

WAKE FOREST BAPTIST CHURCH
SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
January 1, 2017

Preparation for Worship

Prelude William Osbourne
Variations on *Adeste Fideles* Raynor Taylor (1747-1825)

* **Call to Worship** Based on Psalm 123

Great and Glorious God, we gather to worship you.
We lift our eyes to you, in reverent awe before your majesty.
Great is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised!

Generous and Merciful God, we come to worship you.
We lift our eyes to you, giving thanks for your compassion.
Gracious is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised!

Welcoming and Empowering God, we worship you.
We lift our eyes to you, and we celebrate your faithfulness.
Holy is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised!
We lift our eyes, seeking to worship and praise our God.

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* **Carol of Praise** MENDELSSOHN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

**Hark! the herald-angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"**

**Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark, the herald-angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald-angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings,
mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark, the herald-angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

* **Invocation**

Welcome and Passing of the Peace of Christ

* **Gathering Music** words and music by Marty Haugen
All Are Welcome

Prayers of the People Lia Scholl

Carol of Offering AWAY IN A MANGER
Away in a Manger

***Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.***

***The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.***

***Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.***

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

* **Offertory Response** LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Praise God from Whom All Blessings Come

***Praise God from whom all blessings come;
Praise God, in Christ, the risen one:
Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

* **Offertory Prayer**

Introduction to the Sacred Text

Lesson from the Gospel of Luke Luke 2:21-38, NLT
Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived.

Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. The law of the Lord says, "If a woman's first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the Lord." So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord—"either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace,
as you have promised.

I have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared for all people.
He is a light to reveal God to the nations,
and he is the glory of your people Israel!"

Jesus' parents were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul."

Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Special Music Michael Burkhardt (b. 1957)
Lo How a Rose E're Blooming

Sermon Lia Scholl
Causing Many to Fall and Others to Rise

Communion
We will receive Communion by intinction: come forward to the Table, take the bread and dip it in the wine. All are welcome, no exceptions.

* **Carol of Communion**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.*

We invite you to commit your life to Christ as a disciple and to join our church as a member. We receive members by transfer of church membership, confession of faith in Jesus followed by believer's baptism, or by statement of previous Christian experience. You may also wish to reaffirm your faith in Christ or make other commitments. You are welcome to come forward at this time.

Announcements and Welcoming New Members

* **Benediction**

Postlude

Impressions on *We Three Kings*

Alfred V. Fedak (b. 1953)

**Please stand as you are able.*



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*Wake Forest Baptist Church is a progressive, welcoming and affirming
Christian community committed to Jesus Christ. We value prophetic
worship, thoughtful religious education, social justice, and peacemaking.*

P.O. Box 7326, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27109-7326
Church Office Phone: 336-245-8914 Pastor Phone: 336-414-3640
www.wakeforestbaptist.org

