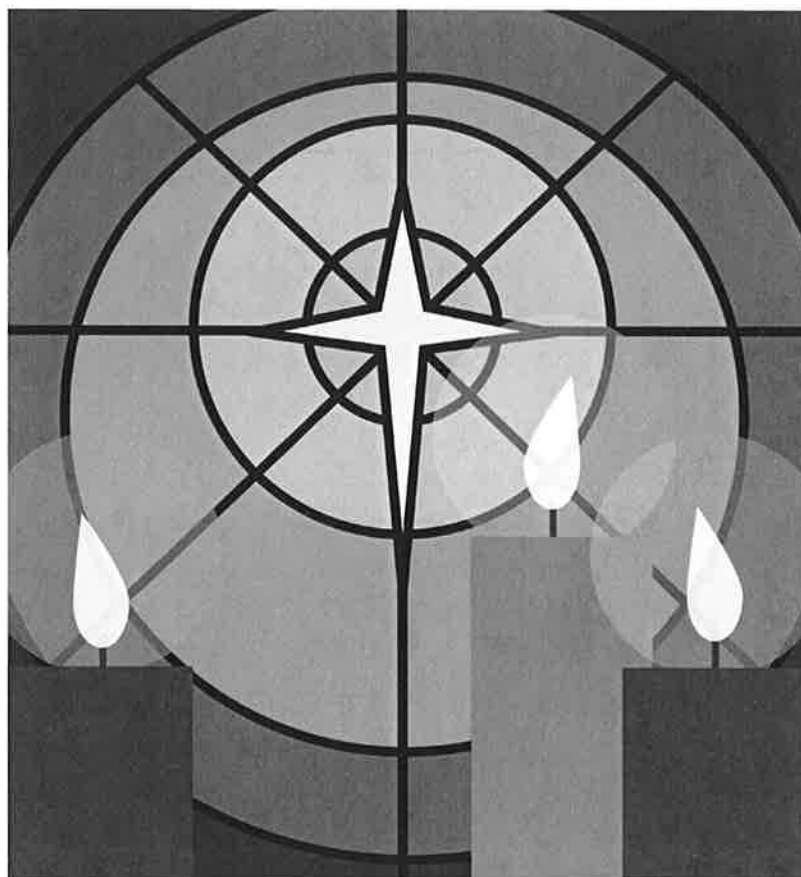


WORTHINGTON

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Brought to you by Jesus...
to make a difference*



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

DECEMBER 16, 2018
10:00 A.M.

WORTHINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY Third Sunday of Advent ~ Joy

December 16, 2018

10:00 a.m.

* *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

*If you are inspired to snap a **photo** today, please share it with our Communications Specialist at bnordquist@worthingtonpresbyterian.com.*

WELCOME AND RENEWAL OF THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Rev. Wayne Morrison

Invitation to Mission and Discipleship (*Please sign & pass the Friendship Pads.*)

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Please stand and greet one another in the Peace of Christ.

Prayer requests may be shared via the Prayer Cards in the pew racks.

Please pass them to the center aisle. Ushers will pick them up after the Assurance of Forgiveness.

CALL TO WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

In dulci júbilo

setting by Dale Wood

The music is a call to open one's spirit to God's presence in our midst.

ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY

One: As we light our third Advent candle.

All: We pray for hope, peace, and joy.

One: Come now, O child of Mary.

All: Come now, O Prince of Joy.

The Timcho Family
Deb, Tom, Katie Ann & Elizabeth

* HYMN #132

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

IN DULCI JUBILO

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our God, God of Wisdom, you have told us what we should do: live humbly, give generously, and be rich in compassion. Even still, O God, we fall back into our selfish ways. We have been washed in waters of your grace, yet we do not trust the depth of your love. Forgive us, God of mercy. Heal us, guide us, and call us to try again, that our lives may be transformed and our deeds may bring you glory. In Christ's name, Amen.

A moment for silent confession

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"The Kyrie"



Lord, have mer - cy u - pon us. Christ, have mer - cy u - pon us. Lord, have mer - cy u - on us.

