

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM

\*Please stand if you are comfortable standing.

LITURGIST: Dar Bevelhymer

**PRELUDE**

*Fughetta on "People Look East"*

Richard Shephard

**WELCOME**

**JOIN IN THE WAITING~ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

Leaders: We come together in a time of waiting.

People: **We are called to wait in a mindset of love.**

Leaders: We await the one who comes to show the world the meaning of love.

People: **We come waiting for the One who loves us without ceasing.**

Leaders: Come now; and wait.

People: **We wait, for the coming of Messiah.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHT HYMN #85 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (vs 1-4)***

*Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.*

*Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.*

*Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.*

*Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
He is coming; tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining.*

**PASSING the PEACE & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\*HYMN #366

*"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*

Hyfrydol

**CALL TO CONFESSION (One)**

One: A voice is crying out in the wilderness: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus.

**CHORAL KYRIE RESPONSE**

*Come, Come Emmanuel*

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON (responsively)**

One: As we hear the ancient prophecies of the coming of the Messiah, we long for the day when death will be swallowed up and every tear will be wiped away. As we wait expectantly for Christ's promised return, we live in the assurance of God's gracious forgiveness. Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* (#113)

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 7:10-16

**ANTHEM**

*People Look East*

Hal H Hopson

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 1:18-23

**SERMON**

*"Width, Breadth, Depth: The Metrics of Love"*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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; the life everlasting. Amen.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and Lord's Prayer ("debts")**

**OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS**

Offertory

*Bring A Torch*

Jeanette Isabella

FPC Bell Choir

\*Doxology (Unison) Hymn #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.*

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*HYMN #88                      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 1-4)                      Veni Emmanuel  
 \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION  
 \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE    *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits*  
 \*POSTLUDE                      *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*                      Prichard/Hayes

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** All those adversely affected by war and all acts of violence, all victims of hate crimes, Linda Evan's parents, Beatrice & Christina Guenther's mother, Terry Housholder, Ken Oman, Joyce Kepke's granddaughter, Lauren Kepke; Mike Carver, Jan McLaughlin, the LGBTQIA+ Community, all victims of abuse, racial inequalities, those picking up and trying to recover from surgery and loss.

♫ ♫ **RINGING IN BY LOGGING ON - On Sunday, January 1, worship will be *online only*.** Due to staff vacations, the holiday week, the office being shut down, and a dearth of capable supply pastors/organists, the Session agreed that utilizing the tech resources we have as a church is a faithful alternative under these unique circumstances. For those looking for a little interpersonal connection even while home, you are encouraged to watch the service "live" at 10 a.m. on Facebook and use the chat options to greet one another. The service will also be available for viewing any time after that. Any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Jeff. This year, we'll ring in the new year by logging on!

**This is a MORE LIGHT Presbyterian Church!**

A "More Light" Presbyterian church welcomes lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons to full participation in the life, ministry, and witness of the congregation. We work to expand the inclusiveness of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



*There are no closed doors here.*  
**Christ Welcomes All Here!**

First Presbyterian Church <http://www.bgpresb.org/>  
 More Light Presbyterians    [www.mlp.org](http://www.mlp.org)                      [www.mlp.org](http://www.mlp.org)

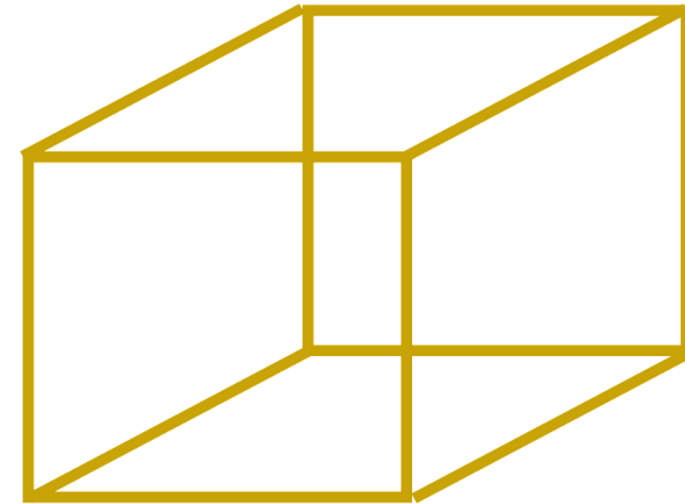
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 O come, O Come, Emmanuel; TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9<sup>th</sup> cent.; trans. Composite; MUSIC: Plainsong/adapt. Thomas Helmoe, 1852; arr. Joahn Weaver; *Musica* Arr. @ 1990 John Weaver; Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE # A-718132. All rights reserved  
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 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow; TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709 USIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551; Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE # A-718132. All rights reserved  
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# First Presbyterian Church

A More Light Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
 126 S. Church St., Bowling Green, OH 43402



***"Width, Breadth, Depth: The Metrics of Love"***

**December 18, 2022**

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**Like us on Facebook**  
**Webpage: [www.firstpresbyterianbg.org](http://www.firstpresbyterianbg.org)**

### ***Love Divine, All Loves Excelling***

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breath thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee: changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

### ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*** (vs. 1-4)

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily: to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
3. O Come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
4. O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

