

# First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio

**Christmas Eve**

**December 24, 2024**



## A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

PRELUDE

*Go Tell It*

*African-American spiritual, arr. Timothy Albrecht*

*What Shall I Bring to the Child?*

*Spanish carol, arr. Curtis Hanson*

*In Dulci Jubilo*

*German carol, arr. Johann Sebastian Bach*

*All Bells in Paradise*

*English carol by John Rutter*

*Noël – Grand Jeu et Duo*

*French carol, arr. Louis-Claude Daquin*

The Sanctuary Choir and Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES +

Josh, Lindsey, Makena, Addy, and Sawyer Conrad

In God's house, there is hope —  
for God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.

In God's house, there is peace —  
for all that separates us from God falls away.

In God's house, there is joy —  
because God created music and laughter and singing  
and children's sparkling eyes this Christmas Eve;  
God's fingerprints are on all these things and more, so God's house surely exudes joy.

In God's house, there is love —  
because God is love, from start to finish, and that love exists for us all.

And in the center of our hope,  
In the center of our peace,  
In the center of our joy,  
In the center of our love, is God —  
who is come to dwell among us.

Tonight, we light the Christ candle, for God's love just could not stay away.

PRAYER OF REFLECTION +

**All: God of shepherds and angels, God of starlight and seekers,  
God of mangers and unwed teenage mothers: it is almost Christmas.  
It's almost here. We are close to home.  
God of starlight and angel choruses,  
on this Christmas Eve, as you come dwell among us,  
we pray that you would bring us closer to home. Scoop us up. Draw us in.  
Build the world you have in mind for us. Hover here. Hear our prayers.  
Take all grief and pain off of our shoulders  
and hold our hands as we walk through the dark. It is almost Christmas.  
It's almost here. We can feel it — we are close to home. Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CAROL 147	<i>The First Nowell</i>	<i>THE FIRST NOWELL</i>
verses 1-3: all	verse 4: women    verse 5: men & choir	verse 6: all
THE FIRST LESSON	Genesis 1:1-5, 26a, 27-28a, 29-31	Nicholette Rogers
CAROL 110	<i>Love Has Come</i>	<i>BRING A TORCH</i>
THE SECOND LESSON	Isaiah 9:2-7	Doug Smith
CAROL 128	<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	<i>W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY</i>
THE THIRD LESSON	Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9	Joan Firmin
CAROL 152	<i>What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright</i>	<i>PUER NOBIS NASCITUR</i>
THE FOURTH LESSON	Micah 6:6-8	Emma LoGiudice
CAROL 121	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	<i>ST. LOUIS</i>
THE FIFTH LESSON	Luke 1:26-38	Hannah LoGiudice
CAROL 134	<i>Joy to the World</i>	<i>ANTIOCH</i>
THE SIXTH LESSON	Luke 1:46-55	April Gamble
CAROL 114	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	<i>CRADLE SONG</i>
THE SEVENTH LESSON	Luke 2:1-7	Julie Miller
CAROL 113	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	<i>GLORIA</i>
THE EIGHTH LESSON	Luke 2:8-20	Karolyn Rice

THE NINTH LESSON

Revelation 21:1-5a

Seth Miller

## OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

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

In addition to our offerings, we continue to receive the Christmas Joy Offering.

Offertory      *Of the Father's Love Begotten*      *13<sup>th</sup> Century plainsong, arr. Wilbur Held*

## SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CAROL (last page of bulletin)

*Silent Night, Holy Night!*

STILLE NACHT

## BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Christ Is Born in Humble Stable*      *Welsh tune, arr. Alfred V. Fedak*

POSTLUDE

*Go Tell It*      *African-American spiritual, arr. Charles Callahan*

+ Liturgy adapted from Prayers by Sarah Are / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org

Website: [www.firstpreswooster.org](http://www.firstpreswooster.org)

Facebook Link: [www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/](https://www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/)

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**

**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 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). The Covenant Network of Presbyterians calls the church to bear a unified witness to generous hospitality and faithful justice.

**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 (LGBTQIA+) people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.

**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.

# Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

Next Sunday, December 29, we will have a combined worship service with Westminster Presbyterian Church at 10:30 a.m. in our sanctuary. Our regular Sunday morning schedule of 9:15 Sunday School and 10:30 worship will resume the following week, January 5 2025