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* GLORIA PATRI #581

GLORIA PATRI

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.***

ANTHEM**“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”**

Howard Helvey

The Chancel Choir

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God; comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load. Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over. Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near, calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away; let the valleys rise to meet Him and the hills bow down o greet them. Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the roughest places plain; let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad; and all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.

MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

Pastor Wayne

After the Children's Message, children ages 3 years through 6th grade may go to the Chapel for a large group worship. Following the postlude, please pick up your child in his/her classroom.

Classroom Locations: **Preschool-K: Room 113** **3-4th grade: Room 222**
 1-2nd grade: Room 112 **5-6th grade: Room 111**

ANTHEM**“O Magnum Mysterium”**

Morten Lauridsen

The Renaissance Ensemble

O great mystery and wondrous sacrament that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in their manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Kelsey Deistler

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:68-69, 76-79

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
 for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
 He has raised up a mighty savior for us
 in the house of his servant David...
 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
 to give knowledge of salvation to his people
 by the forgiveness of their sins.
 By the tender mercy of our God,
 the dawn from on high will break upon us,
 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
 to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

One: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SOLO**“Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion!” from *Messiah***

G. F. Handel

Martha Duersten-Pettit, Soprano

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold thy, king cometh unto thee. He is the righteous Savior, and he shall speak peace unto the heathen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dr. Tom Rice

Sharing of Prayer Requests and Blessings

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Hymnal Page 35

*** HYMN #82****“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

HYFRYDOL

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Online giving available anytime via our account with EasyTithe: text your offering dollar amount to 614-808-8580 or go to www.easytithe.com/wpcgive.)

Offertory

"He Is Born"

Dan Forrest

The Chancel Choir

He is born, the divine Christ Child; play the musette and the bagpipes merrily! He is born, the divine Christ Child; sing we all of the Savior mild. Through long ages of the past, prophets long have fore told His coming; now the time has come at last! O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect Child of heaven; gracious gift to human kind! Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a Child among us, Jesus, Lord of all the world, grant to us Thy heavenly peace.

* Dedicatory Praise (Tune #607)

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures, here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

* Prayer of Dedication

SERMON

"Love's Light Dawning:
Zechariah and the Poetry of Faith"

Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont

ANTHEM

"The Dream Isaiah Saw"
The Chancel Choir and Brass Ensemble

Glenn Rudolph

*The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain...*
-- from Isaiah 11

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay, leopards will join with the lambs as they play, wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade, blood will not darken the earth that God made. Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart. Bring the dream Isaiah saw: life redeemed from fang and claw. Peace will pervade more than forest and field: God will transfigure the Violence concealed deep in the heart, and in systems of gain, ripe for the judgement the Lord will ordain. Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart. Bring the dream Isaiah saw justice purifying law. Nature reordered to match God's intent, nations obeying the call to repent, all of creation completely restored, filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord. Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart. Bring the dream Isaiah saw: knowledge, wisdom, worship, awe.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Hyfrydol

setting by Charles W. Ore

The Postlude is the final Alleluia of our worship. Please be respectful of fellow worshipers, who wish to listen, by refraining from conversation until the postlude concludes. Following worship, all are encouraged to enjoy a time of conversation and refreshment in the Hazelton Fellowship Hall.

WELCOME!

WE ARE GLAD THAT YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US.

Welcome to Worthington Presbyterian Church. This congregation has worshiped together in the Worthington community since 1805 and has had a building at High Street and Dublin Granville Road since 1830. We welcome all who seek faith, hope, and joy in the Lord Jesus Christ.

SERVING US THIS MORNING

Audio: Duane Cable

Carillon: Jennifer Hambrick

Sunday Secretary: Kathy Krantz

Usher Team B: Peggy Foster and Dave Wilson, Co-Captains; Dick Baker, Carol & David Balsler, Pete Barnhart, Marilou Beachler, Sam Guy, Steve Guy, John Litchfield, Bailey Moore, Ben Moore, Dan Owens, Andrew Rice, Barb Turley, Paul Wilcox, Dave & Nancy Wilson

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

Due to privacy laws regarding medical information, we are not always aware when someone is in need of pastoral care. Please share joys, concerns and sorrows with Reverend Wayne Morrison at wmorrison@worthingtonpresbyterian.com.

