

GLADE SPRING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2013

11:00 P.M.

**Silent Prayer of Preparation**

*Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem this night fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ even as he humbled himself to share our humanity. Amen.*

**PRELUDE**

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**LIGHTING OF CHRISTMAS CANDLE**

**\*HYMN NO. 113**                      *Angels, We Have Heard on High*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** *(in unison) O God, forgive our many faults. We keep account and settle all scores. You make peace, sending Christ as a sign of salvation and hope. We cause others to be restless in our anxiety and self-concerns. You send us Your spirit as a Source of confidence and strength. As our Good Shepherd, lead us back to Your flock that we might be forgiven and renewed to serve Your people with goodwill. Hear us as we seek Your mercy.....*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**

**DOXOLOGY**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

*Isaiah 53:4-11; Luke 1:76-79*

**MEDITATION**

*"The Gift Left Unopened"*

*Rev. Bird*

**\*HYMN NO. 132**  
*(elders to come forward)*

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

**INVITATION**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** *(see instructions below)*

**\*HYMN NO. 122**                      *Silent Night, Holy Night*

*(The congregation will light our candles as we sing. The minister will light his candle from the advent wreath. The ushers will then light their candles from his, then move down the aisles lighting the candle of the nearest person until all are burning. Candles should be extinguished following the benediction).*

*Bell tolls twelve times*

**\*HYMN NO. 134**                      *Joy to the World! (1<sup>st</sup> verse only)*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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**WELCOME** – *Like the shepherds, we gather to adore and worship the Christ child. Through our worship, may God fill your life with light and joy. Welcome to Old Glade. Please return and worship with us again.*

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION** – *This evening we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion by coming forward, row by row, taking the Bread, dipping it into the Cup and eating immediately. Then we shall return to our seats. The Bread and Cup reminds us of the body of our Lord and Covenant in his blood.*

**THANK YOU TO** *the Simpson family for serving as our Advent candlelighters.*

**THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING** *taken this evening will be used in the Deacons Fund to help those in need in our area and the transient. Part of these monies will go to set up short stay apartments for those who are stranded on the road or due to loss of home. This will be done in partnership with other Glade Spring churches.*

Reflections.... Surprise After Surprise  
(Anonymous)

*Surprise builds on top of surprise. Just when the shepherds thought they had seen it all, behold, a whole host of angels appeared in the night sky over greater Bethlehem. This is how it is with God's love – one surprise after the other. If the shepherds reflected at all on their lives in those moments of sheer terror, they might have felt empty-handed. They had neither defense nor bribe for the divine forces assaulting their vision. They had little to show for their lives, little they could offer up to God. They didn't know that their empty hands were of no consequence to God – God loves us in spite of our poverty and poverty of spirit. When we take an honest appraisal of our lives, it becomes painfully clear that on a daily basis we fall far short of God's expectations. Yet, in spite of all that, God loves and forgives and makes us whole. That is the biggest surprise of all, and this is why this season is such a gift! It is a precious and holy time in which God allows us to get our act together. Quickly now, before another surprise knocks us off our feet!*