

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 17, 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

Adagio in E
Eric J. Gastier, organ

Frank Bridge

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Paula Abrecht

One: Come let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

All: We come to sing God's praise.

One: Come let us worship our God, our shelter and protector.

All: We come to seek God's care.

One: Come let us worship our God, the source of our strength.

All: We come to join God's work in the world.

Come, let us walk in the light and listen for God's voice!

PRAYER OF THE DAY +

Gracious God, reveal yourself to us and call our names this day.

Tune our hearts and minds to recognize your true voice

and to live for others in ways that reflect your steadfast love.

Speak to us, O God, for we are listening. **Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

All: God of night-whispered wisdom,

forgive us for the times we fail to seek your will or heed your call.

You ask us to follow, but we go our own way.

You offer us new life, but we tread old, familiar paths that are empty and barren.

In your mercy, forgive us when we fail to act on the truth we know,

the knowledge we have, the possibilities there are for change.

Replace our waywardness with faithful trust.

Renew our spirits by your Spirit.

Lead us to follow in the Way of Jesus. Amen

Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

This is the Good News, my friends: God remembers us and forgives us and calls us,
so that we might live as people of love and hope for the sake of all creation.

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

from *World in Prayer.org*

**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**

MUSICAL OFFERING

With a Voice of Singing
Members of The Sanctuary Choir

Martin Shaw

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 3:1-21

SERMON

Imagining God's Future

HYMN (see next page for the music)

Here I Am, Lord

HERE I AM (Schutte)

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Carillon

Herbert Murrill

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*. Facebook Link: <https://www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/>

The Flowers today are in honor of our congregation, persevering faithfully through COVID-19.

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.

69 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord

Leader or All

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

All

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The stanzas here need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God's call. This becomes clearer if a leader or small group sings the stanzas, with the congregation joining on the refrain.