

# 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**  
11:00 PM Service

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.*

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2015

11:00 p.m.

*On behalf of our worshipping community, welcome to this Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. We pray, in this oftentimes busy and stressful season, that this night will provide a welcome respite, as well as a chance to receive anew Christ's peace. Welcome.*

GATHERING

Prophecy      Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Pg. 645

\*HYMN      "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"      #88, Verses 1, 2

\*LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES      (Responsive)

One: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

*(The First Advent Candle is lit)*

One: He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

*(The Second Advent Candle is lit)*

One: What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

*(The Third Advent Candle is lit)*

One: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

*(The Fourth Advent Candle is lit)*

One: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**All: The Light still shines! Glory! Glory! The Light of the Ages shines on! Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

*(The Christ Candle is lit, as we continue to sing)*

\*HYMN      "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"      #88, Verses 6, 7

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*On this night, O God* – on this night we confess that we do not want to confess. We do not want to examine our hearts before you and admit to the dark places. We want you to warm us in candlelight, carols, and communion. We desire soft light tonight; not the blinding shining of your glory that terrified the shepherds. We cannot stand in that light. God among us, forgive us. Help us hear your angel saying, “Do not be afraid.” Flood our hearts with the light that drives out all our darkneses. Straighten our backs and loose our timid tongues that we might sing, “Glory!” Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, hear the Good News of the Gospel:

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, healed and made whole!**

## PROCLAIMING

Prophecy: Isaiah 9:2-7 Pg. 555

Carol “O Come, All Ye Faithful #133, Verses 1, 4

Lesson Luke 2: 1-5 Pg. 832

Carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem” #121, Verses 1, 4

Lesson Luke 2: 6-7 Pg. 832

Carol “Joy to the World!” #134, Verse 1

Lesson Luke 2: 8-14 Pg. 833

Carol “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #119, Verses 1, 3

Lesson Luke 2: 15-20 Pg. 833

## REFLECTION

## RESPONDING

## Sacrament of Communion (By Intinction)

One: The Lord be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

(The minister will continue the liturgy. You will be invited to offer any prayers you may wish to name, and to join in the Lord's Prayer. Communion tonight will be served by intinction – you will be invited to come forward and receive the elements).

\*Lighting of Individual Candles

\*Carol "Silent Night"

#122

BENEDICTION



# Christmas Poinsettias - 2015

*The beautiful poinsettia plants in our Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by the following persons and may be taken home Christmas Eve.*

**Velma Allen Family (3)** – In memory of Darrell Allen; In memory of John B & Charity Lemon; In memory of Carl S. & Clarice Allen.

**Blake & Marguerite Bishop** – In memory of Roland & Jimmy Wiseman and Roy & Loveday Bishop.

**Jason & Megan Cashing** - In memory of Chet & Grace Cashing, Robert & Mary Jane Brown, and Robert & Ruth Grieser.

**Grace & Helen Cibula (2)** – Given to the glory of God.

**Aida Faries (2)** – In memory of Warren Faries; In memory of Bessie Faries.

**Kevin, Tara, Kevin II & Madison Foster (5)**- In honor of Frank & Sarah Solesbee & Frank, Jr., Jean Waymack, Evelyn Foster, and Helen & Grace Cibula; and In memory of Irving Waymack, Garland Foster, and A. K. Sanford.

**Ruby & Jerry Hasky (2)** - In memory of Brandon Hasky; In memory of Jerry Bond.

**The Hunter Family (2)** - In memory of Henry & Pearle Livesay; In memory of Robert & Wilma Hunter, In memory of Cliff & Edith Mayerhoeffer.

**Linda & Larry Johnson (2)** - In honor of our grandchildren, Corinne, Jack, Owen & Natalie; In memory of our parents, Mae & Homer Elkins and Ima & Clarence Johnson.

**Shirley MacNeill** – In memory of James MacNeill and Trudy McClenny.

**Jennifer Meurer (2)** – In memory of Richard Wille and Robert & Mary Harper.

**Ron & Judy Recher** – In honor of our children, grandchildren & great-grandchildren.

**Howard Scott & Cory Scott** - In memory of Clifford W. Scott.

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

**Marquita Simpson (2)** – In honor of Gladys Wiseman; In memory of Jerry Simpson.

**Janet Swinton** - In memory of Raymond Swinton.

**Barbara Taliaferro** - In memory of Tommie L. Taliaferro.

**Gladys Wiseman** - In memory of Roland Wiseman & Jimmy Wiseman.