Prayers of healing for Joyce Evans and Tom Hull.

Prayers of sympathy to the family of Rosemary Getty upon her death on December 6th.

Those Serving Our Country

Army

Jeff Gibbons
Leighann Holcomb
Nate Holcomb
Maura Stepanski

Scott Testa
Zach Wilson
Jacob T. Wixom

Navy

Tyler McMillen
Michael Sargent
Joseph Seida

Air Force

Cody Albright
Kelly Mason
Robert Pukay-Martin

Marines

Joseph Hempfling

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Rev. Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont, Senior Pastor
Rev. Betsy Rice, Pastor for Member Ministries
Dr. David Rives, Director of Music
Dr. Stephen Jacoby, Organist
Melissa Robol, Pianist for Chapel Service

Rev. Dr. Thomas Rice, Pastor for Discipleship
Rev. Wayne Morrison, Parish Associate for Visitation
Jenni Whitford, Director for Children's Ministry
A full staff directory may be found on our website.

773 High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085-4171

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Friday: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

WPC Public WiFi password: Jesuslovesme

614-885-5355

www.worthingtonpresbyterian.com

wpchurch@worthingtonpresbyterian.com



We are a Stephen Ministry congregation. For more information, please contact Rev. Betsy Rice at brice@worthingtonpresbyterian.com.

Instrumental Ensemble

Flute - Angela Heck; Oboist - Melissa Stevens; Trumpet - Erik Gimbel & Charlotte Buelow;
French Horn - Grace Wilcox; Trombone - Rob Fischer & John Hall; Tuba - Sean Maloney;
Percussion - Drew Martin, Matt Bonder & Deanna Olson;
Pianists – Stephen Jacoby and Melissa Robol.

The Instrumental Ensemble has been provided to the glory of God by a generous anonymous donor.

Chancel Choir

Soprano: Sandy Bell, Susan Boisvert, Martha Duersten-Pettit, Judy Furnas, Petie Haase, Carol Hamilton, Bonita Krauss, Lora Mitchell, Sue Rapier, Marti Sappenfield, Lou Ann Shearer, Carol Sterbenz, Sharon Tipton, Gail Zink

Alto: Jean Arthur, Joyce Blackmore, Elaine Bowers, Eleanor Buford, Emma English, Judy Hazelton, Sandy Hindall, Sally Hough, Beth Murphy, Deanna Olson, Lori Sheppard, Debbie Towarnicky, Sue Wilson

Tenor: Stephen Ball, Chuck Evans, Glenn Garland, Jeff Johnson, Steve Johnson, Jody Patrick, Geoffrey Scott, Drew Sheppard, Eric Sterbenz, Taylor Surface, Jack Towarnicky, Bill Yost

Bass: Don Anderson, Dave Arthur, John Beck, Randy Bell, Robert Boyd, Shayne Caples, Timothy Dickey, Phil Giessler, Mark Greuling, Scot Hindall, Fred Hofer, Rob Landgrebe, Dennis Piermont, John Puleo, Kevin Wadsworth

