

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.

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!

Following worship, join us for a **reception** in the Rotunda.

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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.

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Whether we're a preschooler or a young teen, a graduating college senior or a retired person, we human beings all want to know that we're acceptable, that our being alive somehow makes a difference in the lives of others.

- MISTER ROGERS

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

Prelude *The Angel Gabriel* Laura Wind
arranged by Laura Wind

Welcome and Opening Words Steve Andrews

Godly Play The Wise Ones

* Call to Worship (bold in unison)

Mr. Rogers said, "Love isn't a state of perfect caring. It is an active noun like 'struggle.' To love someone is to strive to accept that person exactly the way he or she is, right here and now—and to go on caring even through times that may bring us pain."

It's hard to take in the enormity of God's love made flesh in Jesus Christ. But God's love accepts us just how we are, right now. God became one of us, out of love for all of us, then and now and forever.

When we light the candle of Love, we stop in awe of God's unending love.

Whatever we face in life, God's steadfast love surrounds us.

* Hymn #119 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

* 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

Lesson from Our Sacred Text Mark 1:1-7

Anthem *Coventry Carol*
Mark Hayes

Sermon How Will We Prepare the Way? Lia Scholl

* Hymn #142 *People, Look East* BESAÇON

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 *Love Has Come* UN FLAMBEAU
***Love has come—a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all the heaven has come to proclaim it: hear how their song of joy arises.
Love, Love! Born unto you a Savior. Love! Love! Glory to God On high.***

***Love is born, come share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother, what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus Immanuel.***

***Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our heart are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!***

Godly Play The Gifts

Postlude *People Look East*
Thomas Keesecker