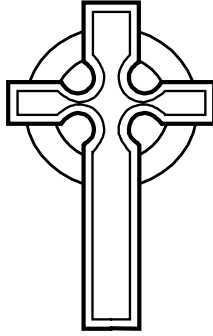


First Presbyterian Church

Middletown, Ohio
www.fpcmiddletown.com

December 12, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.



Prelude *In the Bleak Midwinter* Joseph Martin

Lighting the Advent Candles Shablak Family

*** Hymn #100** *Canticle of the Turning Star of the County Down*

*** Prayer of Confession**

The Lord is near. In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need tenderness to break upon us. Despite your faithfulness, we do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world.

*** Assurance of Forgiveness**

*** Gloria Patri**

Hymnal #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen!

Invitation to Sunday School

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Cantata

What Child Is This? Arr. Christina Harmon
Audrey Schmid and Carl Burdick, trumpets

Scripture

Luke 1:67-80

Sermon

Michael Isaacs

Affirmation of Faith

Mary's Song

Luke 1:46-55

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Cantata

Glory to God in the Highest
Sanctuary Choir and Trumpets

Allen Pote

Welcome & Announcements

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer (unison)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*** Hymn #121**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Fanfare and Variations on "Noel Nouvelet" R. H. Haan
Trumpets and Organ

(There will be a slight pause between each variation. May you enjoy each delightful and varied musical depiction of this familiar melody.)



Our Life Together...

Michael Isaacs, Pastor; Joyce Zigler, Director of Music Ministries/Organist; Janet Scott, Director/Pianist; Allan Smillie, Worship Assistant; David Jenkins, Sound Technician; Audrey Schmid and Carl Burdick, Trumpeters; Sanctuary Choir; Lynne Wiley, Barista.

We warmly welcome trumpeters **Audrey Schmid and Carl Burdick** to our worship today. Audrey is a free-lance musician in Cincinnati who also has a private studio of students. Carl is a post graduate student working on his PhD in music theory at UC College Conservatory of Music. We give thanks for their gifts of music.

Hearing aids and large print bulletins are available for use during the worship services. Please contact an usher for assistance.

Sensory toys are available outside of the nursery for children who may wish to use them during worship.

The poinsettia in the sanctuary is given in loving memory of **Bill and Jane Rehse** by daughters Ann Veith and Pat Kienlen.

The Deacons have placed a white carnation on the chancel rail in loving memory of **Russell Bell**, who died on November 26. Russell is Suzanne Edwards's brother.

Announcements

COVID-19 Reminders: As a general reminder, our COVID provisions include:

- Masks are encouraged for the inclusion of the immunocompromised and children in worship.
- Social distancing is enforced in the sanctuary by the use of alternating pews.
- The length of the worship services be forty-five minutes and not include the passing of any materials.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study will meet on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Room. This week we are beginning our study of the Gospel According to Luke. We will be reading Luke 1.

Luminaria Kits & Light in the Darkness Prayer Gathering

Join us Sunday, December 19, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on the front lawn as we celebrate the season of Advent and prepare for the great mystery of Christmas. Luminaria Advent Kits are available in the Gathering Area. We hope to share these resources broadly, so please consider also picking one up for a neighbor, friend, or relative. Bring your luminaria and help us share the light of Christ as we sing a few carols and pray together.

Journey to Christmas Cantata

Come, come with us on our *Journey to Christmas*. This quote, “*Come celebrate Jesus*,” brings us much closer to our destination of finding the miracle on Christmas Eve. On this fourth Sunday of Advent the scripture from Luke 2:1-10 tells us of the shepherds and the angels. You will hear the singing of the shepherds and the sounds of their folk band on the hillside as they look for their lost sheep but who are also in search of the “Lamb”. Clarinetist Miriam Culley will accompany the Sanctuary Choir. We will hear the glorious sounds of handbells from the Renaissance Ringers and the Sanctuary Youth who will also sing with the Sanctuary Choir.

Advent Devotionals are available in the Gathering Area and Narthex. This devotional includes reflection from Lynne Mack, Joy Zigler, Lisa Kaufer, and Michael Isaacs.

Christmas Eve: Join us on Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m. for our Candlelight and Communion Service. Selections of beautiful Christmas music will begin at 6:45 p.m.

Renaissance Ringers will rehearse Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Sanctuary Youth will rehearse Wednesday at 6:45 p.m.

Sanctuary Choir will rehearse Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Children's Ministry

Nursery Care is available for infants and children up to 5 years old every Sunday, located next to Room 110. **Sunday School** (children ages 6-12) is offered most Sundays in the Godly Play Room following the Gloria Patri, at which time leaders will escort children to Sunday School. (See PresbyNews for Sunday School schedule.) There is no Sunday School today because of Communion.