Renaissance Ensemble

Soprano: Sandy Bell, Susan Boisvert, Bonita Krauss, Sharon Tipton, Gail Zink

Alto: Joyce Blackmore, Eleanor Buford, Elaine Bowers, Deanna Olson, Sue Wilson

Tenor: Jeff Johnson, Steve Johnson, Kevin Wadsworth, Bill Yost

Bass: Dave Arthur, Randy Bell, Timothy Dickey, Dennis Piermont

Celebration of Sound Concert Series Patrons for 2018-2019

Bill Allman	Ed & Kathleen Malecki
Joyce Blackmore	Charlene McLeod
Duane & Kathy Cable	David & Alice Miskell
Robert D. Clinger	Deanna K. Olson
Tom & Michale Copeland	Carolyn & Dan Owens
Jack & Beckie Dicke	Colleen & Mack Parkhill
Dorie-Ellen Eisenman	Ralph & Bev Poulson
Richard & Joyce Evans	Gregg Russell
Peggy Foster	Lou Ann Shearer
Joan W. Freeman	Ron & Joyce St. Pierre
Judy & Walt Furnas	Frank Stroebe
Jim & Brenda Galbo	Suzanne & Taylor Surface
Rodney Harrison	Donald & Joanne Vick
Judy Hazelton	Nancy Wardwell
Fred & Carol Hofer	Anonymous
Stanton T. Ickes	

*Do you wish to become a patron of the Celebration of Sound Concert Series?
Any size contribution is welcome. Please make checks payable to:
Worthington Presbyterian Church designated "concert series." Thank you.
If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact Dr. Rives.*

TODAY

NNEMAP FOOD PANTRY: We need your help this morning at 8:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, as we repackage bulk donations into family-sized portions for the food pantry. Thank you!



A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS at the 10:00 a.m. worship. The Chancel Choir and Renaissance Ensemble will be joined by brass, percussion, flute and oboe. The joyous service will include works by G.F. Handel,

Howard Helvey, Glenn Rudolph, Morten Lauridsen and Dan Forrest. Our spiritual preparation for Christmas will be enriched.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING will be received in worship. It honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers in their time of need by providing financial assistance to support them through life's changing circumstances. The offering also helps support racial ethnic education and leadership development. If you would like a Christmas Joy Offering envelope, you will find one in the pew rack. Checks can be made out to WPC with the memo reading: "Christmas Joy Offering." Thank you for your support of this vital ministry.

SPONSOR-A-FAMILY gift collection today.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS: Help spread Christ's love across the country and around the world at Christmas time. Last year, our congregation gave more than \$9,600 in gifts through the Alternative Christmas program. Please join us in Fellowship Hall **TODAY** to learn about the wonderful projects you can help locally and around the world. Order forms are available in Fellowship Hall. Today is the last day to bring order forms with checks payable to Worthington Presbyterian Church (Alternative Christmas in the memo) between services to Fellowship Hall. Individualized ornaments and prayer cards will be available for each donation.

COME AND VIEW *The First Silent Night*, a 1-hour program hosted by Simon Callow, set in Austria's cities and mountains, exploring the amazing roots and flowering of what many call the world's most beloved Christmas carol. This Christmas Eve is its 200th anniversary, and there's so much more to the story than a last-minute rescue when the organ failed. **In the Chapel at 6:00 p.m.**

STAFF APPRECIATION GIFT: The Personnel Committee invites you to contribute Christmas bonus gifts for all staff (pastors exempt). We are deeply blessed by their passion for the gospel and

their talents and dedication shared with WPC. A contribution of any amount is welcome. Please make your check payable to WPC, with "Staff Christmas" on the memo line and submit via the offering plate or church office no later than Sunday, **December 16th**. Questions may be directed to Dan Beck, Personnel Chair, at 614-477-0447.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent on High concludes this Thursday, **December 20th**, at noon at St. John's Episcopal Church. This free, 30-minute program of seasonal music provides a moment calm within our hurried lives, as Christmas approaches. Join us!



PLEDGES for 2019 are coming in steadily—thank you very much to the families who submitted their giving commitment for 2019. For the strength of our congregation, it is important that as many members as possible participate. If you have not submitted yours yet, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available in the pew racks or the church office—your pledge helps the Session plan responsibly for the coming year. Thank you, and may you learn the blessing of the **"Generations of Generosity."**

The **CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** at noon on **December 18th**. The staff will be celebrating Christmas together.

ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING at the Nativity Scene will be in a different location this year. Please join Pastor Julia and Dennis and **help WPC be well-represented** for a one-night Christmas Carol Sing called "One Voice," including songs, story-telling, prayer, and hot chocolate! We'll gather around the nativity scene on the lawn of **St. Peter Catholic Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Thursday, December 20th at 7 p.m.** Dress warmly, bring a flashlight, and maybe even a few jingle bells.

