

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio

Fourth Sunday of Advent

THOSE WHO DREAM . . . *are not alone (love)*

December 20, 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

Receiving the Christmas Joy Offering

MINISTRY FOCUS

Christmas Eve Services

PRELUDE

Greensleeves, from 'Four Carol Preludes'

Richard Purvis

Eric J. Gastier, organ

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES + *Candle of Love*

Paul, Sheryl, Cameron and Aaron Edmiston

I dream of music that makes my heart swell.

I dream of trees that take my breath away.

I dream of sunrises that wrap me in light.

I dream of family dinners that feel like home.

I dream of church services that give me hope.

I dream of love as the default.

So today, as we draw near to Christmas day, we light the candle of love.

May this light burn bright as a reminder that God is here and God is love.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen

Advent Candles

Addy Hiner

Advent candles glowing bright, we give thanks for love 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 +

One: God of Good News,

you say to me, "you are highly favored, but I struggle to see how that could be.

You say to me, "Do not be afraid," but I am afraid all the time.

You say to me, "Even the impossible is possible, just look at Elizabeth!"

But hope slips through my hands like water.

The impossible still feels impossible.

**All: So today I pray,
today we pray:
Teach us to sing like Mary.
Teach us to laugh like Elizabeth.
Teach us to trust like the angels.
Forgive us when we can only do one at a time, or none at all. Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CAROL *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Wesley Baker

CAROL *Joy to the World* Lydia Dunlap

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Olivia, Everett, and Mae Kelly

CAROL *Silent Night* Katelyn and Wesley Baker

CAROL *Angels We Have Heard on High* Aiden Hiner

MUSICAL OFFERING *Christmas Time is Here* Vince Guaraldi

Seth Kelly, piano

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:26-38

SERMON

CAROL *Away In A Manger* Matt Earley

CAROL *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Olivia Hiner

CAROL *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* Wesley Baker

HYMN (see next page for the music) ***My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*** STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Besaçon Carol arr. Charles Callahan*

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

The Flowers today are given by Don Beane in loving memory of his wife, Marjorie Pixley Beane, who died 10 years ago on December 3, and would have turned ninety years old this December 18.

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.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.



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.

