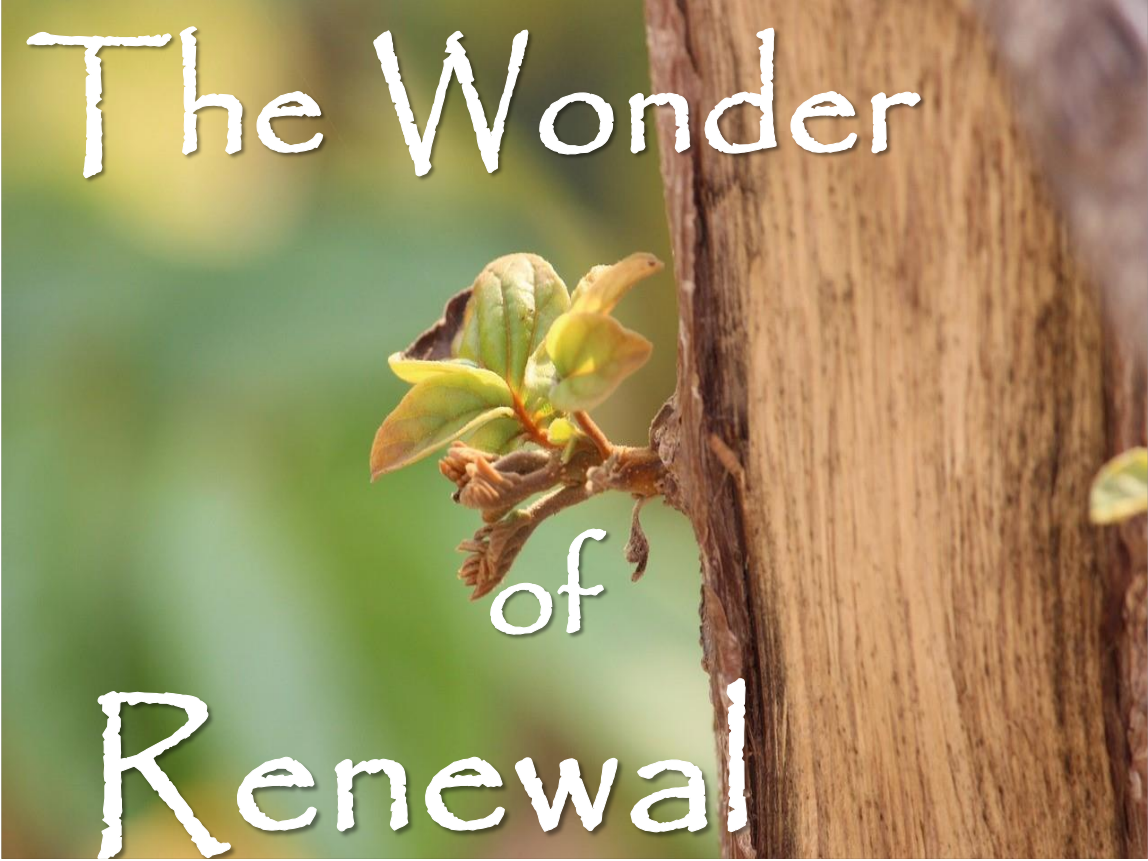


First Presbyterian Church

December 1, 2024



200 N. Lisbon St., Carrollton, OH
(330) 627-4330
firstpresbyteriancarrollton.org



First Presbyterian Church

December 1, 2024

10:30 A.M

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – O COME, EMMANUEL

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

R: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;
And drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light. (R)

3 O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. (R)

CALL TO WORSHIP

O you who sit in darkness, with no hope of light and drunk with despair, look up.
The light of the world in coming into your darkness; hope unearned and not
deserved is coming. In the words of the prophet, arise for your light is come!
The light of the world, while bright enough to light everything, only looks like a distant
star for those who are overwhelmed by darkness, a small light at the end of a tunnel.
**We light the first candle to remind us that we can trust God to bring light to
our darkness and comfort to our loneliness.**

*INVOCATION (*Opening Prayer*)

In anticipation we gather. We gather to watch for the coming of the good news into
our world and into our lives. O God, open the doors to our hearts, that this year we
may have room for the birth of Jesus. O God, as we marvel over all that you are

doing, overwhelm us with so much wonder that words of praise spring forth from our
lips! In this time of waiting, let true worship begin in our hearts. Let our praises rise
up to the heavens! Let us worship our God! **Amen.**

*HYMN

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

#2 BLUE

1 Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

2 Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

CALL TO CONFESSION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

O promised Christ: We are a world at war.