COME AND VIEW *The First Silent Night*, a 1-hour program hosted by Simon Callow, set in Austria's cities and mountains, exploring the amazing roots and flowering of what many call the world's most beloved Christmas carol. This Christmas Eve is its 200th anniversary, and there's so much more to the story than a last-minute rescue when the organ failed. Come, have a breather from the flurry on **Wednesday, December 19th at 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel.**

CONTRIBUTIONS REMINDER: All offerings for 2018 must be postdated by **December 31, 2018** to be considered a contribution for 2018.

ADULT EDUCATION

GOD'S WORD AND WORSHIP today at 9 a.m. in Room 222. Let's look together in detail at the Advent Bible readings. A great Bible study and devotional time as we spiritually prepare for Christmas.

LOVE IS NOT A MYSTERY: Romantic love is not a mystery anymore! WPC member and psychologist **Colby Srsic, PhD.** will lead identical programs on Sunday, **January 6th** and Sunday **January 13th** at 9 a.m. in Room 222. Come find out what we now know about the science of love to better appreciate and nurture your relationship and get a brief overview of the Created for Connection Program for Couples (see below).

CREATED FOR CONNECTION: Colby Srsic, PhD., will lead a 6-week program for couples designed to help create stronger, more secure relationship not only between partners, but between us and God. This program is for anyone wanting to further appreciate and grow their relationship with a significant other. On Wednesdays, **January 23rd-February 27th**, 6:30-8:30 p.m., with dinner and childcare provided). RSVP by **January 16th** to srsic.1@gmail.com.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES is discussing *The Theology of Paul the Apostle* by James D. G. Dunn. Join us in the "Living" Room at 9 a.m.

FAITH SEEKERS are studying *Basic: Christian Doctrine* by John Leith at 9 a.m. in Room 124. Our topic is The Beginning of Life and Death in the chapter on *The Human Creature* as created by God.

MISSION

Would you like to meet some of the kids from **SALEM ELEMENTARY**? We have a third-grade reading day on Monday, **December 17th** at 10:00 and you are invited to join us. The children have earned books to keep and we help them choose an appropriate book and then listen to them start the book to see if it is a good fit. This is a one-time volunteer activity. Please contact Debbie Towarnicky at debtowarn@gmail.com or 614-882-9212 or Janie Wiest at jwiest70@yahoo.com or 614-787-5680. Thank you!

Our next **YWCA FAMILY DINNER** is Tuesday, **December 18th**, leaving from the church at 4:30 p.m. Come help serve dinner and show Christ's love. RSVP bfowler410@yahoo.com "*Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most.*"

We invite you to donate any mittens, gloves, hats and/or scarves to our **MITTEN TREE** until **December 31st**. The Mary Lou Paton/Emma McCormick Mitten tree is in Fellowship Hall waiting to be decorated! Items are needed for children and adults in Central Ohio. Presbyterian Women United thanks you in advance for your kind contributions.

NNEMAP NEEDS: We are in **URGENT** need of donations of **SUGAR** and **COFFEE**. We also could use more flour and salt, diapers (size 5/6), feminine hygiene products, and holiday food items: stuffing, mashed potatoes, canned pumpkin, corn and green beans.

HURRICANE RECOVERY MISSION TRIP: **February 3rd-9th**, 2019, WPC and Hamilton Presbyterian Church men are going to Panama City, Florida to do construction and repair work, hosted by the Presbytery there. If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Tom at trice@worthingtonpresbyterian.com or 614-885-5355 x127

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



During the month of December, we decorate our beautiful Sanctuary with poinsettias. The Ministry of Worship and the Arts is accepting honorariums and memorials for poinsettias. If you would like to honor a loved one, please make a contribution of \$20, complete this form and send a check to the church **no later than Sunday, December 16th**. The dedications will appear in our Christmas Eve bulletins. **Please PRINT legibly.**

