



# First Presbyterian Church

Middletown, Ohio

[www.fpcmiddletown.com](http://www.fpcmiddletown.com)

**December 3, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Prelude**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Arr. J. Raney

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Lighting the Advent Candles (unison)**

The Susco Family

**Congregation: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.**

### **\* Hymn #88**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Veni Emmanuel  
Verses 1, 2, 6, 7

### **\* Prayer of Confession (unison)**

As we prepare our hearts and minds for celebrating the first coming of your Son into the world, O Lord, we are aware that they have not always been attuned to your will. We have been so busy with the outward decorations for this season and all the details of sending Christmas cards and shopping for family and friends that we become exhausted and, in our complaining, forget the “Reason for the Season.” Help us to pause, to remember, and to give you thanks for sending the “Light of the World” into a world so choked with the darkness of greed and violence. Help us to make room in our hearts for those trapped in poverty that we will willingly contribute to their needs so that all of your children can celebrate the coming of the Christ Child. In His name we pray, Amen.

### **\* 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.**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture** Isaiah 64:1-12

**Scripture** Mark 13:24-37

**Sermon** "Something's Coming" Rev. McNulty

\* **Hymn #97** "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" Aberystwyth

\* **Affirmation of Faith (unison)** Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** *Christmas Dreams, Part 1*  
Composed by Joseph Martin and Heather Sorenson  
Sanctuary Choir with Suzanne Edwards, flute

*Advent Dreams* (Isaiah 9:6 NIV)

*A New Morning of Promise*  
(Isaiah 52:1 NRSV, Isaiah 60:1 NRSV, Romans 13:11 Adapted)

\* **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.

## **The Lord's Supper**

### **Invitation to the Table**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.**

## 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 #82**      *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*      Hyfrydol

## Charge and Benediction

**Postlude**      *Sing We Now of Christmas*      Arr. A. L. Page

\* Please stand in Body or Spirit.



# ***Our Life Together...***

**Leading Worship today:** Rev. Edward McNulty, Guest Pastor; Marty Hensler, Worship Assistant; Joyce Zigler, Organist/Pianist; Janet Scott, Pianist; Sanctuary Choir; Suzanne Edwards, Flutist; Parker Shablak, Sound Technician; Sharon Perkins, Barista.

The deacons have placed a white carnation on the chancel rail in loving memory of **Lola Bruner**, who died on November 26.

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

**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](mailto:barbara.nein@yahoo.com).

**M&M (Men & More) Monthly Outing:** Everyone is invited to join this group for dinner and fellowship at Wildwood Golf Club, 601 Aberdeen Dr. on **Tuesday, December 12**. Fellowship begins approximately at 5:00 and we usually order dinner around 5:30. We hope to see you there.

The Renaissance Ringer will rehearse Wednesday at 6:30.

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

**Pastor Ed** will not be in the office this week in order to spend time with his four children and their families during their short reunion this week. He will be available the following week on Monday and Tuesday, December 11-12.

**You movie fans** might be interested in Pastor Ed's review of the film RUSTIN available by Googling [visualparables.org](http://visualparables.org). Scroll down to the list of films and click on Rustin. Bayard Rustin was a Black gay activist who was such a genius at organization that he was the man responsible for all of the details of the 1963 March on Washington, but because of his sexual orientation was left out of many history books.

### 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.