



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent: LOVE

December 20, 2020

11:00 A.M.

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" *setting* by Lani Smith

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle: LOVE

Curt and Vera Simpson & Robert Coombs
The Johnson Family

Opening Sentences

Elder Sam Rose

Leader: We are always looking for evidence that God is with us.

All: That sign is in the One to come--the One that God is sending.

Leader: We want to know for sure that everything is in God's care.

All: And so we cry to the heavens in our distress. Our cries are heard!

God is responding in love and hope.

Leader: Let us come before God with expectant hearts and spirits!

All: Let us be ready to receive the blessed gift of the Savior. Amen.

Hymn #82 (verses 1 & 2) **"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"** HYFRYDOL

Unison Prayer of Confession

O Holy One of Israel, you sent the angel to Mary and then to Joseph, saying to each of them, "Do not be afraid." But fearfulness is our lot. We chafe under that which we cannot control; we want to plan how our lives will unfold. Teach us to say, as Mary did, "Let it be with me according to your word." Give us the trust that enabled Joseph to believe and obey the dream. In your mercy 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.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."
John 3:16*

Today's Prayer of Confession is from the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, Blacksburg, VA.

*"In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins."
1 John 4:10*

Responsive Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, the one who judges is the Lord, who sends God's Son,

All: And calls him Emmanuel, meaning "God with us."

Leader: So hear the Good News of Advent: In the Christ child, we are made new.

All: As the angel said, nothing will be impossible with God.

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

Speak with authority in our lives, Christ. Speak to us, and to what is in us, so that we might be whole. Speak to us, with love, with hope, and with strength, so that we might hear you, and know, deep inside, that we are your people, and that you are our God. Let it be so. Amen.

*"Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, love divine; Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels gave the sign."
Christina Rossetti,
"Love Came Down at Christmas"*

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-17

Elder Sam Rose

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Sermon

"Mary, Did You Know?"

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 **“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”** *setting by Molly Ijames*
Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

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: *(Philippians 2:5-11)*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Hymn #121 (verses 1 & 2)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

Benediction

Postlude **"He Is Born"** *in the style of Hornpipe setting by Vicki Collinsworth*
He is born, the divine Christ Child; play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the divine Christ Child; sing we all of the Savior mild.

*"Love! Love!
Love is the gift of
Christmas. Love!*

*Love! Praise to
you, God on
high!"*

Hymn #110,

*"Love Has
Come," Glory to
God: The
Presbyterian
Hymnal*

*"Once in our
world, a stable
had something in
it that was bigger
than our
whole world."
C.S. Lewis, 20th
century British
writer and
lay theologian*

*The hornpipe
dance rhythm
was often used
by composers in
England in the
Baroque period.
Henry Purcell
and George
Frideric Handel
composed
hornpipes. Toda
y, the most well-
known baroque
hornpipe tune is
from Handel's
Water Music and
is often used in
traditional
wedding
services. The
postlude in
today's service
incorporates the
hornpipe dance
rhythm.*

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 20	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: LOVE
	10:00 am Zoom Sunday School Classes
	11:00 am Worship – in person and virtual/Christmas Joy Offering
	3:00–5:00 pm Distribution of St. Nicholas Gifts
Monday, December 21	7:00–8:00 pm Zoom Bible Study
Wednesday, December 23	10:00-11:00 am Zoom Bible Study
Thursday, December 24	CHRISTMAS EVE Candlelight Worship Service available online
Friday, December 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS! Church Office Closed
Thursday, December 24–Friday, January 1	Minister on Vacation
Thursday, December 24–Friday, January 1	Church Secretary on Vacation

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- * **We receive** our annual Christmas Joy Offering this morning. The envelopes are 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.
- * **Please join** the minister for a Bible study via Zoom on Monday night December 21 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. or Wednesday morning December 23 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. We will enjoy good fellowship and talk about Luke's Christmas story in Luke 2:1-20.
- * **Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion worship service** will be available for viewing on December 24 on our church website (www.wallacepresbyterian.com), Facebook, and YouTube. We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and light candles from the Christ candle. Please prepare your bread, cup, and candle to participate. The video will be archived so you can watch it at a time of your choosing.
- ***Church Treasurer Wayne Casteen** will make the final deposit of 2020 on Monday, December 28. If you wish to have your contributions credited to 2020, please submit them by Sunday, December 27. Thank you for your generous and faithful support of the ministry of our church.
- ***Philip Gladden and Cheryl Brinkley** will be on vacation December 24 - January 1. Please contact Clerk of Session Hope Turnbull (910-284-2813) in an emergency.
- ***Ruling Elder Jay Bender** from the Pollocksville Presbyterian Church will be our preacher on Sunday, December 27.

Merry Christmas





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

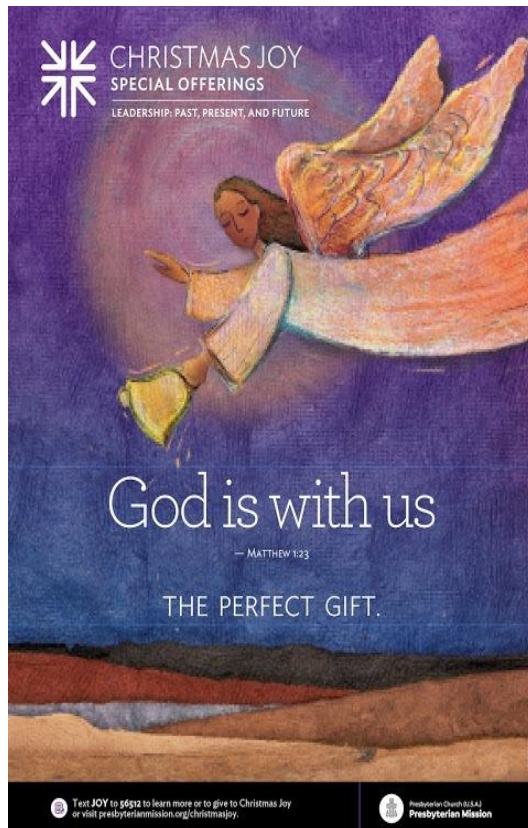
In honor of Dr. Phil & Nancy Gladden
Given Anonymously-Merry Christmas!

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





CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING Sunday, December 20

We will receive our annual Christmas Joy Offering today, 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 are 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.