

Carols, Candles, & Communion

PRELUDE O Come, All Ye Faithful arr, A. L. Page
The Ridge Road Ringers

***CALL TO WORSHIP #197** (v. 1-3) *Sing We Now of Christmas* FRENCH CAROL

***INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER** Joel Hobby, 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** Joel Hobby

WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES Trey Davis

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Love Dick & Linda Heidgerd

Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

Remembering Christ, we light a candle for love.

May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

Be not afraid, God's love is at hand!

SPECIAL MUSIC *Christmas Day in the Morning* arr. L. Shackley
Caleb Carter, trumpet; Elaine Holly, violin; John Holly, viola; & Kerry Johnson, piano

RESPONSIVE READING *adapted from Titus 2:11-14* Marie Sumerel

Hosanna in the highest! Peace on earth, goodwill to all!

For the Grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to humankind

Training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions

To live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly

While we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is he who gave himself for us

That he might redeem us from all iniquity

And purify a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hosanna in the highest! Peace on earth, goodwill to all!

***CAROL #196** O Little Town of Bethlehem ST. LOUIS

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1:18-25 Joel Hobby

MORNING PRAYER Trey Davis

ANTHEM Advent Echo Carol M. K. Beall
The Ridge Road Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-7 Catherine Carter

CAROL #182 Go Tell It On the Mountain GO TELL IT

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-14 Carl Bumgardner

SPECIAL MUSIC *Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)* C. Eaton
Amy Kemp, soprano

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:15-20 Janet Carter

LEADER: These are the scriptures of God for the people of Christ.

PEOPLE: May the Spirit grant us understanding.

CAROL #180 (v. 1-2) The First Noel THE FIRST NOEL

COMMUNION Gentle Mary Laid Her Child Cook & MacMillan

As a church that affirms all Christian traditions, we invite everyone for whom this ritual is meaningful to the table. We use gluten free bread and grape juice so that any who wish to participate may do so.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Kerry & Sue Johnson

CAROLS & CANDLELIGHT Angels We Have Heard On High
Away in a Manger
Joy to the World

***PASTORAL BLESSING** Trey Davis

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.

POSTLUDE I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day WALTHAM

**please stand as you are able*

Please take the Poinsettia(s) you provided for our Sanctuary home with you today.

Foushee Prayer Requests & Praises:

We will share more next month about Mr. Mori's baptism on Christmas Eve, but just know how grateful we are for your prayers for him and for Laura's leadership in his baptism preparation class this fall.

Thank you for your prayers for the new Bible study Carson began leading this month for two American men living in Kanazawa. Continue to pray for all three as they learn and grow together.

Pray for those who attended worship and activities in English and Japanese for the first time at Kanazawa Baptist Church this Christmas. Pray they know God's presence and return to journey in faith with us.



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.

RECEPTION

Please join us in the fellowship hall at 9:30 am next Sunday (December 31) for a breakfast reception honoring Kerry Johnson on his final Sunday as our minister of music.

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.....Joel Hobby
Next Week (Dec. 31).....Phil Kirk

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 lmccoy@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 24, 2023



Pastor
Dr. Trey Davis
tdavis@rrbch.com

Minister of Music
Kerry Johnson
kjohnson@rrbch.com

Office Administrator
Lois McCoy
lmccoy@rrbch.com

2011 Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607

Church 919.787.4423
Dial-A-Prayer 919.787.8823

www.rrbch.com

Hearing assistance devices available from usher
Services are available on YouTube