

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025



A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

VOLUNTARY

Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol
Eric J. Gastier, organ

arr. Gerald Near

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

PRELUDE

See Amid the Winter Snow

John Goss, arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

Cradle Song

William J. Kirkpatrick, arr. David Williams

Angels' Carol

John Rutter

The Sanctuary Choir and Eric J. Gastier, organist and choir director

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES +

Andy, Karmon, Kailana, and Abrielle James

In God's house, there is hope —
for God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.

In God's house, there is peace —
for all that separates us from God falls away.

In God's house, there is joy —
because God created music and laughter and singing
and children's sparkling eyes this Christmas Eve;
God's fingerprints are on all these things and more, so God's house surely exudes joy.

In God's house, there is love —
because God is love, from start to finish, and that love exists for us all.

And in the center of our hope,
In the center of our peace,
In the center of our joy,
In the center of our love, is God —
who is come to dwell among us.

Tonight, we light the Christ candle, for God's love just could not stay away.

PRAYER OF REFLECTION +

**All: God of shepherds and angels, God of starlight and seekers,
God of mangers and unwed teenage mothers: it is almost Christmas.
It's almost here. We are close to home.
God of starlight and angel choruses,
on this Christmas Eve, as you come dwell among us,
we pray that you would bring us closer to home. Scoop us up. Draw us in.
Build the world you have in mind for us. Hover here. Hear our prayers.
Take all grief and pain off of our shoulders
and hold our hands as we walk through the dark. It is almost Christmas.
It's almost here. We can feel it — we are close to home. Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . **And also with you.**

CAROL 147	<i>The First Nowell</i>	THE FIRST NOWELL
verses 1-3: all	verse 4: women	verse 5: men & choir
		verse 6: all
THE FIRST LESSON	Genesis 1:1-5, 26a, 27-28a, 29-31	Sophia Baxstrom
CAROL 110	<i>Love Has Come</i>	BRING A TORCH
THE SECOND LESSON	Isaiah 9:2-7	Laura Neill
CAROL 128	<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY
THE THIRD LESSON	Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9	Ashton Dunlap
CAROL 152	<i>What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright</i>	PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
THE FOURTH LESSON	Micah 6:6-8	Seth Miller
CAROL 121	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	ST. LOUIS
THE FIFTH LESSON	Luke 1:26-38	Mattie Dunlap
CAROL 134	<i>Joy to the World</i>	ANTIOCH
THE SIXTH LESSON	Luke 1:46-55	Karolyn Rice
CAROL 114	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	CRADLE SONG
THE SEVENTH LESSON	Luke 2:1-7	Olivia Hiner
CAROL 113	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	GLORIA
THE EIGHTH LESSON	Luke 2:8-20	Aiden Hiner

THE NINTH LESSON

Revelation 21:1-5a

Calin Baxstrom

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

Tonight we are receiving the Christmas Joy Offering.

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

In addition to our offerings, we continue to receive the Christmas Joy Offering.

Offertory

*Fantasy on 'O du fröhliche' (O Thou Joyful)**Gustav Rebling*

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CAROL (last page of the bulletin)

Silent Night, Holy Night!*STILLE NACHT*

BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Christ Is Born in Humble Stable Welsh tune, arr. Alfred V. Fedak

POSTLUDE

Il Est Né (He Is Born) French carol, arr. Richard A. Hudson

+ Liturgy adapted from Prayers by Sarah Are / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org

Website: www.firstpreswooster.orgFacebook Link: www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/

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**

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.

Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

Next Sunday, December 28, we will have a worship service at 10:30 a.m. in our sanctuary.

