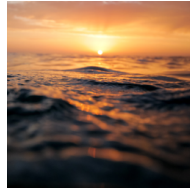


First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 19, 2023

10:15 a.m.

PRELUDE

Partita on 'Simple Gifts'
Eric J. Gastier, organ

Noel Goemanne

WELCOME

Amy Baxstrom, Director of Family Ministries

CHORAL INTROIT

Earth and All Stars

David N. Johnson

*CALL TO WORSHIP +

Calin Baxstrom

One: Though the dark clouds cover us and the violent storms assail...

All: God seeks us out and protects us.

God brings us to the safe shelter of God's compassion.

One: When we feel lost and alone, wondering who will save us...

All: God reaches out in love, healing our wounds and transforming our lives.

One: When we feel like there is no one who understands...

All: God knows the depths of our joys, pains, and everything between.

One: Thank God, who loves us so much!

All: Praise God who searches for us and brings us home. Amen.

*PRAYER +

God of justice and peace, bring your dazzling light into our hearts and spirits, that we might see the many opportunities we have to serve you daily. Help us to see that feeding the hungry, bringing nourishment to those who thirst, offering clothing to those in need, visiting the sick and those who are imprisoned, and welcoming the stranger are all things each and every one of us are called to in this life of faith. And may we not strive to do this for our own glory, but because you dwell within the hearts of each person and creature on this Earth, reflecting your divine goodness for all to see. **Amen**

*HYMN 401

Here in This Place

GATHER US IN

CONFESSION +

One: Merciful God...

All: We get so caught up in our own lives and needs that we fail to see others for whom we might provide some help and relief. You challenge us to feed those who are hungry and to quench the thirst of those who are parched. You ask us to bring clothing to those who have none or for whom the clothing is inadequate for the weather. To visit people who are sick, alone, alienated, who are imprisoned either in cells with bars or in conditions of hopelessness and poverty that they see no way out. To welcome the stranger and reach out

to those who are marginalized. To always bring your words of healing and redeeming love. We ignore the invitations into this sacred work, claiming we are too busy to help, too busy to care. How this attitude must sadden you, O Lord . . . Forgive us and heal our wounds of greed and selfishness. May we offer grace to ourselves and others when we stray from the path of creating the kin-dom here and now.

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

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

Family of Faith, hear the Good News: Even when we are distracted, distant, and stumbling, God still loves and is patient with us. For God's grace, forgiveness, and reconciling love we say: **Hallelujah and Amen!**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

Following the Children's Moment, children are invited to go with Amy to Joy Worship.

ANTHEM

Followers of the Lamb

arr. Philip Dietterich

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25 :31-46

Pew Bible page 27

SERMON

Reverend Erin Guzmán, Henry J. Copeland Interfaith Chaplain, College of Wooster

*HYMN 320

The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

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

OFFERTORY

Méditation

Maurice Duruflé

*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

Reverend Guzmán

**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 757

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

KINGSFOLD

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Now Thank We All Our God
(Marche Triomphale)*

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand. + Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*
+ Liturgy adapted from words written by Nancy C. Townley for *Ministry Matters*.

**The flowers today are given by Leigh Oaks: "I'm thankful, are you thankful?
Let's all be thankful! Blessed be! Hallelujah, Love and Peace, Leigh.**

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. 19 – Tom & Lisa Rumbaugh	Nov. 26 – April Gamble
Sunday Ushers:	Nov. 19 – Bill & Carla Hall, Jack & Nicholette Rogers	
Sunday Sextons:	Nov. 19 – Calin Baxstrom	Nov. 26 – Aiden Hiner
Sunday, Nov. 19	9:00 am Sunday School	9:45 am Fellowship
	11:30 am Decorating the Church for Advent and Christmas	10:15 am Worship
	2:00 pm <i>The Addams Family</i>	6:30 pm Eventide Worship in the Chapel
Monday, Nov. 20	8:30 am O'Huddle Sorting Dresses	9:30 am Staff Mtg.
Tuesday, Nov. 21	9:30 am Bible Study	12:00 pm Rotary
		4:00 pm Inkies
Wednesday, Nov. 22	7:00 pm Scouts	
	10:00 am Life Memory Café	
Thursday, Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day – Church Office Closed	
Friday, Nov. 24	Day after Thanksgiving – Church Office Closed	
Saturday, Nov. 25	9:30 am Al-Anon	12:00 pm Cub Scouts
Sunday, Nov. 26	9:00 am Sunday School	9:45 am Fellowship
	6:30 pm Eventide Worship in the Chapel	10:15 am Worship



First Presbyterian Church of Wooster

Advent Season 2023



Sunday, November 26

9AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 6:30PM Eventide

Friday, December 1

11:30AM Friday Fellowship

4~7PM Downtown Historic Church Tour

Sunday, December 3

9AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 6:30PM Eventide

11:30 Alternative Gift Market in Bruch Hall

Sunday, December 10

9AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 6:30PM Eventide

11:30 All-Church Holiday Potluck

Sunday, December 17

9AM Sunday School 10:15AM Children's 6:30PM Eventide

Advent Celebration

Sunday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

6:45 Music 7:00 Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 31

10:15AM Combined worship with Westminster at FPC