

# First Presbyterian Church

## Wooster, Ohio

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 24, 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

*Andante, from 'Grand Pièce Symphonique'*

*César Franck*

Eric J. Gastier, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Erin Guzmán

One: We enter this space for worship, called by God to pray together.

**All: We enter this space for worship, called by God to share our lives together.**

One: We enter this space for worship, called by God into Sabbath rest.

**All: We enter this space for worship, leaving behind the week that has gone.**

One: We enter this space for worship and to be refreshed for worship in our daily lives.

**All: We enter this space for worship, worshipping the God who calls us  
ever onward — come, let us walk in the light and listen for God's voice!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY +

Gracious God, in any and all times you are with us: you call us to discipleship,  
you invite us into relationship one with another and with you.

In the moments of this time of worship, may we experience your call,  
your community, your grace—and be led to respond with our lives. **Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

One: Forgive us, God of unrelenting mercy, for the times we have run the other way  
rather than enter the territory of those we do not like,  
those who have hurt us, those we consider our enemy.

**All: Forgive us for the times we have resented your forgiveness  
of those we consider not worthy.**

One: Forgive us for the times we have wallowed in anger and self-pity  
rather than rejoice in the bounty of your love for all people.

**All: Forgive us for putting boundaries around your mercy  
and borders on your forgiveness.**

**Help us to see ourselves as children of the Most Merciful One,  
sisters and brothers of all whom you have created.  
Help us to forgive those who sin against us . . . as you forgive us.**

*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

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**

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Berceuse (Lullaby), from '24 Pièces en style libre'*

*Loius Vierne*

SCRIPTURE

Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1—4:3; 4:4-11

SERMON

*Graceful Compassion*

HYMN 795 (see next page for the music)

***Healer of Our Every Ill***

*HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL*

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Pasticcio, from 'Ten Pieces'*

*Jean Langlais*

+ 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.

## 795 Healer of Our Every Ill



Heal - er of our ev - ery ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your peace and
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is still un -
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - ery sis - ter, ev - ery
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your way of



glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.  
 fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.  
 broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.  
 heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

As soon becomes apparent, this sung prayer is not limited to personal physical healing. It deals with the larger and intangible gifts of peace and hope to vanquish fear and sorrow, and it is cast in the plural because it is concerned with the healing of a wounded community.