

December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent
11:00am — Sanctuary



“The Dream of St. Joseph”, Anton Raphael Mengs, 1773/1774



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

Thank you for joining us today! We're grateful for your presence and invite you to take part in our worship, mission, and programs. Please join us after worship for coffee, cookies, and punch in our fellowship hall, called McKay Hall. Just follow the crowd, and you cannot miss it! Livestreaming is available to watch via the website or YouTube, but we know this is no substitute for the community built through in-person connections. We're glad you're here!

Rev. Dr. Anne Epling (she/her), Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An (he/him), Rev. Ann Pitman (she/her)

Please silence and put away your cellphone as you enter this worship space.

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding
Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

William Henry Monk
Thomas Arne/R. Vaughan Williams

Handbell Acclamation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Today we light the candle of Yielding, as we remember Joseph's choice to surrender his fears and doubts. In a moment of uncertainty, Joseph yielded to God's guidance and opened his heart to the miracle unfolding around him. Like Joseph, may we learn to yield our own ways, making room for God's peace to guide us.

As we light this candle, we yield our hearts to God's will. May Christ's peace fill us as we learn to trust God's plan.

"When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife." (Matthew 1:24)

God of peace, help us to yield our lives to your purpose. Teach us to trust you, even when the path is unclear, and to find hope in the light of Christ. Amen.

Responsive Hymn 127 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'We'll walk in the light, beau - ti - ful'. The second staff continues with 'light. Come where the dew - drops of mer - cy shine'. The third staff has 'bright. O, shine all a - round us by day and by'. The fourth staff concludes with 'night. Je - sus, the light of the world.' There are some rests and a triplet of eighth notes in the second staff.

We'll walk in the light, beau - ti - ful
light. Come where the dew - drops of mer - cy shine
bright. O, shine all a - round us by day and by
night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

*Hymn No. 106 Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*Call to Confession

Like Joseph, we confess that we struggle to yield to God's will, holding tightly to our own desires. Let us turn to God in humility, seeking forgiveness for the ways we resist walking in God's light.

*Prayer of Confession

God of peace, we confess that we struggle to yield to your way. Like Joseph, we have fears and doubts that hold us back. We often place our own concerns above your call, and we fail to surrender fully to your guidance. Forgive us for our resistance, and help us to let go of our own control. Give us the courage to follow you, yielding to your wisdom and trusting in your purpose, that we may bring peace to others as you have brought peace to us. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, hear the good news: God's grace meets us when we surrender to God's love. In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and empowered to walk in the light of peace.


***Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

As you are comfortable, we invite you to take a moment to share the Peace of Christ with those around you with a smile, wave, or other signs of connection.

***Responsive Hymn No. 105 People, Look East**

BESANÇON



Peo-ple, look east. The time is near of the crown-ing of _ the year. Make your house
fair as you are a - ble; trim the hearth and set _ the ta - ble. Peo-ple, look east and sing to -
day: Love, the guest, is on _ the way.

HEARING THE WORD

Time with Children

Children and youth in kindergarten thru 9th grade are encouraged to head to Sunday School after the Time with Children.

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem Keep Your Lamps!

Andre Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh. Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done. Christian, journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh. Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon "Walk in the Light: Yield"

Rev. Dr. Annie Bain Epling

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Hymn The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

Announcements

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

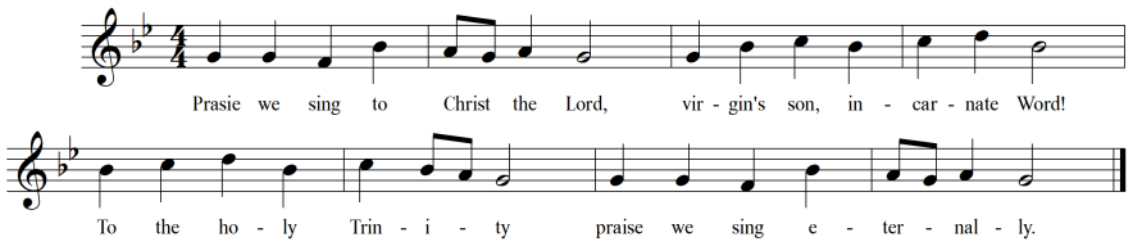
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Alleluia, He Comes to Us

Michael R. Keller

***Responsive Hymn No. 102** Praise We Sing to Christ the Lord



Prasie we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's son, in - car - nate Word!
To the ho - ly Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Faithful God, like Joseph, we yield our plans to your greater purpose. We bring these gifts as a sign of our trust in your will and our desire to walk in your light. Use them to bring peace and healing, and teach us to surrender daily to your call, knowing that your light leads us in the way of love and compassion. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn No. 87** Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

