



First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge

**2nd Sunday in Advent
December 10, 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. Family of faith, one of the greatest joys of worship is that it is not a solo act. We gather together.*

We find joy, and God, in the act of connection. So as we begin our worship, I invite you to turn and face someone you are close to so that you can see one another. Now repeat these phrases after me:

Welcome to worship.

Welcome to worship.

I am glad you're here.

I am glad you're here.

Surely God is in this space.

Surely God is in this space.

I see God in your face.

I see God in your face.

Let us worship together.

Let us worship together.

***HYMN #507**

I Come With Joy

*I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved, and free;
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me,
his life laid down for me.*

*I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.*

*As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends;
the love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.*

*And thus with joy we meet our Lord;
his presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known:
we see and praise him here,
we see and praise him here.*

*Together met, together bound,
we'll go our different ways;
and as his people in the world,
we'll live and speak his praise,
we'll live and speak his praise.*

CALL TO CONFESSION – *Please be seated.*

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

God of laughter,
God of open front doors
and family reunions,
we confess that we often doubt good news.

**We move through this world
waiting for the other shoe to drop,
waiting for life to fall apart,
waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.**

Instead of leaning into joy,
we lean into scarcity.

We lean into fear.

We lean into isolation.

Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when
shared.

**Heal the wounds we have from past hurts,
and teach us how to throw open our doors like
Elizabeth.**

Show us how to find joy in connection.

Amen.

KYRIE #572

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Faith family, I imagine that when we come before God
with the truth of our lives, God meets us like Elizabeth
meets Mary in our scripture today. The door is thrown
open. There is laughter. There is joy. There is
embracing—and it is holy.

So trust this; *believe this*:

You are claimed. You are loved. You are forgiven. And
you are sent to serve.

Find joy in that. 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

Holy God, we know that you are near. We know that you are standing at the door, you are running down the driveway, you are inviting us in—into your Word, into relationship, and deeper into joy. So as we approach your Word, O God, we pray: do not let us pass you by. Do not allow distraction or doubt to get the best of us. Do not let us walk down this road without you. Instead, give us the wisdom to turn and run your way. Give us the wisdom to hear your wisdom, to let it sink into our bones and change us. With hope and gratitude we pray, amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our

God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

SECOND READING

Luke 1: 24-45

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the

house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear 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 to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, '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 Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

In those days, Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my

womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

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

SERMON

Rev. Kori Robbins

We Respond to God's Love

***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***

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.

EUCCHARIST – *see insert*

We Go Out to Serve God

***HYMN #11**

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

*O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
A lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.*

*Love caused Your incarnation;
Love brought You down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
That led You to embrace
In love, all loves excelling,
Our lost and fallen race.*

*A glorious crown You give me,
A treasure safe on high,
That will not fail nor leave me
As earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever
For You with praises new,
And from Your name shall never
Withhold the honor due.*

***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

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.

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

On behalf of the Deacons, we would like to thank everyone who helped support our mission to collect for the Youngstown Blue Coats. With the donations we received, we filled 2 SUVs worth of items. We were also able to provide a monetary donation as well. The Youngstown Blue Coat charity was extremely grateful for all of our donations. Again, thank you for helping us make this mission a success!

Our Children's program will be presented during worship on December 17. Come and enjoy the Christmas story through our children.



Birthday Wishes

Aiden McMullen 12/14



Thank you for your Generosity

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

December 03rd \$2,783

November 26th \$682

November 19th \$2,434



Responsibilities

Pastor Rev. Kori Robbins

Liturgist Samara Fabian

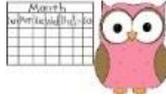
Elder Brian Williams

Deacon Melissa Keeley

Music Anita Miller

Story Circle Olivia Meyers

Media Alyssa Strange



THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Monday, December 11th 7:00pm Al-Anon/Ateen

Sunday, December 17th 9:15am Church School
(3rd Sunday of Advent) 10:30am Worship/
Christmas
Pageant/
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

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