



WALLACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

205 West Main Street • Wallace, North Carolina 28466
(910) 285-2808

Visit our Website: www.wallacepresbyterian.com

We support Presbyterian Church (USA) mission co-workers,
Rev. Dustin and Sherri Ellington, in Lusaka, Zambia, Africa.

Please silence your cell phones.

**All who are able may stand.*

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Third Sunday of Advent: JOY

December 13, 2020

11:00 A.M.

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude "Of the Father's Love Begotten" *setting* by Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Third Advent Candle: JOY

The Casteen Family and the Hall Family

Opening Sentences

Elder Christy Johnson

Leader: O God of creation, who was before there was . . .

All: We praise your holy name and celebrate the revelation of yourself to us.

Leader: O God of light and life, who was before there was . . .

All: It is through your true Light that we are able to see the truth of your saving love.

Leader: O God of silence and sound, who was before there was . . .

All: We thank you for your eternal Word, who speaks to us in our acts of worship.

Leader: O God of time and eternity, who was before there was . . .

All: Come afresh, come anew, come again, come now. O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Hymn #108 (verses 1 & 6)

DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Unison Prayer of Confession

Lord, while we ask for the most meaningful Advent season ever, we sadly confess having done so little with so much. Forgive us Lord, for not bending the knee, for not reading the Book, for not searching our hearts, for not facing our sins. Deal with us according to your tender mercies, O God! Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year, we may have a fresh sense of your presence, and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of Christ's glory. Lord, hear our prayers . . .

(A time for silent prayers of confession . . .)

The congregation is asked to remain silent during the prelude as a time of prayer and meditation.

*"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood."
John 1:14,
The Message*

*Today's Prayer of Confession is from Reformed Worship:
Resources for Planning and Leading Worship.*

“Let him into the mire and muck of our world. For only if we let him in can he pull us out.”

*Max Lucado,
Celebrating
Christmas
with Jesus:
An Advent*

*Devotional, writer
and pastor at Oak
Hills Church, San
Antonio, TX*

“The virgin birth has never been a major stumbling block in my struggle with Christianity; it’s far less mind-boggling than the Power of all Creation stooping so low as to become one of us.”

*Madeleine L’Engle,
A Stone for a
Pillow,
20th century
American writer
known for her
Christian faith and
interest
in science.*

Responsive Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Jesus said that anyone who hears what he says and trusts in God has eternal life.

All: The time is coming, indeed it is already here. All who heed God’s voice shall have life and that, indeed, eternal.

Leader: Rest in the assurance of God’s grace made known to us in Jesus the Christ.

All: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven!

Gloria Patri

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Children's Sermon

Advent Prayer for Illumination

Word that was, Word that is, Living Word of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, open our ears to hear, and our eyes to see. Amen.

Epistle Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-4

Elder Christy Johnson

Gospel Lesson

John 1:1-18

Sermon

"A Cosmic Christmas"

Dr. Philip K. Gladden

A Time for Silent Reflection

Pastoral Prayer with the Lord's Prayer

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.



GIVING THANKS TO GOD

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” *setting by John Purifoy*

*Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are and have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.*

*This is He whom they in old time chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
Now He shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord,
Evermore and evermore.*

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

*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.*

The Affirmation of Faith: *(From John 1:1-5 and The Theological Declaration of Barmen (1934))*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

“Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death.”

Hymn #119 (verses 1 & 2)

MENDELSSOHN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Benediction

Postlude



The flowers in the sanctuary today are given by Joey & Rita Brinkley in loving memory of our son Michael Sloan and Joey's Father Ben Brinkley. They both are always thought of and will never be forgotten.

“The Resurrection is the eucatastrophe of the story of the Incarnation – This story begins and ends in joy.”*
J.R.R. Tolkien,
20th century English writer and poet
**eucatastrophe: a sudden and favorable resolution of events in a story; a happy ending*

Affirmation of Faith

“He became what we are that He might make us what He is.”
Athanasius of Alexandria, 4th century A.D., was the twentieth bishop of Alexandria

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 13	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY 10:00–11:00 am Zoom Sunday School Classes 11:00 am Worship – in person and virtual
Monday, December 14	7:00–8:00 pm Zoom Bible Study
Tuesday, December 15	7:00 pm Session Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, December 16	10:00–11:00 am Zoom Bible Study
Thursday, December 17	Deadline for returning St. Nicholas Project gifts Advent Worship Service available online: Philip Gladden, speaker; Vera Simpson & Karla Casteen, music

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

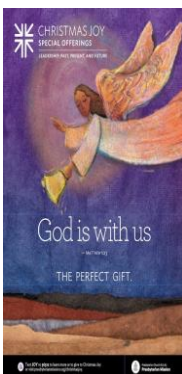
* **Please join** the minister for a Bible study via Zoom on either Monday night December 14 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. or Wednesday morning December 16 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. This week we will enjoy good fellowship and talk about Luke 1:26-38, the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. How has God's good news changed your life? Check your email on Monday morning for the Zoom invitations/links.

