

Joy

TO THE WORLD!

*Make a joyful noise unto
the Lord, all the earth:
make a loud noise, and
rejoice, and sing praise.*

PSALM 98:4



WALLACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

December 24, 2015

7:00 O'clock P.M.

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

arr. McChesney

"Joy to the World"

arr. Larson

Attie Carlton Handbell Choir

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Clay, Noel, Cameron, and Reese Blue

Christmas Call to Worship

Elder Curt Simpson

Leader: Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come.

All: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

All: Come, let us worship the God whose light brings hope to a weary world.

*Hymn #133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

*Prayer of Confession (Unison)

*Lord Jesus, this most holy of nights brings us gladness, grief, and joy. Gladness, because 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 to a world so in need of your love, your peace, your joy. Grief, because 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 own people. Joy, because you offer perfect forgiveness and full cleansing to all who acknowledge their need of you. Cleanse our hearts tonight, Lord Jesus, that we may welcome you as we long to, certain that we are also welcomed by you. **Amen.***

(This prayer is adapted from re:Worship, an online worship planning resource.)

*Responsive Assurance of Pardon

Leader: People of God, through the coming of Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate tonight, the Lord has comforted and redeemed us! Recall the words of the angel: Good news . . . Great joy . . . All people. In Christ, we receive the salvation of our God.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

*Holy God, remind us of your love as we hear your Word read and proclaimed. Open our eyes and our hearts that we may be strengthened and renewed by your Word; through Jesus Christ, your Word who became flesh and lived among us. **Amen.***

Epistle Lesson: *Isaiah 9:2-7* Elder Curt Simpson

Special Music **“We Three Kings”** *arr. Stephenson*
Attie Carlton Handbell Choir

Gospel Lesson: *Luke 2:1-20*

Sermon: **“Did You Know?”** Dr. Philip K. Gladden

Special Music **“Mary, Did You Know?”** Lowry & Greene
Zachary Casteen

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new;
This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to the blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod;
And when you kiss your little baby you’ve kissed the face of God?
The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again,
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy was Heaven’s perfect Lamb,
And the sleeping Child you’re holding is the great I AM?*

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

***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 of Preparation #158 **“Born in the Night, Mary’s Child”**

MARY’S CHILD

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

Special Music

“Coventry Carol”

arr. Page

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

arr. McChesney

Attie Carlton Handbell Choir

A Christmas Prayer

Lighting the Candles

*Hymn #122

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

STILLE NACHT

*Benediction

*Postlude

**All who are able please stand.*

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* **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, December 28 in observance of Christmas and Friday, January 1 in observance of the New Year. Cheryl Brinkley, church secretary, and Philip Gladden, minister, will be on vacation Tuesday - Thursday, December 29-31.

* **The final bank deposit** for 2015 will be made on Monday, December 28. All contributions should be at the church by Sunday, December 27. Thank you!

Merry Christmas