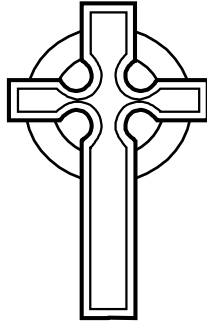


First Presbyterian Church

Middletown, Ohio
www.fpcmiddletown.com

December 5, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.



Prelude *Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming* Arr. Joel Raney

Lighting the Advent Candles Brehm, Brown, & Fields Family

*** Hymn #88** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Veni Emmanuel

*** Prayer of Confession**

God of grace, move us closer toward you, so that we may feel joy leaping inside of us. Help us not choose despair over hope. Forgive us when we withhold your peace from one another. Come to us as a refiner's fire. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure.

*** 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

Malachi 3:1-4



Our Life Together...

Leading Worship today: Michael Isaacs, Pastor; Joyce Zigler, Director of Music Ministries/Organist; Brian Shepard, Director/Pianist; Sanctuary Octet plus One; Marty Hensler, Worship Assistant; Jim Harris, Sound Technician; Shirley Steel, Barista.

The Worship and Music Ministry Team wishes to thank this congregation for its generosity in purchasing the Christmas Memorial Ornaments. All have been purchased. We have a net profit of \$349.52 which will be put into the Organ Support Fund.

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

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.

Hospice Care of Middletown invites you to the annual Community Candlelight Memorial service titled "A Season to Remember." It is Saturday, December 11, at 7:00 p.m. at Woodside Cemetery and Arboretum. Pastor Michael will be offering the meditation.

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.

Add an ornament to the Christmas Tree outside! In addition to celebrating Advent and Christmas *inside* the church, we are also eager to share this season *outside* on the front steps of the church. Hosted by The Purple Table, you are invited to add an ornament that expresses hope, faith, joy, peace, and love to the Christmas tree on the front steps of the church. Sparkling star ornament supplies are ready for your prayer, blessing, and/or drawing. Invite your friends and neighbors!

Advent Devotionals are available in the Gathering Area and Narthex. This devotional includes reflection form Lynne Mack, Joyce 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.

Christmas Baskets: If you have adopted a family for Christmas, the gifts should be put in large garbage bags and marked with the family's number which is located at the top of your family's page. Please tag the gift with the family's number, if it is for a boy or girl, and their age. The gifts should be delivered to Salvation Army located at 1914 First Ave, from **December 6 – 10 between 9:00 a.m. – 4 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.

Journey to Christmas Cantata

Come, come with us on our *Journey to Christmas*. This quote, “*Let the miracle begin,*” continues to lead us on our journey as we wait and watch for the miracle. You will once again be inspired by the beautiful words of Mary’s song of praise in Luke 1:47-55. *Is that the sound of trumpets?* The music now resounds with songs of praise: “Glory to God in the highest!” as the Sanctuary Choir with trumpeters Audrey Schmid and Carl Burdick lead us ever closer to the miracle on the third Sunday of Advent.

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”