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

DONATED BY

LAST NAME(S): _____

FIRST NAME(S): _____

Goodness

ADVENT DEVOTION – WEEK 3 | DECEMBER 16-22, 2018

BY JILL DUFFIELD, PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK EDITOR

PSALM 23

“Surely *goodness* and mercy will follow me all the days of my life.” The words of Psalm 23 ring familiar even to those who rarely enter a house of worship. Rarely do we attend a memorial or funeral where these words are not read. Many of us know the entire psalm by heart. The beauty of the poetry, the comfort of the promises and the pastoral images painted woo us and invite us to the rest and respite the psalm assures us is ours through our God. During a season that fills up rapidly with additional obligations, expectations and stress, Psalm 23 extends a needed invitation to stop and allow God’s pursuing *goodness* and mercy to catch up and overwhelm us.

Stop. Set aside the to do list. Put down the burden too heavy to keep carrying. Let the *goodness* and mercy of our God envelop you, at least for a little while. A prayer I treasure from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer reminds us at the end of the day: “What has been done, has been done. What has not been done, has not been done. Let it be.”

So much of what we fret and anguish over cannot, in the end, be controlled by our effort or skill or will. All of what we fret and anguish over, worry and fear are not bereft of God’s *goodness* and mercy. Even in the presence of our enemies God sets a table for us. Even in the valley of the shadow of death, God is with us.

Can we, for at least a little while, remember that right now God’s *goodness* and mercy pursues us and that no matter where we are or what is happening in our lives and world, we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever? Remember that promise and rest in God’s good, merciful, pursuing presence.

PRAYER:

Lord, we so easily slip into worry that slides into anxiety that makes our dwelling place one of fear. Reveal to us, no matter our current state of mind or circumstances, that you are present with us, right now. Help us to rest in your house. Overtake us with your goodness and mercy so that we can know your peace that passes understanding. Amen.

DAILY PRAYERS AND PRACTICES

Monday – JEREMIAH 31:12

This chapter of Jeremiah recounts the joy of exiles returning home. They are “radiant in the goodness of the Lord.” When have you known a longing for the goodness of God? For restoration? How do we remain hopeful even when exiled?

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

God, your promises remain steadfast even when we doubt their fulfillment. When estrangement, exile and loss pervade our days, we search for signs of your presence, for hope, for joy despite our sorrow. Give us those signs this day until we radiate in your goodness once again. Amen.

Tuesday – PSALM 65:4

If God is everywhere, why do we go to God’s house? Have we not heard people say, “I find God in nature”? Or “We should be out serving, not sitting in a sanctuary”? Consider how you would respond to those two statements. What is unique about going to worship in God’s house?

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

God of all times and places and space, we know we cannot flee from your presence. Even when we try to hide, you know every thought and every word before we even speak. We enter your holy house in humility, in awe, stunned by your goodness to us. May our presence in your house reveal our loyalty, our recognition of our finitude and our aspiration to worship you in all times and places and space. Amen.

Wednesday – ROMANS 15:14

Goodness and knowledge go together. We must seek knowledge of God, God's will, God's commands and God's character in order to reflect God's goodness in our own lives and character. Spend some time in study today. Read a part of the Bible you don't know well or read through a few of our confessions in the Book of Confessions.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

We practice faith seeking understanding and wisdom in your ways, Lord God. We recognize that if we do not know you, your Word, your Way, we can never be filled with goodness. Help us to be eager learners, gentle teachers, disciples practiced in the art of holy curiosity. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Thursday – TITUS 1:7-8

No human being is righteous, no not one. Nonetheless, leaders in the faith are called to a higher standard in order to model discipleship and prove trustworthy. Looking at this list of traits needed for bishops, are there traits we particularly need to squelch or cultivate?

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

We hold fast to the assurance that when you call us, God, you equip us. We know that despite our best efforts we will fall short. We hold fast to the assurance of your forgiveness when we confess and repent. Send your Spirit to shape and mold us into leaders of faith whose talk and walk match more closely each day. Amen.

