

# First Presbyterian Church Wooster, Ohio

Christmas Eve

*This night, we are THOSE WHO DREAM*

December 24, 2020

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



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

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

PRELUDE

*Quem Pastores Alduvere (Shepherds Left Their Flocks)*

*Helmut Walcha*

Eric J. Gastier, organ

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES +

*The Christ Candle*

Peter, Mark, and Cheryl Gooch

This year, we dreamed of world peace.  
We dreamed of deep breaths and restful sleep.  
We dreamed of love that lasts and suffering that passes.  
We dreamed of doors open wide and a cure to disease.  
We dreamed, because to dream is to believe.  
For to dream is to hope; to dream is to see.  
So make room in your being to dream yet again,  
of a world without fear, and a God that draws near.  
For it is almost Christmas.  
Love is almost here.  
  
Tonight, we are those who dream.  
Tonight, we dream the same dreams of our ancestors before us.  
Tonight, we dream of justice and mercy, of love and kindness, of peace and hope.  
Tonight, we dream of a God that draws near to us out of unfailing love.  
May this candle be a reminder that there will be a day when every dream will be fulfilled.  
And until then, we will be those who dream.  
Let us worship Holy God.

*Advent Candles*

Charlie, Sarah, Wesley, and Katelyn Baker

*Advent candles glowing bright, we give thanks for Christ tonight.*

*Hope and peace and joy and love, we give thanks to God above.*

*Words and Music by Glenn and Susan Eernisse*

**All: Ever-present God, from time to time we dream radical dreams.  
 We dream of freedom for the imprisoned, food for the hungry, and equality for all.  
 We dream bold, radical dreams,  
     until the world tells us that these dreams are impossible.  
 And when that happens, we are tempted to tuck our dreams into coat pockets  
     and let them collect dust on the shelves of our hearts.  
 Forgive us for giving up so easily, for on this night  
     we remember and celebrate a radical dream – that you dwelled among us.  
 Give us the courage to dust old dreams off the shelf  
     with the confidence that with you, the impossible is possible.  
 With you, a light always shines in the darkness.  
 With you, even an unwed teenage couple and a band of shepherds  
     can bring joy to the world. Thanks be to God for a dream like that. Amen**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CAROL	<i><b>O Come, All Ye Faithful</b></i> David Rice, vocalist	<i>ADESTE FIDELES</i>
THE FIRST LESSON	Genesis 1:1-5, 26a,27-28a, 29-31	Paula Abrecht
CAROL	<i><b>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</b></i> Rachel King, vocalist	<i>MENDELSSOHN</i>
THE SECOND LESSON	Isaiah 9:2-7	Dana and Tammy Brooks
CAROL	<i><b>The First Nowell</b></i> Jim King, vocalist	<i>THE FIRST NOWELL</i>
THE THIRD LESSON	Isaiah 11:1-3a, 6-9	Jeff Franks
CAROL	<i><b>Joy to the World</b></i> Niki Spahich, vocalist	<i>ANTIOCH</i>
THE FOURTH LESSON	Micah 6:6-8	Mimi Lewellen
CAROL	<i><b>O Little Town of Bethlehem</b></i>	<i>ST. LOUIS</i>
THE FIFTH LESSON	Luke 1:26-38	Susie Slack
THE SIXTH LESSON	Luke 1:46-55	Carol Gates
CAROL	<i><b>Away in a Manger</b></i>	<i>MUELLER</i>
THE SEVENTH LESSON	Luke 2:1-7	Ann Gastier
THE EIGHTH LESSON	Luke 2:8-20	Don Beane
CAROL	<i><b>Angels We Have Heard on High</b></i> Ann Giancola, vocalist	<i>GLORIA</i>
THE NINTH LESSON	Revelation 21:1-5	Tom and Lisa Rumbaugh

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

MUSICAL MEDITATION

*Stille Nacht*

*arr. John Leavitt*

CAROL

***Silent Night, Holy Night!***

*STILLE NACHT*

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Divinum Mysterium*

*arr. Wilbur Held*

+ Liturgy adapted from Prayers by Sarah Are / A Sanctified Art LLC / [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

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

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

Please know that you are welcome to participate in our broadcast services each week beginning on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. They are accessible anytime through our website and Facebook page.

**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.



The Poinsettias which grace our sanctuary today are given in memory and honor by the following:

**MEMORY:**

My parents, **Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Arnold**, and my grandmother **Bertha Fouch**,  
given by Elaine Arnold.

My husband, **Ronald Adams**, and my parents, **Mr. and Mrs. Russell Eisinger**, given by Barbara Adams.  
**Marjorie Pixel Beane**, given by Don Beane.

My parents, **Walter and Grace Taylor**, given by Marian Cropp.

My parents, **Bob and Celia Gates**, and my grandparents, **Herman and Celia Retzler**,  
given by Carol Gates.

My husband, **Donald Knowlton**, given by Nancy Knowlton.

**Jim and Sally Bean**, given by Mimi and Richard Lewellen.

**Tom and Libby Bruch**, given by Mimi and Richard Lewellen.

**George and Beulah Miller, Harold and Alma Picking, and J. Gregory Gordon**,  
given by Carol and Gary Miller.

**Betty Shull**, given by Gordon Shull.

My parents, **Bob and Mary Young**, given by Nancy Young.

In memory of FPC Wooster members we lost this past year:

<b>Mary Beem</b>	<b>Fran Curtis</b>	<b>Rev. Harry Eberts</b>	<b>Harry Engman</b>
<b>Gordon Giffin</b>	<b>Connie Holvey</b>	<b>Helen Jacob</b>	<b>William McGraw</b>
<b>Edna Oswald</b>	<b>John Philippi</b>	<b>William Schultz</b>	<b>Betty Shull</b>
<b>Ken Starling</b>	<b>Gordon Tait</b>	<b>Carl Zimmerman</b>	

**HONOR:**

**My eight children and sixteen grandchildren**, given by Marian Cropp.

**Friends and family near and far**, by Joan Firmin.

**Sarah Miles and Wayne Perkins, Joel and James Miles and Family, and Don Beane**,  
given by Pat Miles.

**Pat and Wayne Bare**, given by Mimi and Richard Lewellen.

**FPC hard-working and dedicated staff**, given by Mimi and Richard Lewellen.