

# WALLACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

December 24, 2019

7:00 O'clock P.M.

### GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude "Silent Night, Holy Night" Gruber and Mohr, 1818  
*setting by Douglas Wagner*  
Attie Carr Carlton Handbell Ensemble

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Elders Curt Simpson and Lindsay Skidmore

Christmas Call to Worship

Elder Curt Simpson

*Leader: Glory to God in the highest!*

**All: And hope to every discouraged heart.**

*Leader: Glory to God in the highest!*

**All: And peace to every conflicted soul.**

*Leader: Glory to God in the highest!*

**All: And joy to every downcast spirit.**

*Leader: Glory to God in the highest!*

**All: And love to everyone.**

*Leader: Let us sing praises to our God.*

**All: Let us offer this light against the darkness.**

*Leader: Let us pray.*

**All: Holy God of Love, there is light in our lives because of the abundance of your steadfast love; a love so vast, so deep, so real, that you became one of us in Jesus Christ our Savior. May we live within the power of this love and share its light with a world where too many dwell in darkness. Amen.**

\*Hymn #133

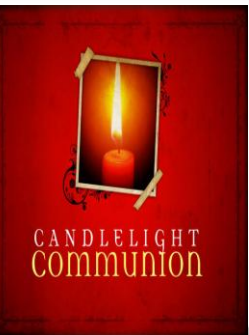
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

\*Unison Prayer of Confession (*attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson*)

**Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

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



*"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children."*

Galatians 4:4-5

*"We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords — areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him."*

*The Theological Declaration of Barmen  
(Germany, 1934)*

"An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."  
Matthew 1:20-21

"Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death."  
The Theological Declaration of Barmen (Germany, 1934)

The tune **In Dulci Jubilo** first appeared in 1305. Heinrich Suese wrote the German and Latin text around 1328. We know it in our Glory to God hymnal as Good Christian Friends, Rejoice. The English translation of the original text is: In sweet rejoicing, now sing and be glad!  
Our hearts' joy lies in the manger;  
And it shines like the sun in the mother's lap.  
You are the alpha and omega!

**\*Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

*Leader: Hear the good news of Christmas: God reveals to us the wonders of divine love in the gift of his Son Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer.*

**All: For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given. His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

**\*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.*

**PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**God of light, you have revealed your very self to us in your Son Jesus Christ, your one Word made flesh, who lived among us, full of grace and truth. Open our hearts and minds to your revelation once again, that in the words of your holy scripture we might know your presence and follow in your light always. Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 9:2-7* Elder Curt Simpson  
+Page 555

Special Music **"In Dulci Jubilo"** Heinrich Seuse, 1328  
*setting by Douglas Wagner*

Epistle Lesson: *Titus 2:11-14* +Page 969

Gospel Lesson: *Luke 2:1-20* +Pages 832, 833

Sermon **"Religion and Politics at Christmas"** Dr. Philip K. Gladden

Special Music **"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"** Charles Wesley, 1739  
*setting by Douglas Wagner*

*The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."*  
1 Timothy 1:15

*"In the singing, in the silence, in the hands expectant, open, in the blessing, in the breaking, in the Presence at this table. Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace: Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace."*

Hymn #533, "In the Singing," Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal

*"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."*  
Spoken by Simeon in the temple when he saw the baby Jesus (Luke 2:29-32; known as the Nunc Dimittis, "now release")

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*The Affirmation of Faith [from "A Declaration of Faith" of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)]

**Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended. We recognize in Jesus what God created us to be. He exposes our failure to live as he lived. He demonstrates the new humanity God promises to give us through him. In both his majesty and lowliness Jesus is the eternal Son of God, God himself with us.**

\*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  
    A Christmas Prayer

Lighting the Candles

\*Hymn #114      **"Silent Night, Holy Night!"**      STILLE NACHT

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\*All who are able may stand.      +Page number in Pew Bible





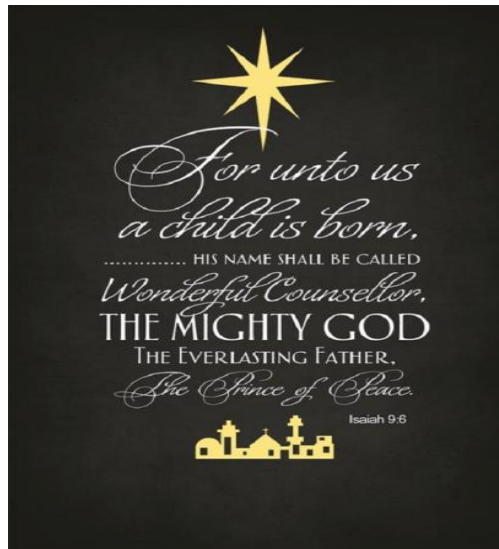
\* **Tonight** we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. All are welcome at the table.

\* **The church office** will be closed Wednesday, December 25, 2019 - January 1, 2020. Cheryl Brinkley, church secretary, will be on vacation December 24, 27, 30, and 31. Philip Gladden will be on vacation December 26 - January 1.

\* **Schedule for Sunday, December 29:**

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

\* **Wayne Casteen, Church Treasurer**, will make the final 2019 deposit on Monday, December 30. If you would like for your final contributions to be credited to 2019 for tax purposes, please submit them by Sunday, December 29. Thank you for your faithful generosity!



**Merry Christmas**