



"Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!
What if Christmas, he thought,
doesn't come from a store. What if
Christmas... perhaps...
means a little bit more!"

Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

Tonight's Prayer of Confession is taken from Worship Words, creative and refreshing liturgy for today's church (online).

WALLACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

December 24, 2017

7:00 O'clock P.M.

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Christmas Call to Worship

Elder Wayne Casteen

Leader: Tonight we conclude our Advent journey as we light the Christ Candle, welcoming the one promised in scripture. He is called Emmanuel: God with us!

All: We celebrate the hope brought to earth by our Wonderful Counselor. He is called Emmanuel: God with us!

Leader: We rejoice in the strength and power of a Mighty God. He is called Emmanuel: God with us!

All: We sing of peace on earth and good will to all people. He is called Emmanuel: God with us!

Leader: We lift our hearts in praise to our Everlasting Father.

All: He is called Emmanuel: God with us! Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Lighting of the Christ Candle

*Hymn #133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

*Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, when Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, they found there was no room. We confess that in the midst of all our anxieties we have not made room in our hearts for others. We confess that, paralyzed by fear, prejudice, or apathy, we have not made room in our hearts for the stranger. We confess that, forgetting the welcome we have been shown, we have not made room in your church for those who are different from us. We confess that in the busyness of Christmas time we have not made room in our lives for you. Gracious God, forgive and renew us. Break open our hearts, throw open the doors, open our eyes to your presence, and open our arms wide to welcome you. Lord, hear our prayers . . .

(A time for silent prayers)

*Responsive Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God is good! God is faithful! God is merciful!

All: God comes to us, in vulnerability, again and again, to show us how much we are loved. We are forgiven; we are freed; we are beloved, we are blessed. Thanks be to God!

*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

“O Holy Night”

Adolphe Adam, 1847

Susie Gaus, Soprano

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us. Eternal God, help us to hear your Word tonight as we celebrate the birth of your only Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

“Good news from heaven the angels bring, Glad tidings to the earth they sing:
To us this day a child is given, To crown us with the joy of heaven.”

Epistle Lesson: *Titus 2:11-14 and 3:4-7* Elder Wayne Casteen

Special Music arr. Michael Clawson

“The First Noel” with Pachelbel's “Canon in D”

Susie Gaus and Karla Casteen

Gospel Lesson: *Luke 2:1-20*

Sermon

“It Smells Like Christmas”

Dr. Philip K. Gladden

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*The Affirmation of Faith (Hebrews 1: 1-4)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

*"I will honor
Christmas in
my heart, and
try to keep it all
the year."*

*Ebenezer
Scrooge, A
Christmas
Carol*

*Hymn of Preparation #144 **"In the Bleak Midwinter"**

CRANHAM

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

"Away in a Manger"

arr. Lani Smith

Karla Casteen & Vera Coombs

"The First Noel"

arr. Lani Smith

Karla Casteen & Vera Coombs

A Christmas Prayer

Lighting the Candles

*Hymn #122

"Silent Night, Holy Night!"

STILLE NACHT

*Benediction

*Postlude

*All who are able may stand.

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*"Christmas day
is a day of joy
and charity.
May God make
you very rich in
both."*

*Phillips Brooks,
author of "O
Little Town of
Bethlehem"*



* **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 25-26 in observance of Christmas holiday and the rest of the week as Philip Gladden, minister, and Cheryl Brinkley, church secretary, will be on vacation. The church office will be open Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

* **Schedule for Sunday, December 31:**

9:40 a.m. Opening Assembly
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship



Merry Christmas