

First Presbyterian Church Wooster, Ohio

Third Sunday of Advent
THOSE WHO DREAM . . . *sow joy (joy)*
December 13, 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**

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

MINISTRY FOCUS

Christmas Joy Offering

Mark Gooch

PRELUDE

En el Frio Interval (Cold December Flies Away) Spanish carol, arr. Charles Callahan
Eric J. Gastier, organ

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES + *Candle of Joy* Megan Wereley, Steve, Emma, Hannah LoGiudice

I dream of dance parties in the kitchen.
I dream of laughter that is contagious.
I dream of birthday candles and another beautiful year.
I dream of family game nights and dinner parties with friends.
I dream of homemade Halloween costumes and homemade family recipes.
I dream of pillow forts, fireflies, and front porch swings.
I dream of every little thing that brings joy; and I know it comes from God.
So today we light the candle of joy as a reminder
that God's dream for this world involves the end of all tears.
God's dream for this world involves a joy that overflows and is contagious.
So may this fire burn bright, and as it does, may we sing.
May we dance. May we laugh. May we hold onto the people we love.
May we sow joy in a hurting world, and may it be an act of holy resistance. Amen

Advent Candles

Raegan Bigley

*Advent candles glowing bright, we give thanks for joy and light.
Hope and peace and joy and love, we give thanks to God above.*

Words and Music by Glenn and Susan Eernisse

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

**All: O Great Writer, with a sky full of stars and world full of flowers,
there should be no end to my joy.
And yet, instead of decorating my very being with joy**

**I let it slip away like loose change.
Instead of singing like Mary, or dancing like David,
I pass by remarkable beauty and love most days, unfazed. Forgive me.
Teach me the ways of children, who laugh and dance and sing
as if joy is the very thing that keeps them alive.
Maybe they have joy figured out. Gratefully we pray. Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CAROL *Carol of the Bells* Lydia Dunlap

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Kailana and Abrielle James

CAROL *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* Gabe Bosler-Kilmer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ann Gastier

**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**

ANTHEM

Lost in the Night

Finnish carol, arr. Kyle Haugen

Annika Balish, Emily Hasecke, Will McCullough, Carter Rogers

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

A MEDITATION

HYMN 94 (see next page for the music)

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

JEFFERSON

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

arr. Wilbur Held

+ Liturgy adapted from Prayers by Sarah Are / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org.

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

The flowers today are given by Charles Cureton in loving memory of his wife, Mary Cureton.

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.

94 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of

grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
 drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness
 wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra - grance

to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly
 shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of
 hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -
 splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber
 strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to

neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
 fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
 grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

This Advent text artfully interweaves what is hidden and what is revealed, primarily in the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. But Christ himself taught us about another hidden truth, his presence in the "least of these" (Matthew 25:40, 45), whom we are also called to welcome.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2005

MUSIC: Alexander Johnson's *Tennessee Harmony*, 1818; harm. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978

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Music Harm. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship* (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

JEFFERSON
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