

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 3, 2021

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**

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

PRELUDE

Christmas Fantasy on 'O du fröhliche' (O, Thou Joyful)

Gustav Rebling

Eric J. Gastier, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Kent and Joyce Murphy

One: Let us sing with gladness, for the love of God has come to dwell on earth.

All: Let us shout with joy, for the grace of God is at work in our lives.

One: Let us praise God, the giver of all blessings, for the very heart of God is given to us.

All: Let us call out to God, for redemption is God's gift to us.

Come, let us worship our God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY +

May we always be open to your love, O God: a love shaped by justice, a love grounded in life,
a love that transforms, a love that speaks out, a love that is revealed in the life of Jesus.

May we always be open to your love, O God, that our love also may be revealed in our living.

Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

All: God of blessing, you have come to us again this Holy Season.

But we lose interest quickly, and our thoughts are turned to our own problems.

**We languish, looking for easy answers, distracted by the false promises
of the loud voices around us.**

We do not listen for your voice, calling us home from our wanderings.

Call us still, O God. Gather us from our far places.

Show us your mercy and remind us that in you we have life abundant.

Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

The gifts of the star-child are healing of heart, courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
the abiding presence of the Spirit in suffering and joy, and the power to live life anew.
Friends, know that we are forgiven and be at peace. **Thanks be to God! Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61 and 62

Luke 2:22-38

SERMON

Still Waiting

MUSICAL OFFERING

Adeste Fidelis

arr. Norman Dello Joio

Claudia Thompson and James West, pianos

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION +

INVITATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

GREAT THANKSGIVING 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**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Il Est Né (He Is Born)

Richard Hudson

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*.

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/>

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.