### **Week of Dec. 18 thru Dec. 25**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Fellowship and Refreshments in FH</b>
	4:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts in Green Lounge
	7:00 p.m.	Meditation Group in the FH
<b>MONDAY</b>		<b>OFFICE IS CLOSED</b>
	<b>4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Kindred Spirits Circle in the Green Lounge</b>
	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Bible Study via Zoom</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Staff Fun Day until 3 (office is closed at this time)</b>
	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR JANUARY '23</b>
	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Book Group in the Green Lounge</b>
	<b>3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Personnel Meeting at Drew Hanna's office</b>
	8:00 p.m.	A.A. in the Green Lounge
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sorting Clothes in the Deacons' Shop</b>
	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>BULLETIN DEADLINE EVERY WEDS.</b>
	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>We Meet food and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall</b>
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Blue Christmas Service in the sanctuary</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Deacons' Shop is open to the public</b>
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
	8:00 p.m.	Meditation Group in the Green Lounge
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Worship Service</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Christmas Day Worship Service</b>



**Zoom Bible Lectionary Study is Mondays at 5:30 p.m.** The Zoom link is sent out every week by Pastor Jeff and if you are interested in joining, please let Pastor Jeff know by emailing him at [fpcbgjeff@gmail.com](mailto:fpcbgjeff@gmail.com). **This next week sermon is focused on the Christmas Story, and is based on scripture readings from Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20.** *The power of Christmas is to remind us that the status quo – All the ills and ails of life, all the violence and malcontent, all the rancor and “isms” that plague our lives – this status quo does not have to be our destiny . . . it shall not be our destiny. So, let us gather and rejoice, let us find new vigor for the year to come. Let us celebrate the birth of our Lord as we actively await His return.*

**Kindred Spirits** - On **Monday, December 19**, Kindred Spirits continues their study of what celebrating the Sabbath means. Joins us in the Green Lounge at 4:30 for the discussion. Questions? Contact Julie Smith Maekask (419-247-1794, landline).



**Blue Christmas Service.** We will again be having a Blue Christmas service this year. The service will be on **December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm.**

**The “Mitten Tree” is in the Narthex.** We would like it decorated with gloves, hats, scarves, and we are adding socks. The tree will remain up until the end of the year. Then they will be given to the Deacons’ Shop to distribute to those who need them. We want to see the tree covered in wonderful decorations of much-needed supplies.

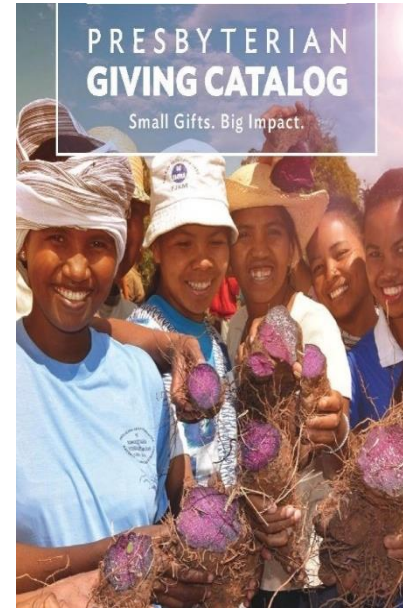


Thank you 😊.

While we are collecting for the “Mitten Tree” the **Deacons’ Shop has announced** that they are asking everyone to **refrain from donating any used items to the shop for the entire month of December.** The shop is full to capacity of wonderfully donated items and right now there is no more room. Donations may continue starting January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.



The last of our denomination’s four special offerings will be received **today.** The **Christmas Joy** offering is directed to current and retired church workers who are in need, and to develop future leaders of color at Presbyterian-related colleges. The current edition of *Presbyterians Today* highlighted some of the people benefitting from the Christmas Joy offering. These include a retired pastor facing financial challenges after having a stroke; a college student from a low-income background who graduated with honors after receiving a scholarship and other financial aid; and a pastor at a Korean American Presbyterian church whose congregation included a high number of international students – and was heavily impacted by the loss of many of those students during the coronavirus shutdown. The Christmas Joy offering made life changing and sustaining grants and loans to these people and more like them.



## What To “Gift” To The Person Who Is Hard To Buy For??

What to get for that person who has no needs or wants...or, if they do, they just go ahead and purchase it!? How about explaining to that friend/relative that you’re making a specific monetary gift to the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/> and ask them to let you know what they've chosen. You then fill out an order form, send payment and that lucky recipient has sent the gift that keeps on giving to some lucky person or community! Easy, huh?

There are a variety of projects and wide range of prices and here are a few examples:

- Sewing Machine (sew for yourself or launch a business) \$75
- Fishing net (replace a damaged one for one who depends on fishing for a living) \$15
- Rainwater catchment System (collects, stores, filters rainwater) \$75
- Water filter (provides a family with safe water for drinking, cooking) \$50
- Mzuzu drill (more cost-effective safe alternative to hand digging wells) \$115
- Latrine basic sanitation) \$50 a share or \$3500;/latrine
- Jerry cans (up to 10) transports water efficiently \$25
- Family of chickens (eggs for food, feathers for pillows, fertilizer!) \$25
- A pair of goats (milk, butter, yogurt, cheese) \$178
- Piglet (food, a source of income for a family in need) \$40
- Cow (\$50 a share/ \$450 per cow) dairy cow provides income & nourishment)
- Beekeeping (pollination and honey!) \$240
- Oxen and plow (increases productivity over hand labor) \$1500

There are many more suggestions and price ranges in the catalog. Those of us who open a tap and get pure water can hardly imagine going to the nearest water source where animals are drinking from it and people are bathing there!