



First Presbyterian Church

Middletown, Ohio
www.fpcmiddletown.com

December 17, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

Prelude

Christmas Dreams Overture
Instrumental Ensemble

Martin/Sorenson

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Advent Candles (unison)

Norma Nossokoff & Marge Wooley

We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

*** Hymn #82**

Come, Thou Long Expected, Jesus

Hyfrydol

*** Prayer of Confession (unison)**

God of love, whose love is expressed in so many ways, we come confessing we often miss it. You created the world for us to manage and enjoy, yet we often abuse and exploit it. You created us in your image to be in communion with you and one another, yet we often are at odds with others and ignore your presence. You sent Jesus to show us what your love looks like, yet our response to his life among us, has sometimes been at best, trying to be "nice," rather than truly loving. Forgive us, Lord, for neglecting to love you by loving people in all sorts of situations, and use us to extend your love, revealed in Jesus Christ, to those who need to know it.

*** 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!

*** Passing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Anthem

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Renaissance Ringers

arr. Kurt Meyer

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Luke 1:39-55

Sermon

“Something to Sing About!”

Rev. Graham

*** Hymn #96**

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptists Cry Winchester New

*** Affirmation of Faith (unison)**

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Christmas Dreams, Part 3

Composed by Joseph Martin and Heather Sorenson
Sanctuary Choir and Instrumental Ensemble

All Through the Night

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*** Doxology**

Hymnal #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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

Christmas Dreams Reprise
Instrumental Ensemble

Martin/Sorenson

* Please stand in Body or Spirit.



Our Life Together...

Leading Worship today: Rev. Jim Graham, Guest Preacher; Kathy Harris, Worship Assistant; Brian Shepard, Director/Pianist; Janet Scott, Director of Handbells/Pianist; Sanctuary Choir; Renaissance Ringers; Instrumental Ensemble; Jim Harris, Sound Technician; Sharon Perkins, Barista.

We warmly welcome the Instrumental Ensemble to our worship service today. They are: **Elizabeth Larson**, flute; **Rachel Landers**, clarinet; **Stephen Wadsack**, trumpet; **Tyler, Bentley**, Trombone; and **Mike Peters**, percussion.

The deacons have placed a white carnation on the chancel rail in loving memory of **Sue Harris**, who died on December 9.

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

Wiggle bags are available at each Sanctuary entrance to help children feel included and engaged during the worship service.

Join us for Fellowship Hour in the Gathering Area before and after today's service. Stop by for fellowship and refreshments.

Announcements

Monday Morning Bible Study: On Monday we will have Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Room. We are exploring the book "Holy Disruption, Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark" Books are available in the church office. If you have any questions, call the church office or contact Barb Nein at barbara.nein@yahoo.com.

The *Renaissance Ringers* will rehearse Wednesday at 6:30.

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

On Christmas Eve there will be one service at 7:00 p.m. with music starting at 6:45 p.m. There is no morning service on Christmas Eve.

On December 31, New Year's Eve, we have been invited to join the St. Luke Presbyterian Church congregation in Middletown for a combined worship service at 10:30 a.m.

Children's Ministry

Nursery Care is available for infants and children up to 5 years old, located next to Room 110. Two childcare workers, Monique Watkins and Ingrid Cuadra, provide exceptional care for which we are grateful.

Prayer list

To submit prayer requests, please use the prayer card found in the pew in front of you. These may be placed in the offering plate as it is passed. The submitted requests will be included here next week.

Louise Begley	Janice Nein	Eva Straub
Mary Brehm	Roman Pearce	Wanda Terrell
Family of Lola Bruner	Larry Price	Bill, Lynne, & Kobe
Helen Haass	Thelma & Julie Ramsey	Thomas
Mike Hamlin	Fred & Lynn Rentschler	Connie Willis
Family of Sue Harris	Kathy Dell Rosenberry	Family of Woody
Debbie Jacobs	Geneva Shea	Withrow
Cheryl Jarbo	Fay Smillie	Joyce Zigler

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