



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

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

621 College Ave, Wooster, Ohio
www.firstpreswooster.org

December 5, 2021 9:00 First Word

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAVID RICE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dunlap Family

If life was a home, then we would pray—

May love be the foundation.

May God be the cornerstone.

May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in.

And may hope be the walls—holding us together.

In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.

We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.

Let us give thanks for the foundation of love.

Let us worship Holy God.

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

HINER FAMILY

As we reflect on the foundation of our faith in our lives, we gather together around the candle of peace.

The home we long for is a home that knows peace—

Peace that rests between us and our grief,

Peace around our anxiety,

Peace between us and our self-criticism,

Peace amidst our relationships,

Peace at the core of our being,

Peace hovering through and in our world.

The home we long for is a home that knows peace.

So today we light the candle of peace—as a reminder and as a prayer.

Let it be so. Amen.

POEM FOR ADVENT

Dunlap Family

Words For The Beginning

If I could give you the words for the very beginning-
For the stretches and the yawns, and the opening of eyes,
For the first hiccups, and the first smiles, and the first purse of your lips, I would say,
“Oh, dear child, how you are loved.”
But the thing about love is you can’t stop there, so I would go on to say,
“You are strong, and stronger than you think. And you are not alone—
Look at these parents who adore you and these doctors and nurses fighting for you.
And you are enough, already enough.”
You haven’t done anything yet. You’ve just been here, breathing, sleeping, and already, you are
enough.”
And then I might say,
“This world is a mess, but it is your home, and you can make it better, so always try to make it better.
And maybe most important of all; there is a love that is bigger than my understanding, that moves
through this world, and I call that love God. And that love is here, here in this room, and that love
knows your name by heart.”
Those are the words I would say to you as you stretch and yawn and open your eyes on the very first
morning of your very first day. Let that be your foundation, like Zechariah did for John.
Let love be your beginning.

PRAYER

DUNLAP FAMILY

Family of faith,
No matter how old we get, God continues to say to us:
“You are loved; you are forgiven.”
That is the foundation of our lives. That is the truth upon which we build our home.
So breathe deeply. There is grace and peace here. Join me in proclaiming this good news.
We are loved. We are forgiven. We are claimed. This is our foundation. Thanks be to God.
Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

AMY BAXSTROM

REFLECTION

JEFF FRANKS

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

DAVID RICE

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

HYMN- “O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”

SEE ATTACHMENT

***PLEASE STAND IF ABLE**

BLESSING

As you leave this service, your service begins:

Comfort the homesick.

Open the doors to others.

Seek sanctuary.

Be brave enough to go home by another way.

And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed- so come back soon.

In the name of the Foundation-God, Spirit, and Son-

Go in peace.

DUNLAP FAMILY**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Sunday, December 5	9:00 am	First Word
	9:30 am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:45 am	Worship in the Sanctuary
		Sunday Sexton-Emily James
Monday, December 6	11:00 am	Staff Meeting-Parlor
	11:30 am	Sr. Men's Luncheon-Green Leaf
	12:00 pm	Rotary
	6:00 pm	BSA/Cub Scout Pack #4066
Tuesday, December 7	8:30 am	Bible Study-Parlor
	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 66
Wednesday, December 8	10:00 am	Life Memory Café-Parlor
	7:00 pm	Faith & Practice-Parlor
Thursday, December 9	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal-Bruch Hall
Friday, December 10	7:00 pm	Sonnenberg Station-Sanctuary
Saturday, December 11	9:30 am	Al-Anon
Sunday, December 12	9:30 am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:45 am	Children's Advent Celebration Sunday Sexton-Mattie Dunlap

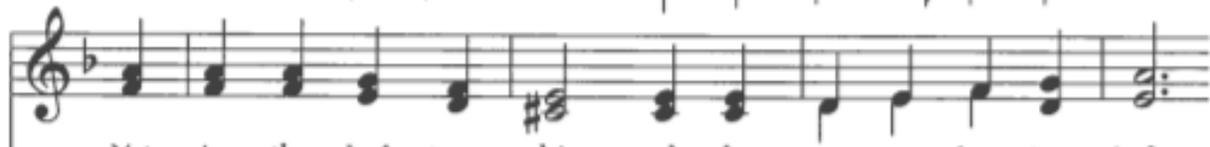
121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



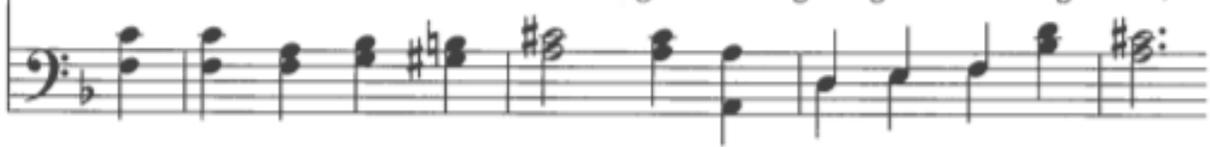
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!



Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.