* **The session** will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. If you have any business or concerns for the session to consider, please contact one of the elders or the minister.

* **Congratulations to** Hayes Ludlum, Greg Maready, and Kelli Norris on being elected as Ruling Elders in the session's Class of 2023.

* **Our third and final Advent Worship Service** will be available online at our church website (www.wallacepresbyterian.com), YouTube, and Facebook on Thursday, December 17. The service will also be archived so you may watch it at your convenience. Speaker: Dr. Philip Gladden. Music: Karla Casteen & Vera Coombs.

* **We will receive** our annual Christmas Joy Offering next Sunday, December 20. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The envelopes will be in your bulletins. Just drop them in the offering plate on your way out of the church. For more information about the Christmas Joy Offering, go to www.specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy.



Thank you

Thank you for the calls, prayers, cards, food, the flowers and the errands you ran for me since my recovery from back surgery. I feel so fortunate and I am so blessed to be a part of the Wallace Presbyterian Church Family. In Christ,

Ann Carter



ADVENT WREATHS

These Wreaths and Chrismon Tree were bought for the Church during Advent Season and given in honor and memory of the following loved ones by the names listed below.

In memory of Lee Woodard
Given by Lydia & Raechel Woodard

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Edward F. Johnston, Sr., & The Rev. Edward F. Johnston, Jr.
Given by C.J. & Dotsi Caproni

In memory of Lela Swinson Dail (Susan's Mother)
Given by Bill & Susan Walters

In memory of Al Elgin (Bill's Brother)
Given by Bill & Susan Walters

In honor of Dr. Phil & Nancy Gladden
Given Anonymously-Merry Christmas!

In memory of Dr. John D. & Lewellyn Robinson
Given by Dan & Tanya Robinson

In memory of Dr. John D. Robinson, Jr.
Given by Dan & Tanya Robinson

In memory of Jean B. Hawkins (Dan's Mother)
Given by Dan & Tanya Robinson



St. Nicholas Project



For many years the St. Nicholas Project has been a mission of Wallace Presbyterian Church. The Outreach Ministry Team has received families from our community for this year. St. Nicholas Project family and gift information will be emailed to church members. Information on how to sign up to purchase a gift for the families will be in the email. Due to Covid-19 "Sign-up Genius" will be used for church members to sign up online to purchase a gift this year. If you would like to purchase a gift and need assistance with the sign-up, please call the church office (285-2808). Thank you for participating in this wonderful ministry and sharing the love of Christ with others.

To participate by buying a gift:

- Follow the instructions in the email from the church and sign up to purchase a specific gift.
- Wrap the gift.
- Label the wrapped gift with the **family # and person it is for.**
- Bring the wrapped and labeled gift to the church office during church office hours (Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon and 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon)
- **Deadline to bring gifts to the church- Thursday, December 17.**

If you would like to make a donation to the St. Nicholas Fund:

- Make check payable to Wallace Presbyterian Church and designate for "St. Nicholas Fund".
- Mail to P.O. Box 717, Wallace, NC 28466, place in offering plate during worship on Sunday, put in the mail slot in the front door of the church office building, or contribute online at www.wallacepresbyterian.com.

Please bring gifts to the church or make donations by **Thursday, December 17.**



Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service Virtual Only December 24, 2020

Due to the increasing number of Covid-19 cases, we will not have an in person Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion worship service on Thursday, December 24. However, the Worship & Music Ministry Team and the Worship Team (Karla, Vera, Bill, and Phil) will pre-record our Christmas Eve service and will include all of the familiar elements that make the service so meaningful. The service will be available on December 24 and following and can be accessed on our church website (www.wallacepresbyterian.com), YouTube, and Facebook. We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper during the Christmas Eve worship service. You are encouraged to prepare the elements of bread and cup and participate in the communion at the appropriate time. While

it is true that we might not all be breaking bread and drinking from the cup at the exact same time, we trust that we will be in communion with one another and with our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by the power and through the grace of God.

You are also encouraged to have candles ready at the end of the service as we light candles from the Christ candle and sing "Silent Night, Holy Night."

This is a most unusual Christmas season but, through the wonders of modern technology, we are able to worship God and celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!