

First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 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 11:1-10, Psalm 72, Romans 15:4-13 and Matthew 3:1-15

Reflection on Isaiah 11:1-10: With or without us, God will accomplish a new creation. Having raised up the righteous leader, the Creator will make a new paradise of the earth. Enter the animals. Imagine – baby goats are best friends with grizzlies; a lamb and a wolf enjoy conversing over a breakfast of clover. Imagining such unlikely friendships between ex-predators and prey invites a little fun, but we should guard against getting too cute. The text has its eye on the deadly aggressions and fears that sicken the world, the ending of which can be envisioned only in a far-future tense. A thoroughly healed creation is imagined, nothing less than Eden remade. We notice that there is not much of a human presence in it – only a few little children are there.

- Paul Simpson Duke

Response: Take a moment to visualize something you fear. Then imagine the Christ child removing your aggression and dread as the object of your fear is tamed.

Prayer: You have not granted us a spirit of timidity, O God, but one of power and love. Amen.

WE GATHER

Piano Prelude

Emmanuel

Fred Bock

Welcome and Announcements

Alex Esseniya

Minute for Mission

The Christmas Joy Offering

Margie Patterson

WE PREPARE

Threshold Moment

Focusing on Loving Joy

Rev. Payne Warner

Sing a new song to the Lord

all the earth;

Lift your hearts with gratitude

break forth into grateful song

Sing a new song to the Lord

and sing praises!

Lift your hearts with gratitude

Yes, sing songs of praise extolling

and loving joy

Love's way;

Your steadfast love and faithfulness

lift up your hearts with

are ever present in our lives

gratitude and joy

Your steadfast love and faithfulness

May heaven and nature sing

are ever present in our lives

Joy to the World

with loving joy

May Heaven and nature sing out

Make a joyful noise to the Beloved

with loving joy.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Mission Committee

Holy God, you are the source of love.

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

You are the one that helps us reach out in love,

especially to those whose fear makes it hard for them to love.

Help us when our fear gets in the way of joining the chorus of joy.

Let us repeat the sounding joy in our hearts this day.
Let us repeat the sounding joy in our church this day.
Let us repeat the sounding joy in the world this day... in the name of Love. Amen.

*Hymn #163

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

ABERYSTWYTH

WE CONFESS

Call to Confession

Scripture reminds us that repentance is part of our preparation to meet Christ. Let us therefore confess our sins together, trusting in his mercy and love.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess we prefer the crooked paths where we think we can hide from you. We'd rather you didn't examine us too closely, all we do and fail to do. Yet you are coming not to judge, but to save us from our sins and our love of sinning. So come, Lord, by crooked path or straight, to enter our aching hearts. In the certainty of your grace we make our prayer. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! Christ is our peace. Through him we have forgiveness and new hope.
He comes to break the power of sin and set us free again. Alleluia! 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 the peace of Christ be with you! **May you be filled with loving joy!**

WE LISTEN

Prayer of Illumination

Jesus Christ, Word of God, dwell in us as we turn to these pages, holy ancient stories that proclaim your truth. In the Spirit, give us ears to hear and hearts to believe. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-10

Pg. 558

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalter

Psalm 72

Pam Root, Cantor

Howard Hughes, S.M.

Advent



Come, O Lord, and set us free.

Copyright 1987 Howard Hughes, S.M.

Epistle Lesson

Romans 15:4-13

Pg. 924

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 3:1-15

Pg. 784

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

On Loving Joy

Rev. Payne Warner

***Affirmation of Faith** from **The Shorter Westminster Catechism: Q1, Q37, Q36**

What is the chief end of humanity?

Humanity's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy God forever.

What is sanctification?

Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in our whole selves after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin and live toward righteousness.

What are the benefits which, in this life, accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

The benefits which, in this life, accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification are: assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit, increase of grace, and persevering in all these to the end. Amen.

WE DEDICATE

Call for the Offering

With gratitude for all God has given us, let us return our offerings to God, passing the plates along the aisle as we remember that it takes all of us together to make this church strong.

Offertory Anthem

Advent Song
The Motet Choir

EUGENE BUTLER

***Response of Thanksgiving**

God Whose Giving Knows No Ending
God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

BEACH SPRING

***Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God, we thank you for all our blessings, and offer these gifts back to your service, that this church might continue to shine your light into the world. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

God of love, hear our prayers.

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;
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 #96**

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

***Benediction**

Organ Postlude

Quiet Improvisation on "Winchester New"

**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.

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Payne Warner	Alex Esseniya	The Mission Committee
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THE MUSIC TODAY

Prof. Larry Harris	Pam Root	The Motet Choir
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ALSO SERVING TODAY

Ushers: Elizabeth Ayana and Alex Esseniya

Facilities Staff: David Phibbs

ELDERS

Daniel Ayana	Sandy Benson	Miranda D'Amico
John Einfalt	Karen Cooper	Elsie Dursi
		Margie Patterson

DEACONS

Darrell McClendon	Elizabeth Ayana	Michael Shepherd
Becky Mallin	Sean Barron	
Wilma Miller	Julie Miller	

WORSHIP NOTES

Our liturgies today are from Carol Holbrook Prickett for the *Presbyterian Outlook* and Marcia McFee's Worship Design Studios.