

# 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

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

*C.S. Lewis,  
Mere Christianity*

### \*Benediction

### \*Postlude

\*All who are able may stand.

+Page number in Pew Bible





\* **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**

