

# Grove Presbyterian Church

## Service of Worship Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2016  
10:15 AM

### --Ready for the Word--

Announcements and Welcome

Musical Prelude

by Farlee

**“Rise Up, Shepherds, and Follow!”**

Choral Beginning

**“Born in the Night, Mary’s Child”**

Crèche and the Lighting of Advent Candles

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

*Voice 2 Green is the color of nature and nature takes time, and we light this green candle to remind us that the best things are those we have to really wait for and work for rather than the things we want right now.*

**All: Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him. (Isaiah 30: 18)**

\*We Sing Together

Hymnbook No. 56

**“The First Nowell”  
[verses 1-4]**

We Confess Together

*O God of love, who sent Jesus among us, hear our confession and forgive our sin. When we invoke Christ’s name for selfish reasons, have mercy upon us. When our faith is convenient and does not lead to commitment, surround us with grace, that we may repent. We are prone to call on you to satisfy our needs; we practice obedience without cost to our comfort or leisure. Forgive our lazy approach to your sacrifice for us as Christ intercedes on our behalf.*

Declaration of Forgiveness

*Leader: Hear Paul’s words when he reminds us to “let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who...being found in human likeness...he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.”*

**People: As we confess Jesus Christ as savior, God is just and forgives our sin. Therein lies our assurance.**

\*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. 25

**“Away in a Manger”**

Prayer for Understanding

Old Testament Lesson (page 572)

Psalms 126

New Testament Lesson (page 29)

Matthew 26: 6-10

Reflection

**“Why Are You Bothering This Woman”**

Advent Conspiracy

Luke 2: 15-20

Musical Offering

by Chopin, arranged by Gilpin

**“December’s Keep”**

### -- 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

**“Once Upon a Starry Night”**

\*Carol Sing

Congregation’s favorites

\*Blessing

\*Choral Benediction

**“Hope of the World, Mary’s Child”**

\*Musical Postlude

by Farlee

**“Fling Wide the Doors”**

\*Please rise as able

Participants in today’s service include: W. Todd Gibson (worship leader), Senior Bells (prelude), Senior Choir (musical offering), Youth Choir (offertory), Joy Christian (organist), Robert Andrews (reflection). Reflection for next week: **“For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves?”**