



# **First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent  
December 3, 2023**

Welcome to our church! It is a joy to worship with you on this morning. Please join us after worship in Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit.*

**PRELUDE**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**SUNG RESPONSE #90 (GtG)**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

***We Gather as God's People***

**OPENING PRAYER – *Let us pray.***

O God, our God, our Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace: we come to you this day with much on our

hearts. In this time set apart, in the quiet and stillness, help us draw near to you and to each other. Open our ears to hear your good news; open our eyes to see the possibilities for peace and grace that await us. **Amen.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** – *Please stand and join me in the call to worship.*

In God's house, we can be joyful.

**We can be grateful.**

**We can be hopeful.**

In God's house, we can be weary.

**We can be anxious.**

**We can be grieving.**

In God's house, we can be honest—

**inspired or tired,  
delighted or doubtful,  
connected or curious,  
and everything in between.**

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

**Let us worship our loving God.**

**\*HYMN #3**                      *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

*Comfort, comfort you my people,  
Tell of peace, thus says our God;  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
Bowed beneath oppression's load.  
Speak you to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell them that their sins I cover,  
And their warfare now is over.*

*For the herald's voice is calling  
In the desert far and near,  
Bidding us to make repentance  
Since the kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise in meeting  
And the hills bow down in greeting.*

*Make you straight what long was crooked,  
Make the rougher places plain:  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits God's holy reign,  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now o'er the earth is shed abroad;  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That God's word is never broken.*

**CALL TO CONFESSION** – *Please be seated.*

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION** – *Please join me in  
the unison prayer of confession.*

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

**Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.**

**Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.**

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated  
with news, we pray:

**Forgive us for creating so many distractions.**

**Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.**

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this  
season, we pray:

**Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.  
Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy  
and grief can coexist.**

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold  
onto hope,

**Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.  
Remind us that your good news knows no bounds.  
Amen.**

## **KYRIE #572**

“Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon  
us, Lord have mercy up on us.”

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Family of faith, no matter how many times we wear  
ourselves thin, no matter how many times we lose  
ourselves to distractions, no matter how many times  
we ask ourselves, “How can this be?” God’s love keeps  
showing up for us.

So say this with me:

**We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **SUNG RESPONSE**

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** – *at this time, all children are  
invited up to hear a short message! After, kindergarten  
and younger can be dismissed to Story Circle with  
Olivia Meyers. Those older than kindergarten may*

*return to their pews. We have activity bags available for their use in the back.*

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

*Loving God, the source of our joy, as we turn our hearts toward your Word, we ask that you would soften us. Soften the callouses on our hearts. Weave yourself in between the cracks in our spirits. And plant hope where there is room. And as you do this, like flowers toward the sun, we will turn ourselves toward you, eager to hear a Word so good that we cannot help but ask ourselves, “How can this be?” With openness and gratitude, we pray, amen.*

## **FIRST READING**

*Psalms 80: 1-7, 17-19*

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. *The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

**SECOND READING***Luke 1: 5-23*

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, 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; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The

angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.' Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

**SERMON**

*Rev. Kori Robbins*

## ***We Respond to God's Love***

**\*HYMN #100 (GtG)**      *Canticle of the Turning*

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?*

**Refrain**

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.*

*Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.*

*Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.*

*Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. **Refrain***

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
not a stone will be left on stone.*

*Let the king beware for your justice tears  
every tyrant from his throne.*

*The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread, every mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn. **Refrain***

*Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:*

*God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.*

*This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. **Refrain***



## **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in a God who hears our prayers,  
who knows the shape and form of our weariness.  
We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for  
us, not just survival and existence.  
We believe in a God who looks ahead,  
who is not done dreaming for the world—  
a God who sends hope in the form of people and  
change, movements and Spirit.  
And so we return to this space.  
We bring our joy and our weariness  
like two sides of the same coin,  
and we trust that God is already at work.  
Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that.  
Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – *You may be seated.***

Trusting indeed that you are always there, we pray to  
you now as your Son taught us, saying together,

**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.**

## **CALL FOR OFFERING**

*In the kingdom of God, we find that generosity of spirit,  
generosity of possessions & the radical sharing of skills are*

*practiced openly. All gifts are important to God, so as the offering plate comes around, place your hand over it, committing to God that you will use your time, talent and treasures for furthering the work of God's kingdom.*

## **OFFERTORY**

### **\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #694 (GtG)**

Great God of every blessing,  
of faithful, loving care  
You are the fount of goodness,  
the daily bread we share.  
How can we hope to thank you?  
The praise is but a start.  
Sincerely and completely, I offer you my heart.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** – *Please join me in saying the prayer of dedication.*

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## ***We Go Out to Serve God***

**\*HYMN #116 (tune, GtG)**      *Morning Star (v. 1-4)*

*When stars fall from the sky and all seems bleak,  
We strain to see beyond our pain and grief.*

*A candle in the dark, a dance of light,  
Reminds us hope's alive, through longest night.*

