Meditation Group,
Sanctuary

5:30 p.m. Board of Finance, *Conference Room*

Sunday, December 21: 4th Sunday of Advent

9:45 a.m. Growing Together Groups,
Education Building

10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

11:00 a.m. Worship, *Sanctuary*

12:15 p.m. Diaconate, *Conference Room*

6:00 p.m. Longest Night Service, *Sanctuary*

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Join us tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary as our Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, Lakeside Ringers, and lay readers share the story of Christ's birth in scripture and in song. Childcare will be provided.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

This year we will host the Longest Night Service, a service of remembrance and renewal, on the longest night of the year: Sunday, December 21 at 6:00 p.m. This service will provide a space of prayer and support for anyone coping with loss, grief, depression, or those who simply need some quiet time for reflection during the stressful holiday season. Participants from several area churches as well as chaplains in our community will join us. Childcare will be provided. All are welcome, and feel free to bring a friend.

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE: Join us December 24 at 6:00 p.m. as we take time on this most holy night to reflect on the gift of Jesus Christ, light of the world, and celebrate holy communion together. Music will be offered by Chris Ellis, violinist, and Lakeside soloists. Childcare will be provided and we will receive an offering to benefit My Sister's House.

Although Lakeside Church is Baptist by tradition and heritage, in our worship and practice we seek to move beyond the label of a denomination to incorporate the richness of other Christian traditions. In our community service we support many ecumenical ministries that convey God's love and care beyond the lines of any denomination.

We receive members by affirmation of their faith or by transfer from other Christian churches. We honor the previous baptism of persons coming from other Christian denominations.

We welcome our guests and would like for you to know more about Lakeside Church and its ministry. We, the members of Lakeside, are persons on a journey of faith. Our church seeks to be a worshiping and serving community where the gospel of Jesus Christ is modeled and proclaimed.

If you are interested in knowing more about our church and its ministries, please fill out a guest card or speak to one of the ministers or members.