

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 26, 2023

10:15 a.m.

PRELUDE

Wachet auf! (Sleepers, wake!)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

MINISTRY FOCUS

Alternative Gift Market

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Janet and Virginia Calhoun

**All: We wait . . . we wait not because we do not know the story of Jesus,
and not because you are not already here and always here, O God.**

We wait, because to wait is to expect something more.

**To wait is to expect that the story might enter our hearts and our world
in new ways to bring the change for which we long.**

One: As we light the candle of Hope, we remember the stories of God-with-us,
even when life has been hard and not what we expected.

We can trust that God is with us still, as we wait for hope to be born, anew, in us.

*HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

CONFESSION +

Karolyn Rice

One: Where brokenness and blessing collide, where pain and promise tangle together,
where longing and love run into each other,
we find the place to confess and seek our healing, O God.

**All: For in this place of confession we are shaped by hope:
in our brokenness, we know your blessing;
in our pain, we touch your promise;
in our longing, we discover your love, making all things new,
in our lives and in this world, making real our
Advent longing of renewal. Hear us . . . (moment of silence)**

One: Where hurt and healing touch, where protest and praise seek each other,
where suffering and salvation join hands,
we find the place to confess and seek your healing.

**All: For in this place of confession we are shaped by that hope:
in our hurt, we recognize your healing;
in our protest, we hear your praise;
in our suffering, we are held by your saving love,
calling us to life, reshaping all things, making real our
Advent longing of renewal. Hear us . . .**

At this time, each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

Friends, the grace and wisdom of God always breaks open new ways of being and doing.
They always give rise to more generous and fresh expressions of human interaction.
So let us be a compassionate and healing presence of Christ within the world. **Amen**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

ANTHEM

Lost in the Night

Finnish folk tune, arr. Kyle Haugen

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 64 :1-9

Pew Bible page 652

SERMON

Faithful Waiting

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

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

OFFERTORY

My Lord, What a Morning

arr. Larry Fleming

*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 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE, REJOICE

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude on 'TRURO'

Wilbur Held

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

The flowers today are given in memory of Nancy Hartrum by her family.

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 Facebook: facebook.com/FPCWooster

Sunday Greeters:	Nov. 26 – April Gamble	December 3 –
Sunday Ushers:	Nov. 26 – Deb & Rick Maxwell, Carol McKiernan, Diana Rice	
Sunday Sextons:	Nov. 26 – Aiden Hiner	December 3 – Lydia Dunlap
Sunday, Nov. 26	9:00 am Sunday School	9:45 am Fellowship 10:15 am Worship
	6:30 pm Eventide Worship in the Chapel	
Monday, Nov. 27	9:30 am Staff Mtg.	12:00 pm Rotary 5:30 pm Meals for All
Tuesday, Nov. 28	9:30 am Bible Study	10:30 am Women's Fellowship
	5:30 pm RDM	7:00 pm Scouts
Wednesday, Nov. 29	10:00 am Life Memory Café	6:00 pm Wednesday Evening Meal
Thursday, Nov. 30	7:00 pm Choir	
Friday, December 1	10:45 am Parkinson's Network	11:00 am Friday Fellowship
	4:00 pm Downtown Church Walk	
Saturday, December 2	9:30 am Al-Anon	3:00 pm Alternative Gift Market Set-up
	7:00 pm Sonnenberg Station Concert	
Sunday, December 3	9:00 am Sunday School	9:45 am Fellowship 10:15 am Worship
	6:30 pm Eventide Worship in the Chapel	

IT'S TIME. . . For a new CHURCH DIRECTORY

Let's celebrate our growing church family by creating an updated directory, including photos and contact information. The goal is to include ALL friends who attend FPC Wooster!

The most recent directory was completed in 2019 and was composed by a formal photography company. The 2024 directory will be created here at FPC using resources we already have.



Information about you and your family can be added easily online. When you scan this QR code, you can complete an information form and upload a photo if you choose. Other photo options include: using your photo from the previous directory, having your photo taken at church, or opting not to include a picture.

This is the final Sunday for the photo area at church, but don't worry – you can still submit photos online through the end of the year! Photos will be taken today before (starting at 9:45 a.m.) and after the 10:15 a.m. service. Look for signs in the Gathering Area, directing you to the photo area in Bruch Hall.



We're happy to announce that the Alternative Gift Market will be held at First Presbyterian Church this year on Sunday, December 3 at 11:30.

You may purchase \$5 shares in one of 20 different carefully vetted organizations from around the world, everything from backpack medics in Burma to food and healing for Ukraine's refugees to water wells in South Sudan. These shares make thoughtful gifts for everyone on your shopping list! Just ask Don Beane who annually buys shares for over 20 members of his family!

In addition, we'll have goods from World Crafts of Kidron, handmade bags from Ghana, maple syrup from Pleasant Hill Outdoor Camp, fair trade coffee, and olive soap and lotion to create awareness for a just peace for Palestine-Israel. Lunch will be available for a donation. We hope to see all of you there!