

# Grove Presbyterian Church

## Service of Worship Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016

10:15 AM

### --Ready for the Word--

Announcements and Welcome

Musical Prelude

by Holst

### “In the Bleak Midwinter”

Crèche and the Lighting of Advent Candles

*Voice 1: This morning we light the blue candle, for today is the Third Sunday of Advent, our special time of expectation and preparation.*

*Voice 2: Blue is the color of water and we light the blue candle to remember that we were baptized with water and, despite whatever happens, we always belong to Jesus.*

**All: For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**  
(Romans 8: 38-39)

\*We Sing Together

Hymnbook No. 31

### “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

We Confess Together

*O God, you judge your people with righteousness; we judge our neighbors either right or wrong. Your Servant defended the cause of the poor; it is because of our greed that many still want. You bring deliverance to the needy, but we stand in the way of its being received. You send us a Savior who will crush the oppressors, but we raise up idols in his stead. Make us mindful of your dominion, how you rule while sun and moon endure. May we bow down before you and pay you the tribute that you are due.*

Assurance of Pardon

*Leader: Jesus said that anyone who hears what he says and trusts in God has unlimited life. The time is coming, indeed it already is here. Our hopes inspire our today. Our expectations change us.*

**People: All who heed God’s voice shall be inspired by the promise of spiritual life. We trust in the assurance of God’s grace shown us in the person of Jesus the Christ.**

\*Response

Hymnbook No. 44

*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!*

### -- Receiving the Word --

Passing of the Peace and Children’s Story

\*Song of Praise

Hymnbook No. 2

### “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Prayer for Understanding

Old Testament Lesson (page 865)

Micah 5: 1-6

New Testament Lesson (page 114)

John 20: 1-13

Reflection

“**Woman, Why Are You Weeping?**”

Advent Conspiracy

Luke 2: 8-14

Musical Offering

by Lowry

### “Mary, Did You Know?”

### -- Responding to the Word --

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

Offertory

arranged by Lowry

### “Once in Royal David’s City”

\*Hymn of Commitment

Hymnbook No. 44

### “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

\*Blessing

\*Response

by Raney

### “We Watch in Hope”

\*Musical Postlude

by Pelz

### “My Heart for Very Joy Now Leaps”

\*Please rise as able

Participants in today’s service include: Eric B. Deeter (worship leader), Senior Choir (prelude), Richard Tobin and Adam Zakarian (musical offering), Joy Christian (organist), Robert Andrews (reflection). Reflection for next week: “**Why Are You Bothering This Woman?**”