

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 21, 2008

10:50 AM

Mary finds favor in God’s sight. Filled with God’s Spirit, she will conceive and bear a Son. He will be called holy, and his reign will be everlasting. He will call people to obedience, to a life of witness on behalf of God’s will. In him the fullness of God’s revelation will reach culmination, as he teaches his followers the extent of God’s love. Mary carries within her the embodiment of God’s promise and is blessed with the living presence of God’s grace.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Nursery care for infants and toddlers is available in the Educational Wing.

WELCOME/MEDITATION

All are asked to complete the attendance register in the pew and pass it along to each person. Please indicate any prayer concerns also to be given to the ushers during the offering.

Prelude *How Great Our Joy* trad. German/arr. Rutter

***Lighting of the Advent Candle** Jeff, Sherrie and Andrew Hedrick

Scripture Reading *Isaiah 9:6-7* Pew Bible Page 638

Reader: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace. May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

***Processional Hymn** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* Page 240

***Invocation**

***Hymn of Praise** *Like a Child* Page 2092

PROCLAMATION

New Testament Reading *Luke 1:46b-55* N. T. Page 57

The Song of Mary. Listen to this song and hear in it the signs that Mary is pregnant with the end of this age and the hope for the coming one!

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Act of Praise *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Chancel Choir

Children’s Message Pastor Charles

Children’s Church (Children age 4 through 1st grade may go to the Children’s Church Room)

***Hymn** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Page 230

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

N. T. Page 56

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will become pregnant by God and bear the Son of the Most High whose throne will be eternal. She consents. Do we? If so, how? If not, why?

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Message *Are You Ready For An Upside Down World?* Rev. Charles Swadley

Prayers of the People

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.

RESPONSE

Offertory Prayer (Unison)

Let us pray: **For your love, protection, and discipline, we give thanks, O God. In gratitude we bring the work of our hands for your blessing. May all the efforts supported by these offerings carry forward your vision for the world. Accomplish through these gifts and our attempts to be faithful that which is impossible by human design alone. Amen.**

Offertory Anthem *One Flame* Long

***Doxology** *To the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

***The Nicene Creed** Page 880

New Member Reception Page 33

SENDING FORTH

***Hymn** *The First Noel* Page 245

***Commission and Blessing**

God sends us out, empowered by the gospel, to fill our appointed roles among God’s people.

We will go where God sends us, alert to the voice and vision of our Creator.

No matter where we go we are not alone, for God has chosen to live in covenant with us.

We welcome God’s rule in our daily lives and open ourselves to God’s continuing revelation.

Receive and claim the strength God promises. Live by the faith entrusted to you for sharing.

In obedience and joy we pass on to others the love we have received from our Maker. Amen.

***Benediction/Benediction Response**

***Postlude** *Noel* Daquin

***Please stand as you are able. Hearing devices are available (special loops for hearing aids). Large print bulletins are now available. Please see an usher for assistance.**

Welcome! We are so pleased that you have chosen to worship with us on this day. Your presence is an encouragement and inspiration to us. Let us celebrate our faith and offer our thanks and praise to God for the blessings. If you desire to join our church, please speak to Rev. Charles Swadley or Rev. Bruce Lake. Membership occurs with Profession of Faith or a Letter of Transfer from another United Methodist Church or other Christian Church.

The **Poinsettias** on the altar are given to the glory of God. The **Greeter** for this morning is Lynn White. The **Acolytes** are Lynette Any and Jay Wade. The **Crucifer** is Jess Wade. The **Lay Speaker** is Chris White. The **Lay Reader** is Griffin Nettles. **First Response Team:** Stony and Dale Creery.

This morning, we welcome Lynn White into our church family by way of profession of faith. Lynn resides at 2603 Parkside Avenue, Richmond, VA 23228; 804-864-2855. Her shepherd is Sue Swadley.

At Advent we encourage you to share the blessing of Christ with your neighbor. Be the good news — reach out, each one bring one, to receive God’s gift in our midst. Please remember to wear your name tags as we prepare for our guests.

The Upper Room devotional for January and February is now available for you to pick up. This devotional guide is available on the table in the hall across from the church office. A suggested donation of \$0.75 for small print and \$1.00 for large print is requested.

Our Church Staff:

Ministers
Pastor
Pastor of Visitation Ministries
Administrative Assistant
Music Director
Organist
Sexton
Pre-School Director
Ashland District Superintendent
Virginia Conference Bishop
Web Site: www.lakesideum.org
Pastor’s e-mail address:

All Members of Lakeside United Methodist Church
The Reverend Charles E. Swadley
The Reverend D. Bruce Lake
Victoria L. White
Jeanne E. Bluford
Caroline Hall
Keith Runge
Cynthia Padden
The Reverend Mark V. Ogren
The Reverend Charlene Kammerer
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We envision churches where all God’s people are welcomed at table, nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world

**Lakeside
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Methodist
Church**

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