

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 2015

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: Gracious God, your angels broke into the midnight of a sleeping world to sing the news that Christ was born in Bethlehem.

People: **Break into the midnight of our dark world and stir hearts to hear again the message of your love.**

Leader: O God, 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.

People: **Open our eyes to see in him your loving purposes, and awaken within us the spirit of adoring praise.**

Leader: Loving God, in the stillness of this hour, touch our understanding with your Holy Spirit that we may know again, in true reality, the wonder of your love in Jesus Christ.

People: **Though there was no room for Jesus in Bethlehem's inn, help us make room for him in our lives.**

***OPENING HYMN** "O Come, All Ye Faithful Hymn 173

***OPENING PRAYER (Together)**

Gracious God, we give thanks that this night a child is born, Christ our Savior! We are changed forever because of your Gift of the Christ Child. In Christ, you have taken on the limitations of humanity so that we might know your limitless love. Standing before the manger, we are overwhelmed by your grace and goodness. Warm our hearts and strengthen our voices so that we may join the heavenly chorus, singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all." Amen.

A TIME WITH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

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SCRIPTURE READINGS

(from the Contemporary English Bible (CEB) translation)

The Prophecy -- Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem"..... Hymn 155 (vs. 1 & 2)

We light a candle for the prophets.

Jesus' Birth Announced -- Luke 1: 26-38

HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"..... Hymn 171

We light a candle for Mary, Joseph, and Gabriel

Good News of Great Joy -- Luke 2: 8-20

HYMN "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"..... Hymn 172 (vs. 1-4)

We light a candle for the angels and shepherds.

The Word Made Flesh -- John 1: 1-18

HYMN "Go Tell It on the Mountain"..... Hymn 151

We light a candle for John and those who still seek.

Jesus is Born -- Luke 2: 1-7

HYMN "What Child Is This?"..... Hymn 150

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE..... *The Johnston Family*

Reader: Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy.
Let us go now to Bethlehem.

(After the candle is lit, we'll sing the following from Angels We Have Heard on High...)

**Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Chorus: Glo-ri-a in excelsis De-o, Glo-ri-a in excelsis De-o.**

Reader: We light the Christ candle. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all on whom his favor rests.

All: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Reader: Let us pray:

All: Living God, on this holy night we gather to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

HYMN "Angels from the Realms of Glory"..... Hymn 174 (vs. 1 & 2)

MEDITATION

THE OFFERTORY HYMN "The First Noel"..... Hymn 162 (vs. 1-4)

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Thank you, God, for the greatest gift we could ever receive, the gifts of your son Jesus Christ. Accept the gifts we are about to give as symbol of our awe-filled love and speechless gratitude. Make of us the body of Christ and dwell in us by your Spirit for the sake of the world that you love. Amen.

***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 with God, 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.

Leader: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world." Let Christ's light so shine through you that those around you will be moved by the things you do to glorify God.

***PASSING THE LIGHT**

(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.)

***HYMN** "Silent Night! Holy Night!" *yellow insert*

***MOMENT OF SILENCE**

***HYMN** "Joy to the World!" *yellow insert*

***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.



Each Sunday morning at First Presbyterian Church, we have a traditional worship service at 9:15am. You are always welcome - please come!
We would love to get to know you.

Silent Night! Holy Night

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright.
'Round yon virgin mother and Child, holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia.
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; let all their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make this blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonder of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.