

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

410 SE THIRD ST. • P.O. BOX 289 • GRIMES, IA 50111

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship • Dec. 24th, 2013

Guest Speaker: Patti Spencer-Burdette

PRELUDE

THE WELCOME AND TIME OF GREETING

(Please sign the attendance pads found in the pews.)

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Let us be very still, and listen for the sound of heavenly choirs.

People: We want to hear them, O God, and know that we are surrounded by angels.

Leader: Let us imagine the scene in the stable, when the royal Son of God was born and laid in a manger.

People: We want to see it, O God, even in our minds' eyes, and remember what it means that you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son to be born and to suffer and die for our sins.

Leader: If we try very hard, we can visualize the mother of our Savior, her brow still wet with the labor of giving birth, and Joseph, his earthly father, attendant upon the holy Child.

People: We can even see the shepherds coming in from the fields to see the little Messiah where the angels said they would find him, and imagine their whispers of wonder and awe as they beheld the little King of Kings.

All: It is a holy night, even all these centuries after it occurred, and our hearts are lifted up by contemplating it again, the way people's hearts have been lifted up through the centuries. Grant a blessing to the entire world, O God, for the sake of this wondrous night. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *Stephanie, Kade, & Dane Polich*

SCRIPTURE LESSON — Luke 2: 1-20

***HYMN** "The First Noel" Hymn 162 (verses 1-4)

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

***Doxology**

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

***HYMN** "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" Hymn 171 (all verses)

SCRIPTURE LESSON — Titus 2: 11-14

***HYMN** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Hymn 155 (all verses)

SERMON Patti Spencer Burdette
"Christmas Stories"

***HYMN** "Joy to the World" Hymn 146 (verses 1,2, & 4)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***CANDLE LIGHT HYMN**

"Silent Night, Holy Night" Hymn 164 (all verses)

(Our tradition on Christmas Eve is for everyone to receive a small candle as you come in to worship. During the singing of "Silent Night" the lights of the sanctuary will be dimmed. The ushers will bring the flame from the Christ Candle to each row. Take your candle and share the light with the person next to you.)

(service continued on back) —————>

***UNISON BENEDICTION**

“We end our season of Advent confident in God’s love, hope, peace, and joy in our lives. May we journey into the Christmas season as faithful and steadfast to God as God is to us. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Merry Christmas to us all! Amen.

***POSTLUDE**



Most Loving Father, thank you for this night and for all it represents. Thank you for the hope you bestow, the peace you bring, the love you pour out, and the joy you give. We praise you most of all for Jesus, your Word made flesh. May he light our way as the holy star lit the way for the wise men.

Amen

Merry Christmas to all!

From First Presbyterian Church of Grimes