

Christmas

C E L E B R A T I O N



GREGORY MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace
to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:14 - NIV*

Christmas Eve
6:30 PM Service



Christmas Eve Celebration

December 24, 2016

6:30 p.m.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth...” - John 1:14

PRELUDE

Gail Rollings

WELCOME

Rev. Jason Cashing

CALL TO WORSHIP /LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

One: In the darkness of this world, a light still shines.

All: The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light; those who live in deep darkness, on them light has shined.

One: We celebrate the light of the ages, which the darkness has not overcome.

All: Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!

One: Let us come before God with worship and praise!

* HYMN #133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

* A PRAYER OF PRAISE & ADORATION (In unison)

We will indeed praise you, O God, and cause your works to be known. Your mercy and grace shall endure forever. As we obey your commandments and abide by your wisdom, we shall proclaim to the nations how you can be trusted. Upheld by the covenant you established, our feet firmly place on an unshakeable foundation, we enter your presence and give you all the glory!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHORAL ANTHEM “The Light of Christmas” CCLI #3162073

PROCLAMATION OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY

*WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH *(from “The Gospel of John”, Chapter 1)*

I believe that Jesus is the Word of God, that he was with God at the beginning of Creation and, in fact, was God.

I believe that Jesus is the Light of God *that came into a darkened world* so that, through his light, all people might experience the gift of new life.

I believe that Jesus is Emmanuel, God who lived with us, as one of us, and that, as we trust our lives to him, we become children of God.

In him, we discover divine grace for a fresh start; we find the truth that sets us free from all that holds us back. Until the first Christmas, no one had ever seen God, but, in Jesus, we now know who God is and how much we are loved. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (Intinction)

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

Minister: Gracious God, our Creator, we give you thanks....

All: For the wonder and goodness of Creation, for so bountifully providing for our needs, for staying with us though we turn away from you, and, in your abounding mercy, for seeking to restore us in our brokenness to your wonderful image.

Minister: Loving Jesus, our Redeemer, we give you thanks...

All: For your servant's life of preaching, teaching and healing and for your atoning sacrifice on the Cross which has both restored our relationship with our Creator and broken the power of sin to control our lives.

Minister: Holy Spirit, who sustains us moment by moment, we give you thanks...

All: For your transforming presence which creates unity from our diversity and makes us one with the living God, we worship in Jesus Christ. Prepare us to be faithful disciples, modeling Jesus' love, humility, obedience, and concern for justice for a world in need.

Minister: *O Lord, as the Body of Christ*, bearers of Good News and God's ambassadors of reconciliation, we now lift up to you the thanksgivings and concerns we've shared today and these personal requests for your merciful and powerful intervention [each prays in silence]...and now we pray the prayer which Jesus taught, saying: "***Our Father Amen.***"

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The Bread of Life...The Cup of Salvation

PRAYER OF SENDING

INVITATION & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

HYMN OF PRAISE

& DEPARTURE #122 "Silent Night! Holy Night!"

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