

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

***Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

BLESSING IN MUSIC [As formal worship concludes, instrumental music is provided. During the playing of the music you are encouraged to greet one another, sharing the peace of Christ, or to remain seated and allow the music to aid you in fashioning some final prayers.]

All are invited to attend Coffee Fellowship in Brady Chapel.

✦ You may stand in body and/or spirit

Announcements

If you are carrying a **cell phone** or some other electronic device, please turn it off before worship begins.

Assisting with worship leadership this morning is Mary Dugan.

We are delighted to welcome back our **guest musicians**, Joshua Harvey and Ashley Latta. We are grateful for their contribution to our worship.

Children's ENRICHMENT will not meet today.

FRONT OFFICE SCHEDULE: The front office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to Noon Dec. 31, Jan. 2, 3, & 4, and closed New Year's Day.

There will be a **congregational meeting** on Sunday, January 6, 2019, after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The meeting will be to discuss changes in terms of call for pastors.

COLLEGE BRUNCH: On January 6, 2019, The Campus Ministry Subcommittee will hold its second-annual brunch for LPC students returning to colleges & universities and for our high school seniors scheduled to graduate in May 2019. All of these students, their parents and families are invited.

On Sunday, January 6 we will receive our monthly **4¢-A-MEAL** offering during worship.



Lexington Presbyterian Church

Faith • Fellowship • Service • Since 1789

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
30 December 2018
11:00 AM

120 South Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450
www.lexpres.org
540-463-3873

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (unison) Ann Weems from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

When the Holy Child is born into our hearts

there is a rain of stars

a rushing of angels

a blaze of candles

this God burst into our lives.

Love is running in the streets.

Let us worship God.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *In the Bleak Midwinter* Gustav Holst

WELCOME

MORNING PRAYER

✦ HYMN 143 *Angels, From the Realms of Glory*

A TIME OF CONFESSION

Prayer of Confession (unison) Ann Weems from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

***And in these days a decree goes out to all the world, for
these are taxing times. We are all called again to go to
Bethlehem, no matter the state of our health or our world.***

***We come, obedient and faithful, for we have heard the
message, we have dreamed the dream that God will come
to dwell among us. We come expectant with joy, pregnant
with anticipation, for God has done great things for us. We***

come searching for a sign; bearing our gifts, we come. We come, called from the silent hillsides of our hearts, startled and frightened by the magnitude of light, we huddle together toward Bethlehem. We come one by one, and yet, as one, dancing into the Promise.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Congregational Response (responsive)

We are washed in the waters of God's grace. **Thanks be to God.**

The Peace (responsive)

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

SOLO *Breath of Heaven* (Mary's Song) Amy Grant/Chris Eaton

✦ Doxology (sung)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below, Praise him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✦ Prayer of Dedication

HEARING THE WORD

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Congregational Hymn 136, v. 1 (sung seated) *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Children's Message

Congregational Hymn 136, v. 3 (sung seated) *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

FIRST READING Genesis 12: 1-3 OT (p.9)

SECOND READING Luke 2: 22-40 NT (p.55)

SERMON *Promise of Blessing* Sarah Hill

A TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION [A time to reflect upon the implications of scripture and sermon for your life.]

✦ HYMN 138 [tune: Scarlet Ribbons] *Who Would Think That What Was Needed*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [An expression of our common hope and purpose.]

Affirmation in Word (unison) Ann Weems from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

Our God is the One who comes to us, in a burning bush, in an angel's song, in a newborn child.

Our God is the One who cannot be found locked in the church, not even in the sanctuary.

Our God will be where God will be with no constraints, no predictability.

Our God lives where our God lives, and destruction has no power and even death cannot stop the living.

Our God will be born where God will be born, but there is not a place to look for the One who comes to us. When God is ready God will come even to a godforsaken place like a stable in Bethlehem. Watch...For you know not when God comes. Watch, that you might be found whenever, wherever, God comes. Amen.

Affirmation in Song

HYMN 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

✦ HYMN 134 *Joy to the World*

✦ BLESSING IN WORD [A departing blessing]