

WALLACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

December 24, 2016

7:00 O'clock P.M.

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

“Silent Night”

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

Attie Carlton Handbell Ensemble

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Christmas Call to Worship

Elder Wayne Casteen

Leader: On this holiest of nights, we come

All: joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.

Leader: On this most silent night, we come

All: our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.

Leader: On this night of carols and candlelight, we come

All: our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels over us.

Leader: On this Christmas Eve, we come

All: to welcome the King of kings and Lord of lords, the Prince of peace.

*Hymn #133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

*Unison Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, you left the splendor of heaven's glory to come to a dark and cold world, to bring the light and warmth of your kingdom. You came into the world, yet the world did not receive you. You came to your own, and your own did not welcome you. Still today, people turn away from you. We turn away from you. Sin still scars your creation and the hearts of your people. You offer perfect forgiveness and full cleansing to all who confess their need for you. Cleanse our hearts tonight, Lord Jesus, so that we may welcome you as we long to, certain that we are also welcomed by you. Lord Jesus, hear our prayers . . .

(A time of silent confession of sin . . .)

For
into you
to born
this day
in the city
I stand
Savior,
written by
Christ
Lord.

Luke 2:22

“Among the oxen
(like an ox I'm
slow), I see a
glory in the stable
grow, which, with
the ox's dullness
might at length —
give me an ox's
strength.”

C.S. Lewis,
Poems

“Among the
sheep (I like a
sheep have
strayed), I watch
the manger
where my Lord is
laid. Oh, that my
baa-ing nature
would win thence
some woolly
innocence!”

C.S. Lewis,
Poems

"Among the asses (stubborn I as they), I see my Savior where I looked for hay; so may my beast-like folly learn at least the patience of a beast."

C.S. Lewis,
Poems

***Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

*Leader: People of God, through the coming of Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate, the Lord has comforted and redeemed us!
Remember the words of the angel: Good news . . . Great joy . . . All people . . .*

All: In Christ we receive the salvation of our God. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all, both this night and forevermore.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

*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.*

Special Music **"Sweet Little Jesus Boy"** Robert MacGimsey, 1934
John Forlaw, Tenor

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Open us, O God, to hear again the message of the angel, and to go with the shepherds to Bethlehem to see the glorious redemption you have brought to pass through the newborn baby lying in a manger.

Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 52:7-10* Elder Wayne Casteen

Epistle Lesson: *Titus 2:11-14*

Gospel Lesson: *Luke 2:1-20*

Special Music **"O Holy Night"** Adolphe Adam, 1847
John Forlaw, Tenor

Sermon **"Wanna Hear Some Good News?"** Dr. Philip K. Gladden

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*The Affirmation of Faith (1 Timothy 3:16)

Great indeed, we confess,
is the mystery of our religion:
Christ Jesus was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated in the Spirit,
seen by angels,
preached among the nations,
believed in throughout the world,
taken up in glory.

*"Once in our
world a stable
had something
in it that was
bigger than our
whole world."*

*C.S. Lewis, The
Last Battle*

*Hymn of Preparation #113 **"Angels We Have Heard on High"** GLORIA

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution

The Great Thanksgiving with the Lord's Prayer

The Distribution of the Elements

A Christmas Prayer

Lighting the Candles

*Hymn #122

"Silent Night, Holy Night!"

STILLE NACHT

*Benediction

*Postlude

*All who are able may stand.

+Page number in Pew Bible

*"Look for Christ
and you will find
Him. And with
Him, everything
else."*

*C.S. Lewis,
Mere Christianity*





* **Tonight** we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. All who confess their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and who are baptized in his name are welcome at the table.

* **The church office** will be closed on Monday-Tuesday, December 26-27 in observance of Christmas and Monday, January 2 in observance of the New Year. Cheryl Brinkley, church secretary, will be on vacation Wednesday-Friday, December 28-30. Philip Gladden will be on vacation Wednesday-Saturday, December 28-31.

* **Schedule for Sunday, January 1:**

9:40 a.m. Opening Assembly

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

* **We will** celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper during worship on January 1.

* **The final bank deposit for 2016** will be made on December 26. All contributions made after December 25 will be deposited on January 2. Thank you for your generosity!

Merry Christmas

