

CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION
December 24, 2014
6:30 p.m.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth...”

- John 1:14



PRELUDE

Gail Rollings

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

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!

*Those who are able, please stand; Congregation reads **BOLD** face type.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

FIRST READING Old Testament: Isaiah 9:2-7 Pg. 555

CHORAL ANTHEM “Silent Night”

SECOND READING New Testament: Luke 2:1-20 Pg. 832

*HYMN #134 “Joy to the World”

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION Rev. Jason Cashing

*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.

CHORAL ANTHEM ”Who Would Imagine a King”



CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (In pews)

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

PRAYER OF SENDING

INVITATION & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

HYMN OF PRAISE

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

Christmas Poinsettias - 2014

The beautiful live poinsettia plants decorating our Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by the following:

Justin Ellis-Bowman - In honor of Amy Ellis (mother).

Jason & Megan Cashing - In memory of our grandparents.

Grace & Helen Cibula - In memory of Mrs. & Mrs. John B. Cibula (parents).

Kevin, Tara, Kevin II & Madison Foster - In honor of Jean Waymack, Evelyn Foster, Grace & Helen Cibula, and Frank, Sarah & Frank Jr. Solesbee; In memory of Irving Waymack & Garland Foster.

Ruby Hasky - In memory of Brandon Hasky.

The Hunter Family - In memory of Henry & Pearle Livesay; In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hunter, and Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Mayerhoefer.

David & Patsy Johnson - In memory of Oneita Johnson.

Larry & Linda Johnson - In honor of our beautiful grandchildren, Corinne, Jack, Owen & Natalie; In memory of our parents, Clarence & Ima Johnson and Homer & Mae Elkins.

Dianne Overstreet - In memory of David & Hattie Tatum (grandparents).

Howard Scott & Cory Scott - In memory of Clifford W. Scott, Jr.

Rose Scott & Wayne Powers - In memory of Peg Ward, Roland Wiseman & Jimmy Wiseman.

Marquita Simpson - In memory of Jerry Simpson; In memory of Ruth & John McKillop.

Janet Swinton - In memory of Raymond Swinton.

Barbara Taliaferro - In memory of Tommie Taliaferro.

Gladys Wiseman - In memory of Roland & Jimmy Wiseman.



Poinsettias may be removed after the Christmas Eve service.