Our peace depends on your coming.

We are a sinful people.

Our pardon depends on your coming.

We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises;

Our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it.

Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits -

For your peace, pardon, and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus.¹

(Time of silent personal confession)

As we enter into this time of Advent, O God, we rejoice that while we were all sinners,
rejecting your rule over us,

You still came to us in grace, pouring out your life that we could be made alive.

¹ Reprinted by permission from The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition, © 2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources. P. 447.

Yet, O God, we often still prefer to indulge ourselves than to act as your children.
We choose to do what we want, ignoring your commands and going our own way.

We focus our lives on our comfort and ease instead of giving our all in pursuit of you.
Forgive us our sins, O Lord, both the things we do that are wrong and the times we fail to do what is right.

Grant us the courage to follow you.
Help us share the good news of your life in us that you are redeeming and restoring the world to wholeness.

Hear the good news of God's amazing grace. In Christ we are loved and made new.
Therefore, rejoice because we are forgiven through God's grace!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace, love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another in the name of the Lord.

***HYMN "Speak, O Lord" INSERT**

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us all Your purposes, for Your glory.

MESSAGE "The Wonder of Renewal"

***HYMN "People Look East" #12 BLUE**

1 People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:

Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.

4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "The Nicene Creed" PAGE 15 BLUE

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic

Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer

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 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #41,42 BLUE

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

R O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!

2 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given; Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing! [R]

3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [R]

CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

BENEDICTION

O Come, Emmanuel and ransom your captive people,
Restore to us the joy of your salvation.
O Lord, be gracious to us and bless us,

Make your face shine upon us and your peace cover us.

May all the peoples praise you, O Emmanuel.

May all rise and pay homage to you at your coming.

In our hearts and lives may we know that because of your coming, O Emmanuel, O God who lives with us,

Joy has come to the world and will never leave. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE – "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent"

(Words from the Liturgy of St. James, 4th Century, translated Gerard Moultrie.

Music: French Carol, Setting Gustav Holst)

1 *Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.*

2 *King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.*

3 *Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.*

4 *At His feet the six-winged seraph; Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High! Amen, Amen!*

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Deacon of the Month:

December: Kathy Hutson

Upcoming Events:

Blue Christmas	Dec. 1	2:00 PM
Advent Study (Sunday before worship)	Dec. 8	9:30 AM

Community Prayer Group
Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 11 6:00 PM (Nazarene Ch.)
Dec. 24 6:30 PM

Worship Leaders: Hannah Mergen, Jay Stoneman, Cecelia Kjolsrud, Jehanne Vogel and Pastor Tim Dyck.

Psalm 110 A psalm of David.

Here is the LORD's proclamation to my lord: "Sit down at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool!" The LORD extends your dominion from Zion. Rule in the midst of your enemies! Your people willingly follow you when you go into battle. On the holy hills at sunrise the dew of your youth belongs to you.

The LORD makes this promise on oath and will not revoke it: "You are an eternal priest after the pattern of Melchizedek." O sovereign LORD, at your right hand he strikes down kings in the day he unleashes his anger. He executes judgment against the nations; he fills the valleys with corpses; he shatters their heads over the vast battlefield. From the stream along the road he drinks; then he lifts up his head.

Isaiah 42:1, 2

"Here is my servant whom I support, my chosen one in whom I take pleasure. I have placed my spirit on him; he will make just decrees for the nations. He will not cry out or shout; he will not publicize himself in the streets.

Luke 1:13-17

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son; you will name him John. Joy and gladness will come to you, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth.

He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go as forerunner before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the

fathers back to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared for him."

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary got up and went hurriedly into the hill country, to a town of Judah, and entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She exclaimed with a loud voice, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child in your womb! And who am I that the mother of my Lord should come and visit me? For the instant the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that what was spoken to her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

And Mary said, "My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit has begun to rejoice in God my Savior, because he has looked upon the humble state of his servant. For from now on all generations will call me blessed, because he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name; from generation to generation he is merciful to those who fear him.

He has demonstrated power with his arm; he has scattered those whose pride wells up from the sheer arrogance of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up those of lowly position; he has filled the hungry with good things, and has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, as he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."