Friday – PSALM 135:1-3

Psalms of praise lavish God with descriptors of greatness. It's as if the psalmist cannot pile on enough adjectives of goodness, beauty and affirmation. Create your own psalm of praise. Don't hold back on words that show your wonder at God's grace to you.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

God of might, truth, beauty, grace, mercy, patience, justice, kindness, power and grace, all the words in the world cannot contain your glory. We wake up to the marvel of your creation and go to bed under the expansiveness of moon and stars. In between we encounter the vast diversity of human beings and their gifts. Thank you for including us in the goodness of your beloved world. Amen.

Saturday – 2 PETER 1:4-7

One practice leads to another in this text from 2 Peter. Faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, until we arrive at love. Observe today how these practices are intertwined and be mindful of always arriving at love.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Lord of love, lest we forget, the greatest commandment, help us to love you, practicing faith and knowledge, self-control and endurance, godliness and mutual affection, for the sake of love for one another. May the world know we are followers of Jesus Christ through our love. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Goodness

Church Activities This Week at WPC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 AM Worship & Communion, Dr. Piermont preaching, Chapel
- 8:45 AM Childcare: Infant & Toddler, Nursery
- 8:45 AM Coffee Hour & NNEMAP Breakdown, Fellowship Hall
- 9:00 AM Confirmation Class, Youth Room
- 9:00 AM Faith Seekers, 124; God's Word and Worship, 222; Religious Studies, "Living" Room
- 9:00 AM Usher Captains Meeting, Room 112; Small Group, Room 111
- 10:00 AM Worship & COS, Dr. Piermont Preaching, Sanctuary
- 10:15 AM Church School: Preschool - Grade 6, Chapel, 111, 112, 113, 222
- 11:00 AM Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
- 5:00 PM New Connections Worship Service, Dr. Piermont preaching, Chapel
- 6:00 PM Jr. & Sr. High Youth Activity, Fellowship Hall, Youth Room
- 6:00 PM "First Silent Night" video with host Simon Callow, Chapel

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 11:30 AM Red Cross Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 PM Children's Committee, Offsite
- 7:00 PM Mission Ministry, Room 222

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18 ~ Church Office closes at noon due to Staff Christmas

- 4:30 PM Y Family Dinner Hosting, Offsite
- 7:00 PM Board of Deacons, Chapel

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 11:00 AM Preschool Christmas Program, Sanctuary
- 12:30 PM ROMEO's Lunch, OSU Golf Course
- 1:30 PM "First Silent Night" video with host Simon Callow, Chapel
- 6:30 PM Celebration Ringers, Sanctuary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 7:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting, Room 111
- 9:00 AM Sacristy Guild, Sanctuary
- 11:00 AM Preschool Christmas Program, Sanctuary
- 12:00 PM Advent on High (Sara Seidel), St. John's Episcopal Church
- 5:00 PM Choir Plus Music & Pageant Rehearsal Only (No Dinner), Sanctuary
- 7:00 PM Caroling at the Nativity Scene, St. Peter's Church
- 7:15 PM Chancel Choir, Sanctuary, Choir Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 2:00 PM Memorial Service for Robert Hinkle, Chapel

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 AM Worship & Communion, Dr. Piermont preaching, Chapel
- 8:45 AM Childcare: Infant & Toddler, Nursery
- 9:00 AM Faith Seekers, Room 124
- 10:00 AM Immersion Sunday, Choir Room
- 10:00 AM Worship, Dr. Piermont Preaching, Sanctuary
- 10:15 AM Church School: Preschool - Grade 6, Chapel, 111, 112, 113, 222
- 5:00 PM New Connections Worship Service, Dr. Piermont preaching, Chapel

