

PRELUDE	<i>What Child Is This?</i> Dan Campbell, guitar	GREENSLEEVES
*CALL TO WORSHIP #190	<i>He Is Born</i>	IL EST NE
*INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER		Ellis Wheeler, Deacon
	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	
*PASSING OF THE PEACE		Ellis Wheeler
WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES		Trey Davis
	<i>Thank you for choosing to worship with us at The Ridge today! If you are visiting, please fill out one of the green cards on the back of the pew and place it in the offering plate at the end of the service. We're so glad to have you here, and we're grateful to know of your presence with us.</i>	
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE	<i>Joy</i>	Myriam Pierre
	The cold and dark of winter approaches, but we are filled with sacred joy. May the light from this candle overwhelm the world. May the light from this candle say to all that God's joy is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven. Be not afraid, God's joy is at hand!	
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>Coventry Carol</i> The Ridge Road Ringers	arr. J. Raney
READING from the APOCRYPHA	<i>2nd Esdras 12:31-35</i>	Suzanne Lorentzen
*HYMN #202	<i>How Great Our Joy</i>	JUNGST
MORNING PRAYER		Teresa Wheeler
ANTHEM	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i> The Ridge Road Choir	arr. C. Curry
	<i>Please stand and sing the final verse with the choir:</i> <i>Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!</i> <i>Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.</i> <i>Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,</i> <i>Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.</i> <i>Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."</i>	

SCRIPTURE READING	<i>Matthew 16:13-20</i>	Ellis Wheeler
	LEADER: These are the scriptures of God for the people of Christ. PEOPLE: May the Spirit grant us understanding.	
HOMILY	<i>Lovefeast</i>	Trey Davis
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>O Holy Night</i> Mary Ann Davis, soprano	CANTIQUE DE NOEL
RESPONSIVE READING¹		Trey Davis
	We ask in our hearts, Is this the One? Or shall we look for another? Our limbs are freed that they may walk; Give us the heart to walk the Way. Our eyes are opened that they may see; Give us the heart to see the truth. Our souls are touched that they may live; Give us the heart to live the life. We ask in our hearts, Is this the One? Or shall we look for another? Open our mouths that we may bear the glad tidings everywhere: The Word dwells among us! World, rejoice!	
*HYMN OF COMMITMENT #213	<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	W ZLOBIE LEZY
	<i>During this hymn, we invite you to reflect upon your relationship with God and your commitment to Christian service. If you would like to make a commitment to Christ or to become a member of Ridge Road Baptist Church, we invite you to come forward to speak with a pastor.</i>	
*PASTORAL BENEDICTION		Trey Davis
	<i>As we go out into the world, we look for opportunities to share our blessings with others. If you would like to contribute to the ministry here at Ridge Road Baptist Church, offering plates are available on the altar up front for your gifts.</i>	
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	W ZLOBIE LEZY
	<i>Swift are winging angels singing, Noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all! Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all!</i>	
POSTLUDE	<i>Go Tell It On the Mountain</i>	J. Work
	<i>*please stand as you are able</i>	

¹Phyllis Cole & Everett Tilson, "Litany for Advent 3", *Litanies and Other Prayers for the Revised Common Lectionary (Year A)*. Nashville, Abingdon Press: 19.

Foushee Prayer Requests & Praises:

Pray for the relationships that we continue to cultivate with internationals and Japanese in Kanazawa.

Continue to pray for Megumi Kindergarten at Kanazawa Baptist as it struggles with enrollment. Pray specifically that ten new students will enroll for the youngest class to begin in April.

Pray for preparations for Advent and Christmas. As Christmas approaches, new faces are often drawn to learn more about the Christian faith in both the Japanese and English services.

Thank you for joining us for the Week of Prayer for CBF Global Missions this month! We are blessed by your prayers and offerings that support CBF ministries around the world.



Please make plans to join us for a traditional Christmas Eve worship service of candles, carols, and communion at 11:00 am on Sunday, December 24th. Because Christmas Eve is a Sunday, we will not have an evening service this year, but the morning service will feature multiple guest musicians and the familiar elements of our holiday worship.

END OF YEAR GIVING REMINDER

A friendly reminder that all donations to be counted for the 2023 tax year must be received by **Sunday, December 31st**. Any items sent in the mail but be postmarked by Saturday, December 30th. Any donations brought to the church must be left by Sunday, December 31st. The Church office will be closed the first week of January.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Church Members:

Mary Carraway Phil Dickens
Sharon Donnal Betty Duke
Bob & Jane Edwards Martha Flynn
Patricia Lynn Linda Pleasants
Helen Prevette Vic Rackley

Family and Friends:

Linda Creech (mother of Paige Kay)
Joel & Allison Cresimore
Linda DeSchreiver (niece of Jane Edwards)
Virginia Herran (sister of Jo Cresimore)
John & Jennifer LeMay (daughter and son-in-law of Jo Cresimore)
Ashley Lynn (niece of Patricia Lynn)
Marygena Lynn (sister-in-law of Patricia Lynn)
Martha Marcom (cousin of Patricia Lynn)
Tommy Jenkins (former member)
Patti Lingafelt (former member)
Deb Johnson

DEACON OF THE DAY

Today.....Ellis Wheeler
Next Week (Dec. 24).....Joel Hobby

GIVING

Easy, Secure **Online Giving** is available on our website at **www.rrbch.com**. Convenient **Mobile Giving** is also available by scanning this QR code or downloading the FREE **EasyTithe** app on your smart device.



To receive our weekly digital newsletter, please email lmcoy@rrbch.com. It's the quickest and easiest way for us to let you know about all of different things going on here at the Ridge.



SUNDAY, December 17, 2023



Pastor
Dr. Trey Davis
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Minister of Music
Kerry Johnson
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Office Administrator
Lois McCoy
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Hearing assistance devices available from usher
Services are available on YouTube