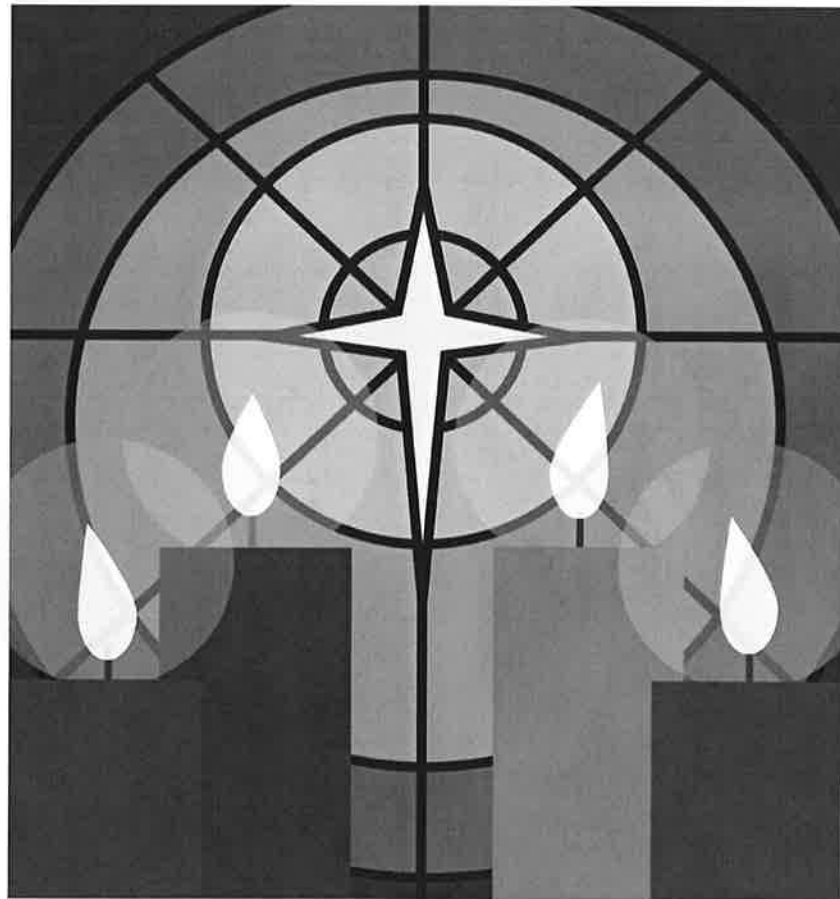


WORTHINGTON

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

DECEMBER 23, 2018
10:00 A.M.

* 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.***

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

Jenni Whitford

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Greg Russell

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

One: The Word of our Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"How Great Our Joy"
The Chancel Choir

Craig Courtney

While by the sheep we watched at night. Glad tidings brought an angel bright. How great our joy. There shall be born, so he did say. In Bethlehem a Child today. How great our joy. There shall a child lie in a stall, this child who shall redeem us all. This gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill. Praise we the Lord in heaven on high. How great our joy.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-55

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 leaped 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 leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

One: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"Love's Light Dawning:
Mary and the Magnificence of Mystery"

Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont

* HYMN (*see next page*) "All Through the Night She Waits Silently"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Betsy Rice

Sharing of Prayer Requests and Blessings
The Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Hymnal Page 35

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 "Once in Royal David's City" setting by Wayne L. Wold

* 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

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN #140 "Once in Royal David's City"

IRBY

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"God Rest You Merry"

setting by Wilbur Held

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.

All Through the Night She Waits Silently

NUAGE DE TÉMOINS

11.10.11.10

Text: Dennis H. Piermont 2018

Music: Julia Wharff Piermont
Dennis H. Piermont 2018

4

(Solo) All through the night she waits si - lent - ly,
(All) How can she know what the fu - ture dis -
(All) But in this hour Ma - ry on - ly ex -
(All) So on this night, we can face our world's

8

keep - ing watch in star - light, as she holds to her
clos - es? Where can she go to be free from the
press - es God's wond - rous power that ap - peared from a -
mad - ness, shin - ing as light for Love's pro - mise un -

12

breast Heav - en's own child who is peace - ful - ly sleep - ing;
loss deep in her heart, as our con - flict ex - pos - es
bove; sigh - ing the name of the son she car - ess - es;
furled. Out of God's choice to bring joy out of sad - ness,

17

life here re - styled by God's prom - ise pro - fessed.
sin on our part lead - ing up to the cross?
light - ing a flame for the world with God's love.
God gave us voice, so we must tell the world.