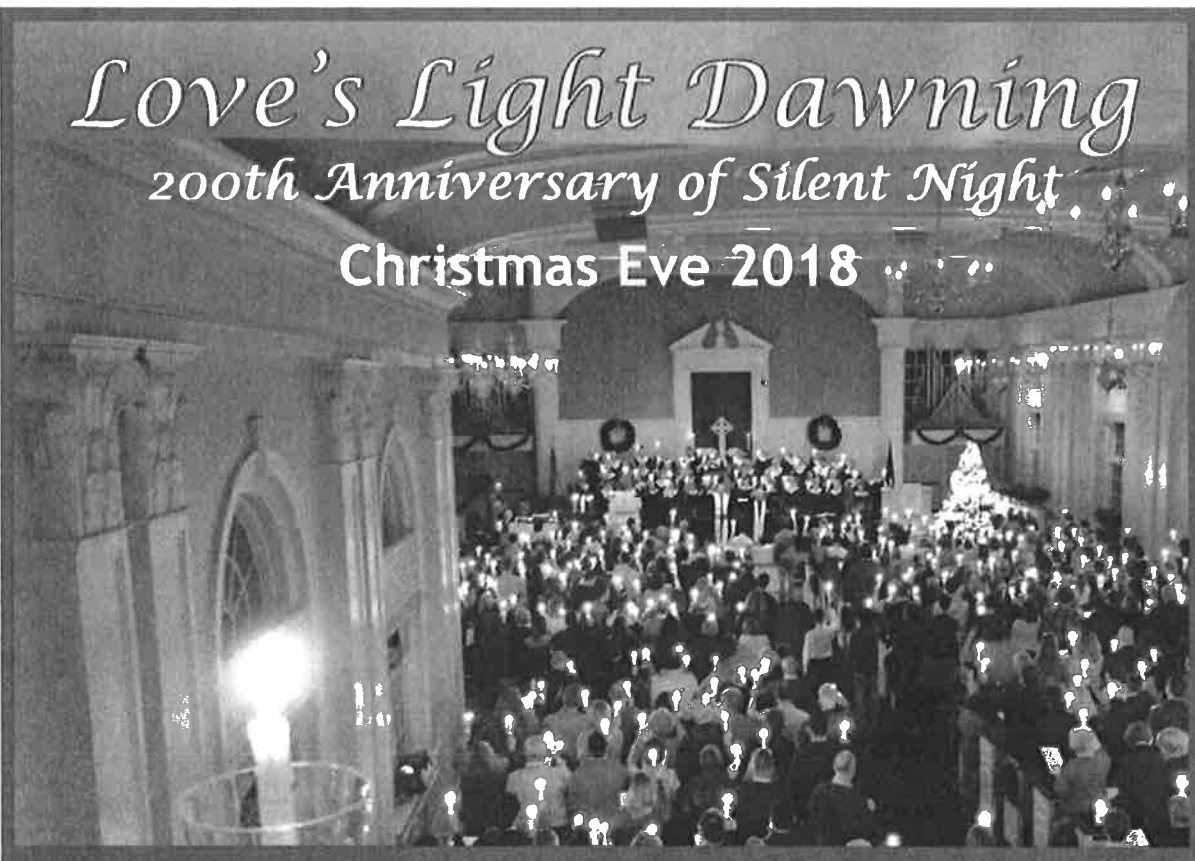
MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 ~ Christmas Eve

- 3:00 PM Christmas Eve Children's Worship, Dr. Tom Rice Preaching, Sanctuary
- 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship, Dr. Julia Piermont Preaching, Sanctuary
- 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship, Dr. Julia Piermont Preaching, Sanctuary
- 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship & Communion, Dr. Julia Piermont Preaching, Sanctuary

Love's Light Dawning

200th Anniversary of Silent Night

Christmas Eve 2018



3 p.m. Children's Nativity Service

Children's choirs, flute and guitar, message by Dr. Tom Rice

Childcare available

5:30 & 9 p.m. Carols & Candle Lighting

Chancel Choir, Celebration Ringers, harp, flute, guitar and organ

Meditation by Dr. Piermont; *Childcare available*

11 p.m. Candle Lighting & Communion

Soprano solo, guitar, harp and organ

Meditation by Dr. Piermont

Worthington Presbyterian Church
773 High Street, Worthington, Ohio ~ 614-885-5355