

First Presbyterian Church of Grimes

Rev. Jessica Wietzke, Pastor

*Glory to God in the highest
heaven, and on earth peace
among those whom he favors!*

Luke 2: 14



Christmas Eve 2014

7:00pm Worship Service

*May the good news of God's coming to us in Jesus Christ reach into
your hearts, bringing you peace, renewed hope, and faith.
Merry Christmas from Grimes First Presbyterian Church.*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Eternal God, Ruler of all worlds and Shepherd of the stars, your glory is revealed in vastness and power.

People: And yet, your greatest name is love.

Leader: Gathered here, we remember that love is stronger than fear.

People: We remember that peace is stronger than hate.

Leader: We remember that darkness will never conquer light.

People: On the edges of time a mighty choir is singing.

Leader: Hosts of angels, shepherds working the night shift,

People: The lowly and hungry, outcast and forgotten join the chorus to welcome the baby Jesus.

Leader: In this season of God-with-us, we offer our gift of gratitude.

People: We are bold to believe that we are gifted and graced by your presence,

All: For we are gathered together in the name of love.

***OPENING HYMN** "Joy to the World!" Hymn 146

***OPENING PRAYER** (Together)

God of light and love, on this night of joyful and expectant wonder, we look forward to the coming of the child whose birth was foretold by prophets, acclaimed by angels, and greeted by shepherds. Your stars are shining and the angels' songs are praising as Jesus came in humility and weakness. Redeeming God, you set before us the challenges of putting on the light of Christ; of being watchful and prepared for your coming in our midst. May our lives show forth a faith and trust in you which is active in love. Loving God, in the stillness of this hour, open our eyes, that we may know again the wonder of your love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

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***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** (*4th verse of O Little Town of Bethlehem*)
“O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel!”

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *The Johnston Family*
(*After the candle is lit, the congregation will sing the following...*)

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Beginning **Genesis 1: 1-5, 14-18**
The Word **John 1: 1-5**
The Prophecy **Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7**

HYMN *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”* Hymn 173

The Announcement **Luke 1: 26-38**
Mary’s Song **Luke 1: 46-56**

HYMN *“Away in a Manger”* Hymn 147

The Birth of Jesus **Luke 2: 1-7**
Good News of Great Joy **Luke 2: 8-20**

MEDITATION

THE OFFERTORY HYMN *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”* . . . Hymn 171

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**
We thank you, God of wonder and mystery, that in this moment of Christ’s birth you became human, God with us. We thank you that Your Word is made Flesh in the birth pains of a mother, in the protection of a father, and in the cries of a new born baby. Bless our gifts to You, all we have and all we are, that they may continue to proclaim Your presence among us. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER
(We use the words ‘debts’ and ‘debtors’ in The Lord’s Prayer)

CELEBRATION OF LIGHT

Leader: Tonight we celebrate the coming of Christ, the light of the world. Our candles bear witness to that light and brighten our time of celebration.

People: **In the beginning was the word, and the word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was nothing made.**

Leader: What entered the world as an infant flicker, a tiny flame in a manger, has always been the light of the world.

People: **A light that shines in the darkness, a light that grows and is never overcome by darkness.**

Leader: What entered our world that night was life, a life that is the light of all people.

All: **We give thanks to God, the giver of the Light and the giver of life. Amen.**

(Our tradition on Christmas Eve is for everyone to receive a small candle as you come into 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.)

PASSING THE LIGHT

***CLOSING HYMN** *“Silent Night! Holy Night!”* Hymn 164

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**
(Please extinguish candles and return them to the boxes at the back door.)

***POSTLUDE**

**Please stand if you are able*

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.