

# 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, 2015  
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 "Could It Be Tonight?"

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!"



# 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.