**Refrain:** *The morning star will rise within our hearts.  
The morning star will rise within our hearts.*

*The ground cries out for peace as war goes on.  
The innocent join in the plaintive song.  
The mountain will be low, the valley high.  
Creation clears the way: our God is nigh. Refrain*

*My spirit leaps for joy: the Lord provides!  
The mighty and the weak stand side by side.  
Though some crave more and more while others lack,  
God heals us all – community comes back! Refrain*

*Could love remake the world, each simple sign?  
Or are we trapped in sin's corrupt design?  
We listen for the angel, rapt and awed.  
"O, nothing is impossible for God." Refrain*

## **\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CLOSING RESPONSE #743** *Step by Step*

O God, You are my God and I will ever praise You  
O God, You are my God and I will ever praise You  
I will seek You in the morning  
And I will learn to walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me  
And I will follow You all of my days

*Liturgy for Advent and Christmas has been provided by A  
Sanctified Art, "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?"*

# ***Prayer List***

## **MEMBERS TO REMEMBER**

Mary Alice Seaborn

Marlyne Young

Helen Redmond

Shirley Dull

## **PRAYERS FOR HEALTH, SUPPORT AND CONCERN**

*Names will be taken off after 6 weeks, unless noted.*

Megan Taylor (Carole's cousin)

Amos Rodgers & Cody Tittle (Marlene's friends)

James Tincher (Marlene's son)

Clayton & Eileen (Bev Myers' family friends)

Paul Stevens (Bev Myers' son)

Dennis Copanic (Val Copanic's father)

Graig Colantone (Nicole Pugh's father)

Dareen Craver-Angeloff (Rodney's mother)

Cheryl Fisher (Bev Meyers' Daughter)

Ella McBride (friend of Sherri Craver)

Bonnie Jorza (Linda Frayer's Sister-in-Law)

Cheryl Beanblossom (Valerie Copanic's sister)

Alan & Patty Bray (friend of Keeley Family)

Joan Williams

Rusty Garland

Kathy Garland

Cindi Farina (Marty O'Neill's friend)

Vince Fazio (Marty O'Neill's friend)

Rich Pilla (Lisa Sorg's step-dad)

Jodi Jorgensen (Lisa Sorg's friend)

Shirley Brodie

Mary Jane Hileman

## **PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD**

Eastminster Presbytery and staff  
Our Mineral Ridge Church Family  
Niles Community Services  
Warren & Youngstown Rescue Missions  
Refugees throughout the world  
Rev. Kade Mastra (Indonesian Partner)  
Peace and healing for our country  
Casa de Buen Trato  
Ukraine  
World Leaders  
Jed and Jenny Koball (Peru)  
Our PC(USA) coworkers  
Revs. Scott & Elmarie Parker  
Victims of natural disasters  
Citizens of Israel/Palestine

## **Announcements**

*Information sent after Thursday at 9 am may not make it into  
the bulletin.*

---

The Deacons will be selling poinsettia flowers for the Christmas holiday. If you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia, a Deacon will be in Fellowship Hall taking orders after worship. \$9 each.

Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, December 5th at 4:30pm. The book we are reading is the Heaven and Earth Grocery Store. Please join us!

The Community Pantry Christmas food distribution will take place on Tues., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm.

Rusty Garland has a new address, 210 Prestwick Dr. Youngstown, OH 44512. Please continue to send cards of encouragement, he is very appreciative of them!



## **Birthday Wishes**

David Pugh 12/04



## **Thank you for your Generosity**

*We need \$3,000 weekly to make our budget!*

November 26<sup>th</sup> \$682

November 19<sup>th</sup> \$2,434

November 12<sup>th</sup> \$2,239.32



## **Responsibilities**

**Pastor** Rev. Kori Robbins

**Liturgist** Darlene Smith

**Elder** Brian Williams

**Deacon** Melissa Keeley

**Music** Anita Miller

**Story Circle** Olivia Meyers

**Media** Alyssa Strange



**THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Sunday, December 03<sup>rd</sup> 9:15am Church School  
(1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent) 10:30am Worship/  
Fellowship

Monday, December 04<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm Al-Anon/Ateen

Tuesday, December 05<sup>th</sup> 4:30pm Book Group

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 9:15am Church School  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent) 10:30am Worship/  
Fellowship

## **Staff**

### **Pastor**

Reverend Kori Robbins  
(406)-560-5548  
Pastor@FPCMR.org

### **Christian Educator**

Carole Rummell

### **Administrative Assistant**

April Dahl  
330-652-5712

### **Custodian**

Patty Postlethwait

### **Story Circle Attendant**

Olivia Meyers

### **Media**

Alyssa Strange

## **Hours**

### **Pastor's Office Hours**

Monday-Thursday  
9am-3pm

### **General Office Hours**

Tuesday/Thursday  
9am-1pm

## **Church Info**

**Address**- 3654 Main Street  
Mineral Ridge, OH 44440

### **Email (office)**

Admin@FPCMR.org

### **Phone**

330-652-5712

### **Website**

www.fpcmr.org

**Clerk of Session**: mrfpcclerk@gmail.com