

Welcome to worship at Wake Forest Baptist Church, where all are welcome, no exceptions. Bienvenidos a Iglesia Bautista Wake Forest donde todos y todas son bienvenidos sin excepciones. We are a welcoming and affirming congregation, welcoming all people, no matter their race, economic status, gender expression, or sexual orientation into full membership and leadership. If you are a visitor, please take a moment to sign our guest book.

Advent is the season of expectation. As we enter, let us expect good things in the world. Let us expect to share love with one another. Let us expect kindness and goodness to win. And when we are faced with things we don't expect, the lack of justice or of mercy, let us resist and disrupt together.

Please make plans to attend our traditional **Christmas Eve Service** here in Davis Chapel at 5:00 p.m. on December 24. We will also share a **Blue Christmas Carol Sing** on December 21 at Campus Gas.

Today is the last day to bring Christmas donations for people without homes. Thank you for your generous donations.

Following worship, please stay for a **Called Church Conference** to vote on the revised church constitution and by-laws and the slate of nominations for the Admin and Care Councils and the trustees.

You can now Text to Give! If you'd like to make your offering with a text message, just text **WFBC Offering \$50 to 73256** to give \$50 to the General Fund using your text messaging. Of course, you can change the dollar amount to your preferred amount. Standard text message rates apply. More options for online giving are coming soon!

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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.

Pastor's Phone: 336-414-3640
wakeforestbaptist.org

P.O. Box 7326
Winston-Salem, NC 27109

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“Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else. I've felt that many times. My hope for all of us is that "the miles we go before we sleep" will be filled with all the feelings that come from deep caring - delight, sadness, joy, wisdom - and that in all the endings of our life, we will be able to see the new beginnings.”

- MISTER ROGERS

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019

Prelude *My Soul in Stillness Waits* Laura Wind
David Hess

Welcome and Opening Words Tricia Dudley

Godly Play The Shepherds

* Call to Worship (bold in unison)

Fred Rogers wrote, "How great it is when we come to know that times of disappointment can be followed by joy; that guilt over falling short of our ideals can be replaced by pride in doing all that we can; and that anger can be channeled into creative achievements... and into dreams that we can make come true."

The end of the story has yet to be written. When we light the candle of Joy, we celebrate the One who has come, is coming and will come again.

Whatever we face in life, God will make joy possible.

* Hymn #119 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL
**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
[Refrain] Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. [R]**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge of show, and cause us in her ways to go. [R]**

* Opening Prayer Eve Andrews

* Sharing the Peace *Won't You Be My Neighbor*
**It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood, a beautiful day for a neighbor.
Could you be mine? Would you be mine?
It's a neighborly day in this beauty wood, a neighborly day for a beauty.
Could you be mine? Would you be mine?
I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you.
I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you.
Let's make the most of this beautiful day, since we're together, might as well say.
Would you be my, could you be my, won't you be my neighbor?**

Prayers of the People Lia Scholl
**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, for ever
and ever. Amen.**

Lesson from Our Sacred Text Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13

Anthem *Gesu Bambino* Katrina Kniss, Violin
Pietro Yon

Sermon How Will We Know When Get There? Lia Scholl

* Hymn #170 *How Great Our Joy!* JUNGST

Sharing Our Gifts *Lo, How a Rose is Blooming*
Mark Hayes

* Presenting Our Gifts *What Child is This* GREENSLEEVES
**So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come, rich and poor, to own him,
The King of King Salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

* Prayer of Gratitude and Celebration

Announcements

* Closing Music #143 *Joy to the World* ANTIOCH

* Sending Out

Postlude *People Look East*
Thomas Keesecker