

# First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio

Baptism of the Lord

January 10, 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

*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*

*Dietrich Buxtehude*

Eric J. Gastier, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Karolyn Rice

One: Out of the chill of the morning we enter the sanctuary of God,  
where we come for worship and fellowship that warm our souls.  
We seek to draw near the mystery of God for the nurture of our longing hearts.

**All: May the waters of life shower us this day  
and the bread of life renew us for our journeys of faith and service.  
May God bring justice and mercy and peace through us for all people.**

One: Come, let us worship our God, who would bring healing and wholeness to all Creation.

PRAYER OF THE DAY +

Speak our names again this day, O God, and send us forth as living and refreshing water.  
Open up our ways to take new journeys, to expand our reach in compassionate service,  
to grow in wisdom and wonder about our faith anew,  
to embrace our ever-changing world, which you love so dearly. **Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

**All: In the waters of baptism, O God, you have cleansed us and claimed us.  
Forgive us for resisting your grace  
and failing to share your love wholeheartedly with others.  
Too often we follow our own paths, and they lead us far from you.  
Help us to live into our baptisms, to trust that all we need is in you,  
for you have marked us as your own, loving us without limit.  
Wash us with your love again,  
so that with clean hearts we may continue our journeys along the Way of Jesus.**

*Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.*

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

Hear this good news, my friends: God comes searching for us, calling us by name,  
leading us into the peaceable kingdom.

In Christ, we become new people: lost, we are found; broken, we are made whole;  
forsaken, we are restored to new life.

**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

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Peace Like a River*

*Herbert Colvin*

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1-5

Mark 1:1-13

SERMON

*Baptismal Blessing*

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Fanfare*

*Joseph C. Bridge*

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*. Facebook Link: <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.