

# First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown

First Sunday of Advent  
Communion Sunday

December 1, 2024

11:00 a.m.

\* Please rise in body or in spirit.

**Bolded words** indicate unison responses from the congregation.

## REFLECTION FOR WORSHIP

*The following scriptures and reflection  
are provided for meditation as we prepare for worship.*

Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, and Romans 13:11-14

*I call it Joy, which is here a technical term and must be sharply distinguished both from Happiness and from Pleasure. Joy (in my sense) has indeed one characteristic, and one only, in common with them; the fact that anyone who has experienced it will want it again. Apart from that, and considered only in its quality, it might almost equally well be called a particular kind of unhappiness or grief. But then it is a kind we want. I doubt whether anyone who has tasted it would ever, if both were in his power, exchange it for all the pleasures in the world. But then Joy is never in our power and pleasure often is.*

- C.S. Lewis [\*Surprised by Joy: The Shape of my Early Life\*](#), 19.

## WE GATHER

Organ Prelude

*Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus*

Dale Wood (2001)

Welcome and Announcements

Patti Keenan

## WE PREPARE

### Threshold Moment

Sing a new song to the Lord  
Lift your hearts with gratitude

**Sing a new song to the Lord**  
**Lift your hearts with gratitude**  
**and Hopeful Joy**

Your steadfast love and faithfulness  
is ever present in our lives

**Your steadfast love and faithfulness**  
**is ever present in our lives**  
**with Hopeful joy**

O sing to the Beloved a new song,  
for Love has done marvelous things!

Focusing on Hopeful Joy

Rev. Payne Warner

By the strength of your indwelling Presence,  
we, too, are called to do great things:  
we are set free through Love's  
forgiveness and truth.

Yes, your steadfast Love and faithfulness  
are ever-present gifts in our lives.  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the glory of Love's Eternal Flame.

May heaven and nature sing  
Joy to the World  
**Heaven and nature sing out**  
**with hopeful joy.**

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

Holy God, you are our joy.

You are the joy that runs deep and wide underneath all of life.

This is our hope, that You are ever-present and constantly  
shifting our fear to compassion,  
and grinding our swords into plows.

**Let us prepare him room in our hearts this day.**

**Let us prepare him room in our church this day.**

**Let us prepare him room in the world this day... for Hope. Amen.**

The First Presbyterian Women

**WE CONFESS**

**Call to Confession**

Preparing for Christ’s coming requires honest examination of our lives and our hearts. Let us turn to God in prayer to confess our sins.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgement and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace in the midst of our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of peace. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

“Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.” Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

\*Gloria #583

*Gloria, gloria*

GLORIA (Taizé)

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

**Time with Young Disciples**

Patti Gruver

\*Sharing the Peace of Christ

May you have hopeful joy.

**WE LISTEN**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Savior God, guide us by your word and Spirit, that we might hear your truth, heed your call and be prepared for Christ’s coming this Christmas. Amen.**

**Old Testament Lesson**

Isaiah 2:1-5

Pg. 550

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalter**

**Psalm 122**

Pam Root, Cantor

Hal H. Hopson

I re - joiced when I heard them  
say, “Let us go to the house of God.”

Copyright 1982 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.  
Used by permission.

**Epistle Lesson**

Romans 13:11-14

Pg. 923

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Hopeful Joy

Rev. Payne Warner

\*Affirmation of Faith

**The 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.**

#### **WE DEDICATE**

**Communion [See insert]**

**Music during the Serving**

*The Advent Rose*  
The Motet Choir

Joseph M. Martin

**\*Response of Thanksgiving**

*God Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

*Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:  
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.*

**Prayer after Communion**

Our prayer today is one of contemplation. Please consider these questions in our time of silent prayer.

What, or who, needs to be lifted up in hope this day?

Where have we fallen down in celebrating the beauty of each being?

How can we find a unity where all are included, like the circle of the wreath?

What keeps us from "making room" in our lives for God?

What perspective needs to be shifted in order to embrace hope?

Are we contributing a voice of hope or a voice of negativity?

**\*Hymn #106**

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

**\*Benediction**

**Organ Postlude**

*Quiet Improvisation on "JEFFERSON"*

**WE SCATTER TO CONTINUE OUR WORSHIP  
IN SERVING OTHERS**

A warm welcome is extended to all who worship today.  
May the gift of worship we offer honor God and serve as a blessing to you.

.....

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. Payne Warner  
Karen Cooper

Patti Keenan  
Sandy Benson

Margie Patterson

**THE MUSIC TODAY**

Prof. Larry Harris

Pam Root

The Motet Choir

**ALSO SERVING TODAY**

**Ushers:** Elizabeth Ayana and Alex Esseniya

**Facilities Staff:** David Phibbs

**Communion Preparers:** Kathy and Alex Esseniya

**ELDERS**

Daniel Ayana  
John Einfalt

Sandy Benson  
Karen Cooper

Miranda D'Amico  
Elsie Dursi  
Margie Patterson

**DEACONS**

Darrell McClendon  
Becky Mallin  
Wilma Miller

Elizabeth Ayana  
Sean Barron  
Julie Miller

Michael Shepherd

**WORSHIP NOTES**

Our liturgies today are from Teri McDowell Ott for the *Presbyterian Outlook* and Marcia McFee's Worship Design Studios.