



First Presbyterian Church

Middletown, Ohio
www.fpcmiddletown.com

January 7, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

Prelude

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship

Leader: “Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

People: See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

ALL: Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

* Hymn #150

As With Gladness Men of Old

Dix

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gracious God, unlike the Magi to whom you gave a star to guide them to the Christ Child, we often have failed to seek you out, allowing our preparations for this Season to distract us from its true meaning. In our travels and our family celebrations we sometimes even fail to mention your Son, who is the Reason for our gatherings. Forgive us focusing upon the food and decorations, rather than Christ. Renew us by your Holy Spirit so that we will always remember the Star Child who grew up to become the Prince of Peace and the Good Shepherd. May we follow in the wake of the Magi and offer to Him our gifts of open hearts and lives dedicated to spread his message of peace and good will. Amen.

* Assurance of Forgiveness

* Gloria Patri

We Are Forgiven

Hymnal #447

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

*** Passing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Psalm 29

Scripture

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sermon

“Where Goodness is Found!”

Rev. Brakemeyer

*** Hymn #151**

We Three Kings of Orient Are
Verses 1, 2, & 5

Kings of Orient

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

Fit For a King
Tara Downie, soprano

Joseph Martin

*** Doxology**

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.

Hymnal #606

Reception of Affiliate Member

Congregation: We do.

Marti Kelley

*** Hymn #460**

Break Thou the Bread of Life

Bread of Life

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 #136

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Go Tell It

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

March of the Magi

F. Flaxington Harker

* Please stand in Body or Spirit.

Our Life Together...

Leading Worship today: Rev. Randall Brakemeyer, Guest Pastor; Marty Hensler, Worship Assistant; Joyce Zigler, Organist/Pianist; Tara Downie, Soloist/Song Leader; Jim Harris, Sound Technician; Sharon Perkins, Barista.

The deacons have placed two white carnations on the chancel rail in loving memory of **Bruce Barnes**, who died on December 28 and **Lou Christy**, who died on January 4.

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.

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, January 16, (Wildwood is closed the first and second week of January)**. Fellowship begins approximately at 5:00 and we usually order dinner around 5:30. We hope to see you there.

The Nominating Committee will meet today following the worship service in the Conference Room.

Angel Ornaments are available for pick-up in the Gathering Area after worship.

Music Ministry

Renaissance Ringers will rehearse Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

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

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.

Family of Bruce Barnes	Debbie Jacobs	Geneva Shea
Louise Begley	Roman Pearce	Eva Straub
Mary Brehm	Larry Price	Wanda Terrell
Family of Lou Christy	Thelma & Julie Ramsey	Michele Westfall
Helen Haass	Fred & Lynn Rentschler	Connie Willis
Mike Hamlin	Kathy Dell Rosenberry	
Family of Sue Harris		

Use this QR code for the online giving portal.

