

# First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE *Noël Languedocien* *Félix-Alexandre Guilmant*  
Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME Reverend David Rice

SPECIAL MUSIC *He Has Come for Us (God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)* *Meredith Andrews*  
Susan and Hope Shaffer

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES ++ Susan and Noah Shaffer

The fourth candle of Advent is the candle of Love.

Of all God's blessings, nothing is more precious than love.

As we light the Love candle, we recall that God loved the world so much that He sent us Jesus.

And if we trust in Him, we will live forever.

This is the heart of God. This is the reason we sing.

\*HYMN 105 *People, Look East* *BESANÇON*

CONFESSION + Susie Slack

One: Vulnerable God, when we gaze upon you in the starry glow of the nativity scene,  
we sometimes neglect to see your human face in all the faces around us.

In our busyness, we may pass you by on the street corner, at the office,  
in the department store—unable to hear your voice and feel your presence.

**All: We confess that in preparing for Christmas there are times we forget  
to make room for the Christ who is with us in the hungry, the lonely,  
the needy, the afraid.**

**Open our eyes to see you in our everyday lives.**

**Open our ears to hear your cries for peace with justice.**

**Open our hands to reach out in compassion.**

**Open our hearts to the possibilities of your love working in us and through us.**

*Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.*

Gracious God, hear our prayers. **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

May the God of steadfastness and grace grant us to live in harmony with the world.  
May the God of hope fill us with joy.  
May the God of love grant us to live in unity together as the Body of Christ.  
May we abound in hope and live in peace with one another and all creation. **Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

ANTHEM

*The Angel Gabriel*

arr. Gerald Near

MUSICAL MEDITATION

*The Story of Christmas in Songs by John Jacob Niles*

*I Wonder as I Wander*  
*Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head*  
*Sweet Little Boy Jesus*  
*The Carol of the Birds*  
*What Songs Were Sung*

David Rice, baritone and Karolyn Rice, piano

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

Today we receive the Christmas Joy Offering.

Through our monetary gifts, we offer something of our work and ourselves to God.

Offertory *Three Carols: Greensleeves, Es ist ein Ros', Sussex Carol* arr. Peter Crisafulli  
Karolyn Rice, flute and Eric Gastier, piano

\*DOXOLOGY 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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 sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

\*HYMN 100

*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

*STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN*

\*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Chant du Roi René (Noël Provençal)*

*Félix-Alexandre Guilmant*

\* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*.

++ *The Light Before Christmas*, by Joseph M. Martin

First Presbyterian Church is a Christian community dedicated to showing God's love through worship, study, social justice, outreach, and fellowship.

**More Light Church and Member of Covenant Network  
Earth Care Congregation and Matthew 25 Church**

**The Mission of More Light Presbyterians:** Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people in the life, ministry, and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.

**The Mission of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians** is to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace. We are called to achieve this goal by furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, and by working for the unity of the PC(USA).

**Earth Care Pledge:** Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

**The Mission of the Matthew 25 Church:** Matthew 25:31–46 calls us to actively engage the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. We commit ourselves to congregational vitality by acting boldly and compassionately to end systemic poverty and structural racism, serving people who are oppressed, imprisoned, poor.



QR (Quick Response) Code for Direct Donations and Contributions — the Code can be read by your smartphone and will land you on the giving page of our website where you can “Give Now” or set up a recurring donation.

First Presbyterian Church  
621 College Ave., Wooster, OH 44691  
330-264-9420    [www.firstpreswooster.org](http://www.firstpreswooster.org)    Facebook: facebook.com/FPCWooster

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Greeters:	December 22 – Steve & Susie Slack	December 29 – Wayne & Pat Bare
Sunday Ushers:	December 22 – Pam Giffin, Rick & Deb Zeiters	Maxwell, Susie Slack
Sunday Sexton:	December 22 – Elli Gordon	December 29 –
Sunday, Dec. 22	8:45 am ARISE	9:15 am Sunday School    10:30 am Worship
Monday, Dec. 23	12:00 pm Rotary	1:30 pm Staff
Tuesday, Dec. 24	Offices Closed	6:45 pm Christmas Eve Music followed by Lessons and Carols at 7:00 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 25	Offices Closed – Merry Christmas!	
Thursday, Dec. 26	Offices Closed	
Saturday, Dec. 28	9:30 am Al-Anon	12:00 pm Cub Scouts
Sunday, Dec. 29	10:30 am Joint Worship Service with Westminster in FPC Sanctuary	



## **Christmas Poinsettias – 2024**

### **In Honor**

Given by the the Bean-Retzler Family in Honor of Mimi Lewellen & Yvonne Williams

Given by Mimi Lewellen in Honor of the entire dedicated FPC Staff

Given by the Neill Family in Honor of Joyce H. Neill

Given by Pat Miles in Honor of Sarah Miles and Wayne Perkins, Joel, Jamie Miles  
and grandsons

Given by Tom & Lisa Rumbaugh in Honor of our Children and Grandchildren

Given by Susie & Steve Slack in Honor of Our Family

### **In Memory**

Given by Elaine Arnold in Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Harrison Arnold, Bertha Fouch,  
and Barbara Eisinger Adams

Given by the Bean-Retzler Family in Memory of Jim and Sally Bean

Given by the Bean-Retzler Family in Memory of Joe and Sue Retzler

Given by Diana Day in Memory of Bob Day

Given by Lee Ann & John Eyre in Memory of the life of our very dear  
friend, Theresa Murphy Combs.

Given by Sue Froelich in Memory of my parents, Elmer & Marie Froelich

Given by Carol Gates in Memory of Bob & Celia Gates

Given by the Gates & Retzler/Bean Families in Memory of Herman & Celia Retzler

Given by Alice and Larry Gabriel in Memory of Their Family

Given by the Gooch Family in Memory of Cinnie Gooch and Darrell & Ruth Gooch

Given by Nancy Knowlton in Memory of Donald Knowlton

Given by the Lewellen Family in Memory of Dick Lewellen

Given by Mimi Lewellen in Memory of Jim & Sally Bean

Given by Mimi Lewellen in Memory of Tom & Libby Bruch

Given by the Neill Family in Memory of William R. & Barbara Ward McGraw

Given by the Neill Family in Memory of Clark H. Neill

Given by Pat Miles in Memory of Don Beane

Given by Gary & Carol Miller in Memory of Harold and Alma Picking and  
George and Beulah Miller

Given by Tom & Lisa Rumbaugh in Memory of Jack & Norma Schubert and Susie Rumbaugh

Given by Nancy Young in Memory of Bob & Mary Young and Ed & Clarissa Lang