



First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge

**A Service of Lessons & Carols
December 31, 2023**

Welcome to our church! It is a joy to worship with you on this evening. We hope you have a wonderful Christmastime!

**Please stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We Gather as God's People

OPENING PRAYER – *Let us pray.*

Loving and Gracious God, we have welcomed you amongst us, celebrating your Son's birth with everyone near and dear to us. Today we gather to hear lessons from Scripture, how the prophets of old foretold that God would live among God's people. Let us rejoice in our carols and hymns that the good purpose of God is being fulfilled. In the name of Jesus Christ, our savior, we pray. Amen.

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

Sing to the Lord a new song;

Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;

Tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world, and those who live in it.

Let the whole creation sing for joy at the presence of God, who is coming.

God is coming indeed to judge the earth with righteousness, and the peoples with equity and truth. Praise the Lord!

***HYMN #49** *Once in Royal David's City (v. 1, 2, 4)*

*Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable,
and His cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and meek, and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heaven above,
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.*

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

***Adam and Eve disobey God's command and
disrupt the order and goodness of creation.***

CAROL #44

O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1,3,4)

*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.*

*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.*

*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!*

SECOND LESSON *Genesis 22:15-18*

God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed.

CAROL #9 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

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

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, O come thou dayspring,
Come and cheer our spirits by thine Advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight. **Refrain***

*O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain***

*O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind,*

*Bid envy, strife and discord cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's Peace. **Refrain***

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

***The people who walk in darkness receive the
promise of the Messiah.***

CAROL #38

*It Came Upon the Midnight
Clear (v. 1, 3, 4)*

*It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.*

*And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!*

*For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years
comes round the age of gold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,*

*and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.*

*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.*

FOURTH LESSON *Isaiah 11:2-4a, 6-9*

***The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to
restore the peace of creation.***

CAROL #48 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.*

FIFTH LESSON *Luke 1: 26-35, 38*

***An angel appears to Mary and announces that she
will bear a holy child.***

CAROL #31*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*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!"*

Refrain:

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

*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 Immanuel. **[Refrain]***

*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. **[Refrain]***

SIXTH LESSON*Luke 2: 1-7*

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.

CAROL #25*Away in a Manger*

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.*

SEVENTH LESSON*Luke 2:8-16*

Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.

CAROL #23*Angels We Have Heard on High*

*Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains:*

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?

Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be

which inspire your heavenly song? [Refrain]

Come to Bethlehem and see

Him whose birth the angels sing;

come, adore on bended knee

Christ the Lord, the new-born King. [Refrain]

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2: 1-11

***Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and
offer gifts to the baby Jesus.***

CAROL #66

We Three Kings of Orient Are (v. 1, 5)

We three kings of Orient are;

bearing gifts we traverse afar,

field and fountain, moor and mountain,

following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,

star with royal beauty bright,

westward leading, still proceeding,

guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold him arise;

King and God and sacrifice:

*Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]*

NINTH LESSON

John 1: 1-14

**The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us,
full of grace and truth.**

CAROL #53

What Child is This

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?*

Chorus:

*This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

*Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.[Chorus]*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.[Chorus]*

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

God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow— Eight days
after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took him to

the temple. They brought him into the heart of community. They brought him into your sanctuary. I imagine they were exhausted and bleary-eyed, those new parents. But I also imagine they were excited and overwhelmed with gratitude. So today, just as Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the temple, we bring our prayers into this sanctuary. We bring exhausted prayers, bleary-eyed laments, prayers of deep joy, and prayers overflowing with gratitude—and we give them all to you.

Thank you, God, for the joys of this season. Thank you for the candle lighting and the carol singing. Thank you for the bells ringing and the community gathering. Thank you for turning ordinary moments into holy reminders of your gospel promise. We are surrounded by so many gifts and we do not want to miss the opportunity to express gratitude. However, despite the abundant gifts of this season, we also acknowledge the heartache of this season, and we bring those prayers to you as well.

So Holy God, for individuals experiencing health problems and loss of loved ones—be with them. For those who feel like they are going through the motions of faith but still feel far from you—be with them. For those who see the joy of this season, but cannot ignore the weariness in their hearts—be with them.

We pray for those on our prayer list and those in our hearts, the secret prayer lists that only you know about.

God, we could go on and on with our prayers of both gratitude and lament. The world is joyful and weary,

and on either side of that coin, we long to tether ourselves to you. So, meet us once again in the ordinary rituals of our faith—rituals like praying, singing, studying scripture, and gathering with community. Meet us at the Table and the Font. Meet us in the pews and in our Sunday school classrooms. Meet us when we pray before meals and when we pray before bed. Holy God, we don't care where you find us, we just ask that you would—over and over and over again.

And as you do, we promise that like Mary and Joseph we will do our best to bring our weary and hopeful spirits back to your temple, back to you. And in those comings and goings, we will continue to pray using the words you 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.*

O God, give us such love and wonder that with shepherds and magi, and pilgrims through the ages, we may adore the holy child, the promised King, and with our gifts worship him, who is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve God

***HYMN #29**

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Refrain:

*Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

*While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]*

*The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth*

*rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]*

*Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [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

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.

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)

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

Mason Blackburn (Mary J. Shaffer's friend)

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.*

*This is a reminder that we have
a Congregational Meeting **SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th,**
immediately following worship for the purpose of
electing our 2024 officers.*

You are invited to join all in the congregation to hear Bryce Wiebe (a Presbytery staff member) lead us in a sharing of stories on Saturday January 13th, 2024. You might remember that he preached for us in the early fall and his sermon was well received. We will begin with breakfast at 8:30 a.m. which will be

followed at 9:00 a.m. with a short devotional before Bryce will lead us beginning at 9:15. This is for our officers as well as all the congregation.



Thank you for your Generosity

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

December 17th \$2,805

December 24th \$

Christmas Eve \$



Responsibilities

Worship Leaders Sue McCabe,
Cindy Kaschak

Elder Brian Williams

Deacon Melissa Keeley

Music Anita Miller

Story Circle Olivia Meyers

Media Alyssa Strange



THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 31st 10:30am Lessons & Carols



Monday, January 1st

7:00pm Al-Anon/Ateen

Saturday January 6th

Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 7th
(Baptism of the Lord)

9:15am Church School

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