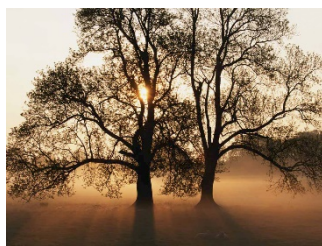


# First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 26, 2025

10:15 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Berceuse et Prière*  
Eric J. Gastier, organ

*F. Alexandre Guilmant*

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

CHORAL INTROIT

*The Heavens Above Declare God's Praise (Psalm 19:1-6)*

CAITHNESS

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Joan Firmin

One: God's faithfulness reaches beyond the stretch of our imagination.  
God's compassion encompasses the Cosmos.

**All: God's righteousness streams to the ends of the earth.  
God's justice rolls down from the highest mountains  
to the deepest depths of the sea.**

One: God's love is big enough for all, for God's love stretches everywhere.

**All: Come, let us worship the God whose gifts flow freely and abundantly,  
drawing us into community in this time and place.**

PRAYER +

God, sometimes you take our breath away—not so much out of wonder but shock.  
We find you with ones we did not expect. You do what we would not have chosen.  
Move our lives to join you on the edge, where holy love stretches out with grace. **Amen**

HYMN 37

*Let All Things Now Living*

ASH GROVE

CONFESSION +

One: God of freedom, in Jesus we see one who came to bring good news,  
to mend and to heal, to release and to redeem, and to proclaim new life for all.

**All: And yet, too often we turn inward, focusing on our own wishes and wants,  
our own troubles and trials.**

**Forgive us our self-absorption.**

**Clear away the cobwebs that stretch across the lonely, empty caverns in our hearts.**

**Draw us into this loving community from which we sometimes fall away,  
so that together we can be your body of grace and healing and peace  
in a troubled world.**

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

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

When we lay down our fears and defenses, there is room for forgiveness and love.  
The former ways of resistance crumble and we are shaped into a community  
of creative freedom, of spirited living, of peace. **Alleluia! Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

ANTHEM

*Cantique de Jean Racine*

*Gabriel Fauré*

O thou alone our hope, true sacred word, of heaven and earth, the day's eternal light;  
Piercing the calm of night our prayer is heard: Savior Divine, keep us within thy sight!  
Pour out on us thy power in tongues of fire; before thy voice let hell's dominion flee,  
and rouse at last the heart held in the mire, which lies forgetful of thine own decree.  
Upon this congregation, Christ our King, look kindly, for we come thy name to praise;  
receive the hymns of glory that we bring, then send us forth,  
grace-filled for all our days.

Scripture

Luke 4:14-30

Pew Bible page 57

SERMON

*On His Way . . .*

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

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

OFFERTORY

*Andante, from 'Chorale III'*

*César Franck*

\*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 733

*We All Are One in Mission*

*ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN*

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Toccata*

*C. F. Théodore Dubois*

\* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand. + Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*

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.

330-264-9420

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

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Greeters:	January 26 – Mickey Asleson	February 2 – Don & Karen James	
Sunday Ushers:	January 26 – Rick & Deb Zeiters-Maxwell, Carol McKiernan, Diana Rice		
Sunday Sexton:	January 26 – Megan Armour	February 2 – Elli Gordon	
Sunday, January 26	8:45 am ARISE	9:15 am Sunday School	10:30 am Worship
	1:00 pm Youth Hiking		
Monday, January 27	12:00 pm Rotary	5:30 pm Faith & Worship	5:30 pm Meals for All
Tuesday, January 28	9:30 am Bible Study		6:00 pm Boy Scouts
Wednesday, Jan. 29	10:00 am Life Memory Café		
Thursday, January 30	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal		
Friday, January 31	10:00 am Friends of Wooster Symphony Orchestra		
Saturday, February 1	9:30 am Al-Anon		
Sunday, February 2	8:45 am ARISE	9:15 am Sunday School	10:30 am Worship
	12:00 pm Sr. High Escape Room		12:00 pm Jr. High Swimming



## **PCUSA DISASTER RELIEF FOR CALIFORNIA FIRE EMERGENCY**

A message from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: PDA is in communication with the affected presbyteries to offer resources in the aftermath of the fires. So far, we are aware of one Presbyterian church destroyed (Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church) and several more are threatened. We will know more once the fires are contained and evacuation orders have been lifted. We pray for all lives affected, for swift containment and the safety of first responders.

Several members have expressed a desire to contribute to PCUSA Disaster Assistance. There are several ways in which you can do that:

- **Go to the GIVING page of the First Presbyterian website (<https://www.firstpreswooster.org/worship/giving>) and under FUND click on CA Fire Relief.**
- **Mail a check to the church with CA Fire Relief on the memo line.**
- **Put a contribution in the offering plate, designating it for CA Fire Relief.**
- **Contribute directly to PCUSA Disaster Relief:**
  - **Online: [pcusa.org/CAfires25](https://pcusa.org/CAfires25)**
  - **By phone at 800-728-7228, ext. 5885r**
  - **By check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with “PDA-CF25-BI” written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.**

**PCUSA asks: Will you stand in the “GAP” for the people affected by these catastrophic wildfires? — Give. Act. Pray**