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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: George Leonard

Carillon: Bill Allman

Sunday Secretary: Eva Goode

Usher Team C: John & Marsha Smith and Sue Funk, Co-Captains; Peggy Albright, Elaine Christian, Mary & Scott Dahs, Debbie Dieringer, Tom & Kathy Hull, Dave LaHue, Bill Leiter, Connie Lewis, Mark Ranck, Matt Smith, Pete Wilkins

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.

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.

Faithfulness

ADVENT DEVOTION – WEEK 4 | DECEMBER 23-29, 2018

BY JILL DUFFIELD, PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK EDITOR

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

“Great is thy *faithfulness*. ... Morning by morning new mercies I see.” I cannot help but hum the hymn as I read these verses from Lamentation. Great is thy *faithfulness*, Lord unto me. I came to know this hymn while in seminary. I don’t think the red hymnal of my childhood church contained this powerful song of promise and praise. Nonetheless, once exposed to the booming chorus – “All I have needed thy hand hath provided” – it became a staple of my worship and devotional life. I even like the antiquated “thy” and “hath.” Those words gave the hymn an even greater gravitas and majesty. God’s ways are not my ways. God’s words are not my words. God’s ability and will to provide, uphold and sustain go far beyond my limited understanding and ever evident finitude.

Whatever *faithfulness* we muster, God’s faithfulness surpasses. Whatever *faithfulness* we exhibit, God’s encourages. Whatever *faithfulness* we practice, God fills in the gaps. The great, amazing, inexplicable promise of this text from Lamentations is the enduring, never ending, unconditional loving relationship God desires with us regardless of our shortcomings, idolatry and sin. God’s *faithfulness* never fails.

As we draw closer to the birth of Jesus Christ, knowing that the baby born in Bethlehem will grow up and go to the cross in Jerusalem, the words from Lamentations echo, resound and ring through the cosmos. God’s *faithfulness* and mercy know no bounds. Nothing will separate us from the love of God. New every morning are the blessings of the Triune God who refuses to give up on us. Jesus Christ becomes incarnate for the sake of the world. All we have needed our God hath provided. Absolutely everything.

PRAYER:

Creator, Son and Holy Spirit, as we get closer to the birth of Jesus, help us to recognize your new mercies each morning so that on that morning of mornings, we will rejoice, give thanks and sing at the coming of our Savior. All we have needed you give, withholding nothing, not even the Son of Man, in order to reconcile us to you and one another. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

DAILY PRAYERS AND PRACTICES

Monday, Christmas Eve – HEBREWS 11:1

While only 15 words, this verse from Hebrews contains a plethora of theology. If you had to define “faith” in one short sentence, what would you include? Write a one-sentence definition of faith.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Often, Lord God, we people of faith struggle to keep following, keep praying and keep serving in the face of ongoing suffering, chaos and cruelty. On this eve of our Savior’s birth, we remember that the pain is that of birth, not death. We tend to Mary as she labors, assured that soon we will greet Jesus Christ. Amen.

Tuesday, Christmas Day – PSALM 36:5

Today we rejoice in the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Give thanks for all the blessings of this life, mostly for the coming of Jesus into the world to save sinners. God’s love and faithfulness reaches from heaven and comes to earth this day.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, God of all, we rejoice at the birth of our Savior, the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. Let this day not end without our raising our voices in praise for the amazing gift of your love and faithfulness not bound by heaven, extending over all the earth. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Wednesday – 3 JOHN 1:3

Now we begin our journey of following Jesus Christ faithfully every day. As the excitement of Christmas Day wanes, we are invited to tend daily to our relationship with the babe born in Bethlehem. How will you tend to your relationship with Jesus in the days and months ahead?

