

First Presbyterian Church

December 15, 2024



The Wonder Of Revelation

200 N. Lisbon St., Carrollton, OH

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firstpresbyteriancarrollton.org



**PRELUDE –
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
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!
We light the first candle to remind us that we can trust God to bring light to our darkness and comfort to our loneliness.

Justice can be hard to come by. Many times what actually happened is obscured by a cloud of doubt and legalese to prevent justice. But the day is coming when a descendent of David will appear. The LORD's spirit will rest on him. He will not judge by mere appearances, or make decisions on the basis of hearsay. He will treat the poor fairly, and make right decisions.

We light the second candle in hope for when God's rule over all the world brings justice.

O God, you give us hope when all hope is gone. You love us despite our being ungracious and self-centered. By giving us life, you bring your love to our lives. O Christ of God, come anew in our hearts this day, and remain in us forever.

We light the third candle to remind us of God's unfailing love for us

***INVOCATION (Opening Prayer)**

O Lord, we celebrate your coming into our world, bringing life and light. You come into our darkness, overwhelming it with the light of your being. As we celebrate Christmas, may we live in anticipation of your coming reign. **Amen.**

***HYMN**

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

#31,32 BLUE

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

R Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel. (R)

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth. (R)

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.!

(Time of silent personal confession)

Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love.
We confess desiring your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive others.

We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of everlasting life 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.

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"**

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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 Revelation"

***HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

#44 BLUE

1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth!

And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!

3 How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.

No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

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 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" #309 BLUE

1 Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

2 O ye heights of heaven adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

3 Christ, to Thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant with high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore! Amen.

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 –

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Deacon of the Month:

December: Kathy Hutson

Upcoming Events:

Advent Study (Sunday before worship)	Dec. 22	9:30 AM
Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24	6:30 PM

Worship Leaders: Gene and Shirley Thompson, Hannah Mergen, Jay Stoneman, and Pastor Tim Dyck.

Isaiah 9:2-7

"The people walking in darkness see a bright light; light shines on those who live in a land of deep darkness. You have enlarged the nation; you give them great joy. They rejoice in your presence as harvesters rejoice; as warriors celebrate when they divide up the plunder. For their oppressive yoke and the club that strikes their shoulders, the cudgel the oppressor uses on them, you have shattered, as in the day of Midian's defeat. Indeed every boot that marches and shakes the earth and every garment dragged through blood is used as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born to us, a son has been given to us. He shoulders responsibility and is called: Extraordinary Strategist, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His dominion will be vast and he will bring immeasurable prosperity.

He will rule on David's throne and over David's kingdom, establishing it and strengthening it by promoting justice and fairness, from this time forward and forevermore. The LORD's intense devotion to his people will accomplish this.

Luke 1:30-38

So the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God! Listen: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I have not had sexual relations with a man?"

The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God. "And look, your relative Elizabeth has also become pregnant with a son in her old age— although she was called barren, she is now in her sixth month! For nothing will be impossible with God."

So Mary said, "Yes, I am a servant of the Lord; let this happen to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Matthew 1:18-21

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Now the birth of Jesus Christ happened this way. While his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph, her husband to be, was a righteous man, and because he did not want to disgrace her, he intended to divorce her privately.

When he had contemplated this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:24-25

When Joseph awoke from sleep he did what the angel of the Lord told him. He took his wife, but did not have marital relations with her until she gave birth to a son, whom he named Jesus.

Luke 2:33-35;

So the child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "Listen carefully: This child is destined to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be rejected. Indeed, as a result of him the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed— and a sword will pierce your own soul as well!"