***Benediction**

***Postlude** Chorale Prelude on *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!* Malcolm Archer

Chancel Flowers

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Jerry Winters
by Mary Winters and family

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Anne Epling, Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Denise Davis, Steve Weissner

Ushers: Anne Barnett, David Beer, Jack Patton, Dan Serban

Director of Music Ministries & Organist: Brent Neuenschwander

Assistant Organist: Kathryn Miller

Chancel Choir

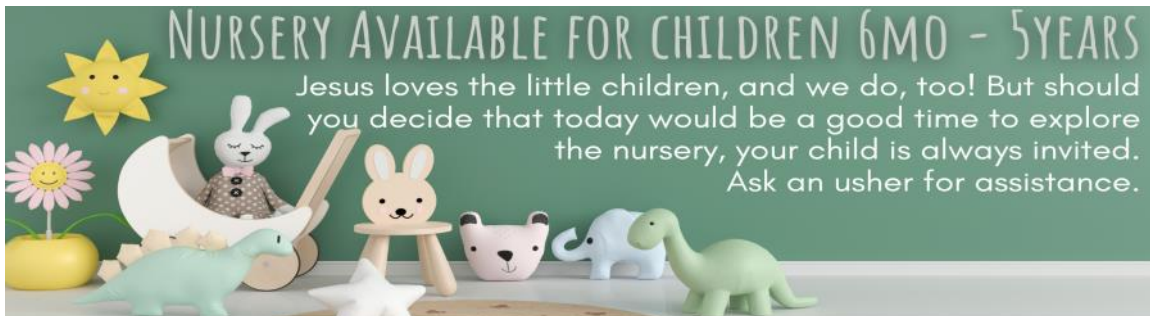
Handbell Choir

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

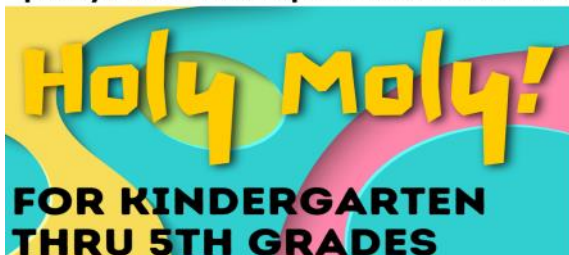
Sound Board Operator: Jeff Slater

Hearing Loop: To use the “Hearing Loop” during the service, please switch your hearing aid or cochlear device to the “T,” T-Coil or telephone position.

Large Print Hymns are available from the Ushers



Sunday School for Children and Youth meets during church. We'll all start in worship together, and then head to our SS rooms as a group. Grown-ups, please pick your children up in the education wing after worship.



This Week at First Pres!

Advent By Candlelight: Ladies, mark your calendars for our annual Advent by Candlelight service, Wednesday, **December 11th** at 6:30pm in the Parlor. Music & Readings in the Chapel at 7:15pm. This is an evening of fellowship, music and reflection in the midst of the season of preparation. Members are welcome to bring a dessert to share if you would like, but you do not need to! If you would like to share a treat, please sign up by contacting the church office OR Meredith Palmison at mrpalmison@gmail.com, though you do not need to sign up to attend. We welcome you to invite friends and family to join us.

Christmas Eve Music and Decorations: We look forward to having an orchestra at the 5:30pm service on Christmas Eve and to all of the beautiful Christmas decorations. All of this is made possible through monetary gifts given in loving memory of family and friends. Memorialized names, with the names of the donors, will appear with the Christmas Eve worship bulletin. Please have your donation to the church by December 15th. To donate, make check payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo line: Chancel Guild – Christmas (Music or Flowers) or online at www.firstpresfortwayne.org.

Christmas Eve: Join us as we celebrate Christmas 2024! We would love to see you at one of our Christmas Eve services! Come enjoy the full majesty of Lessons and Carols beginning at 5:00 pm with special music orchestra featuring musicians from the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, plus organ, a brass quintet, and choir. The service begins at 5:30pm. Our traditional candle lighting during the singing of Silent Night will conclude the service. You're also welcome to join us at 10:00 pm for a shorter Lessons and Carols service, featuring organ and soloist. May you experience the hope, peace, love, and joy that is yours this Advent and Christmas season! Please note: Nursery and livestream will be offered for the 5:00 pm service only.