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Gracious God, it is easy to sing and pray on high holy days. We get blessedly lost in the angels' chorus and the poetic language of the birth stories, but like the shepherds we cannot remain at the stable forever. As we return to our routines, may we take with us the beautiful imagery and sounds of Bethlehem and share them with a weary world. Amen.

Thursday – MATTHEW 6:30

Be not anxious. Fear not. These admonitions come from Jesus often. Thankfully, he reminds us frequently that God does not abandon us. God provides for us. We are not alone. Remember today that God is with you. Christ is right now praying for you. The Spirit goes ahead of you.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

When days are shorter and darkness outweighs the light, we ask, compassionate God, for an extra measure of your encouragement. Help us to be not afraid, to not be anxious and to act out of trust and love rather than fear and worry. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Friday – JOSHUA 24:14

The temptation of idolatry calls persistently. Even unconsciously we put other priorities ahead of our God. What form does idolatry take in your life? What things, people or ideas do you put ahead of faithfulness to Jesus?

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

We are prone to wander from your ways, Lord God. We capitulate to the prevailing values of culture, often unknowingly. Wake us up to your will this day. Silence in us any voice but your own. Grant us the stamina to be faithful fully and always. Amen.

Saturday – LUKE 16:10

As we come to the close of a calendar year and embark more fully into a new liturgical one, take stock of your life. What areas require attention? What little things are you called to be faithful in so that you will be faithful in much, too?

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Help us, Almighty God, to be the people you call us to be, bearing witness to our Savior in each and every thing we do and say. As we go about our work and play, rest and chores, remind us that our actions and attitudes reveal our loyalties. May we be faithful in all things until we are faithful at all times. Amen.

The Inn

When God a stable chose, unadorned,
To give us a Savior, humbly born,
His innocent mother kissed him at birth
And laid him to sleep on a bed made of straw.
Thus, life ever changed on the earth.

"Fear not, poor shepherds," the angel told
The heavenly greeting: "Hear! Behold!
A child redeemer waits you this night.
And God is well pleased with all folk of good will."
So heaven brought forth God's new light.

The kings with frankincense, gold and myrrh:
The gifts for a savior; went, assured,
To follow the heavens bright with the blaze
Of God's holy star, to the stable ahead,
And offered the baby their praise.

So let us all in this Christmastide,
Make this our desire: Christ reside
In each of our spirits, knowing you bring
Us life evermore in God's vision and grace.
So unto you, Savior, we sing!

Joyous Christmas and Blessings for the New Year

Julia
Bill
Gore
L. Shepherd
Dan
Daniel
Karen
Melinda
Patsy
Dore
Dore
Patsy
Russ
Tiffany
Jennie
Wynne

The Pastors and Staff of Worthington Presbyterian Church
Melissa Ridd

TODAY

IMMERSION, A WORSHIP EXPERIENCE FOR YOUTH at 10 a.m. During the Passing of the Peace all Jr. & Sr High youth are invited to go to the Choir Room for a Bible study focusing on today's Bible passages with Rev. Wayne Morrison. Youth will rejoin the congregation during the hymn after the sermon.

SACK LUNCHES are due today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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.*”

NEW! JANUARY SERMON SERIES – Gospel Shorthand: The Christian Journey in 13 Words. Dr. Piermont has created this series to offer an “elevator speech” of sorts on what it means to be a Christian, a shorthand way to remember the basics of who we are and what we aim to be as Christian disciples, as well as a way to engage in positive, “unchurchy” conversation about your faith journey with non-Christian co-workers and friends. Begin your new year with this faith-renewing opportunity, set for **January 6th, 13th, and 20th.**

Come and **PLAY BRIDGE** at the home of Howard and Doris Moye on Friday, **January 18th** at 1:30 pm. Call 614-889-2385 to reserve a seat.

ADULT EDUCATION

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.

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

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.

Church Activities This Week at WPC

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas ... Church Office closed for Holiday

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

Church Office Closed for Holiday

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

- 9:00 AM Faith Seekers, Room 124
- 10:00 AM **One Service Sunday, Rev. Betsy Rice Preaching, Sanctuary**
No Children Sunday School ~ Worship bags are available
- 11:00 AM Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

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