

# The Worship of God

November 27, 2016

The First Sunday of Advent

## The Gathering

*The Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, Virginia pioneered the first “Chrismon” tree in 1957. A Chrismon is a handmade ornament that proclaims the Gospel through symbolism. Our church’s first Chrismon Tree was in 1977. Over the past two years, dedicated volunteers have crafted over 100 new Chrismons that will be dedicated this morning.*

## Early Announcements as the Church Gathers

Prelude O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *arr. Tornquist*

Choral Introit “Come to Bethlehem” *Freeman*  
Opening of the Bible Jordyn Young

Call To Worship Jenna Young

Leader: Advent is upon us, a season of wondering, watching and waiting.

**People: Come into our world, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: We see signs of God’s presence all around us:

**People: In the face of a little baby,**

Leader: In the beauty of the Chrismon tree.

**People: Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus;**

Leader: Born to set thy people free.

Hymn No. 135 “Come, Thou Long—Expected Jesus” HYFRYDOL

## The Dedication of Sterling Teresa Sheehan and Rocco LeGrande Varipapa

Introduction of Families

Words of Dedication and Commitment

Prayer of Dedication Rev. Tommy Wilson

Hymn No. 147 “Away in a Manager” AWAY IN A MANAGER

Lighting the Advent Wreath Candle

Christian Greetings Brenda Hipp

## The Dedication of New Chrismons

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 55:12-13

A Brief History

The Chrismons Brenda Barton

## Litany of Dedication

Minister: How shall we prepare for the birth of our Savior?

**People: With the Evergreen Tree proclaiming life everlasting.**

Minister: How shall we prepare for the coming of the light into the world?

**People: With the lights on our tree and the candles of hope.**

Minister: How shall we prepare for the Incarnation?

**People: With Chrismon ornaments made of white and gold to proclaim the purity, majesty and glory of the Word made flesh.**

Minister: How shall we proclaim the Gospel’s good news?

**People: With beautiful Chrismons, each one telling a story of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Minister: We dedicate our new Chrismons to the Glory of God.

**People: We give thanks to all who have faithfully created these new intricate designs to give praise to our Savior.**

Minister: May our Chrismon tree proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ for many years to come.

**People: We give praise to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Hymn No. 163 “Lo! How a Rose E’er Blooming” Traditional

The Children’s Time A Special Gift

New Testament Lesson Romans 13: 11-14

Hymn No. 367 “Day by Day and with Each Passing Moment” BLOTT EN DAG

Morning Prayer

Anthem “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” Rutter

Sermon “The Day is at Hand” Dr. Ray Howell III

Hymn No. 170 “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” CAROL

Offertory Prayer Greg Briggs

The Offertory                      Now Thank We All Our God                      *arr. Hayes*  
Doxology  
Choral Benediction  
Postlude                              I Sing the Mighty Power of God                      *arr. Tornquist*  
*Today's Lay Reader is Tobin Shepard*

*Musicians for today's service*

Dr. JoAnn Poston Hill and Betsy Cowan                      Sanctuary Choir  
Organist/Pianist

### **Christian Sympathy**

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Jean Ashley and her family on the death of her sister, Jane Lawing of Marion on November 20.

### **Sanctuary Poinsettias**

In memory of Don Minner by Sidney Minner and children  
In memory of Ted and Rochella Baker by Gary and Sue Wikstrom  
In honor of Sterling & Tina Wall by Hazel Frady

### **Christmas Angels**

Salvation Army Christmas Angels are available. Our church goal is 125 angels!

### **Dollar Offerings**

We continue our Dollar Offerings today and each Sunday through December.

### **No Youth Activities Today**

### **Wednesday Night Activities**

All regular activities plus 2017 Budget vote and Dream Team update.  
*Menu: Shepherd's Pie, Cole Slaw, Salad Bar and Dessert*  
*Children's menu: Pizza*

### **Frady/Johnson Mission Group**

There will be no meeting in December or January.

### **Extended Sessions:**

**November 27: Bed Babies:** Jen Fuller Allen & Brooke Williams **Toddlers & 2 Year Olds:** Brian & Elizabeth Lancaster **3 & 4 Year Olds:** Margaret Ann Maddox & Kelly Mitcham

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# *First Baptist Church Lexington, N.C.*



## **Crown of Light**

**RAY N. HOWELL III**  
Senior Minister

**JIM TATE**  
Interim Business Administrator

**PAUL FREEMAN**  
Minister of Music

**TOMMY WILSON**  
Associate Minister Emeritus

**JEAN ASHLEY**  
Martha Best Children's Center Director