

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2022

10:15 a.m.

PRELUDE

Five Noels, from 'L'Organiste'
Eric J. Gastier, organ

César Franck

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES +

Kevin, Susan, Noah, and Hope Shaffer

Voice 1: As we reflect on the foundation of our faith in our lives,
we gather around the candle of Peace.

Voice 2: The home we long for is a home that knows peace—

Voice 1: peace that rests between us and our grief,

Voice 2: peace around our anxiety,

Voice 1: peace between us and our self-criticism,

Voice 2: peace amidst our relationships,

Voice 1: peace at the core of our being,

Voice 2: peace hovering through and in our world.

Voice 1: The home we long for is a home that knows peace.

Voice 2: So today we light the candle of peace—as a reminder and as a prayer.

Voice 1: Let it be so. Amen

PRAYER

Ever-present God, as we wade into the tides of this Advent season, preparing our hearts for your arrival, may we be moved to consider how deep and wide your grace extend . . .

Across generations, cultures, time-zones, and languages, you show up and nudge us forward with challenge and hope. And at times, we are struck with fear. At times we are discouraged by the absence of an “easy peace.” We long for simpler times and more straightforward answers, despite knowing you have called us into uncomfortable places necessary for our growth. Through collective worship and anticipation, our dedication to one another, and the hope we have in your saving love for the whole world, help us feel the courage we need to engage thoughtfully in the project of Compassionate Peace—even when it feels foolish to do so. Amen

CONFESSION +

Susie Slack

One: Fear can be a good thing. It can help us be attentive while driving down the highway. It can alert us to possible accidents. It can motivate us to do our best. However, fear can also be harmful. For so many of us, fear of the other, fear of failure, or fear of the unknown has led us to make brash, sinful, destructive choices in our lives—choices such as building walls, tearing others down, ignoring injustice, and skirting responsibility.

Today, in confession, we ask for mercy and pray for guidance. Holy God, remind us that fear will always be an obstacle to peace . . . But that peace is also not the absence of conflict. Help us grow our awareness of the need for a peace that is ruthless in its ability to include, surround, and make whole all that which has been ruptured and broken. As we confess our shortcomings, we come before you humbled by the words: “Do not be afraid.” Let us pray together:

All: Patient God, you know just how often we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love. You know just how often we allow fear to take the place of logic, fanning unhealthy fires in our lives. You know just how often we tuck your words, “Do not be afraid,” on dusty shelves and in the back of closets, stubbornly holding onto our own point of view. Forgive us for giving fear the microphone. Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection, which spark and feed so much of our fear, to re-center us in love.

Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

Family of faith, hear this Good News: Even when we forget God’s words, God does not forget us. Even when we lose our way, God does not lose us. Even in the absence of peace, God holds onto us. Even when we fall short or make mistakes, God forgives us. We are known, forgiven, and loved. **Thanks be to God, Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE *Please take care to maintain some physical distance as we share the Peace*
The Peace of Christ be with you . . . **And also with you.**

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

On Communion Sunday, our children are invited to remain in the Sanctuary and receive the sacrament

ANTHEM

Thou Shalt Know Him

Mark Sirett

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 11:1-10

SERMON

Reverend Erin Guzmán, Interfaith Chaplain/Director of Spiritual Life, College of Wooster

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

Through our monetary gifts, we offer something of our work and ourselves to God.

*DOXOLOGY 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION ANTHEM

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. John Rutter

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN 372

O for a World

AZMON

*BENEDICTION POETRY PRAYER +

Love Comes Running, by Sarah Speed

Rev. Guzmán

POSTLUDE

Lift Up Your Heads

Wilbur Held

* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

+ Liturgy adapted from words written by Rev. Sarah Speed for *A Sanctified Art, LLC*.

The flowers are given today by Ann Gastier in memory of loved ones who are no longer with us.

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**

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 (LGBTQ) people in the life,
ministry, and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.

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).

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 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.



QR (Quick Response) Code for Direct Donations and Contributions – the Code can be read by your smartphone and will land you on the giving page of our website where you can “Give Now” or set up a recurring donation.

330-264-9420

www.firstpreswooster.org

Facebook: facebook.com/FPCWooster

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Greeters:	Dec. 4 – Nancy Young	Dec. 11 – Val Fulton
Sunday Sextons:	Dec. 4 – Hannah LoGiudice	Dec. 11 – Sophia Baxstrom
Sunday, Dec. 4	People to People & Innovative Opportunity Food Truck in our Parking Lot	
	9:00 am Sunday School	9:45 am Fellowship 10:15 am Worship
	11:30 am to 2:00 pm Alternative Gift Market and Lunch at Trinity UCC	
	12:00 pm Youth Christmas Party at Gionino's	
	2:00 pm Imagine the Possibilities Music Recital – Bruch Hall	
Monday, Dec. 5	9:30 am Staff	11:30 am Men's Lunch at Green Leaf 12:00 pm Rotary
	2:00 pm Deacon's Meeting in the Parlor	6:00 pm Scouts
Tuesday, Dec. 6	9:30 am Bible Study	5:30 pm Resource Development Ministry Team
	7:00 pm Montessori School Winter Concert – Bruch Hall	6:00 pm Scouts
Wednesday, Dec. 7	10:00 am Memory Café	5:30 pm Fellowship Meal 7:00 pm Faith&Nurture
Thursday, Dec. 8	7:00 pm Choir	
Saturday, Dec. 10	9:30 am Al-Anon	
Sunday, Dec. 11	Pleasant Hill Outdoor Camp Maple Syrup Sale – Gathering Area	
	9:00 am Sunday School	9:45 am Fellowship 10:15 am Worship
	11:30 am Church-wide Holiday Dinner – Bruch Hall	