First Presbyterian Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church
Wooster, Ohio

First Sunday of Christmas

THOSE WHO DREAM . . . ***will not keep silent***

December 27, 2020

First Presbyterian Church is a Christian community dedicated to showing God's love through worship, study, social justice, mission outreach, and fellowship.



More Light Church and Member of Covenant Network
Earth Care Congregation and a Matthew 25 Church

WELCOME — Reverend David Rice

PRELUDE — *Noël, from 'Esquisses Byzantine'* — *Henri Mulet*
Eric J. Gastier, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP + — LeRoy Haynes

One: Here on the heels of Christmas,
All: We speak of love.
One: We speak of joy.
All: We speak of candlelight and fireside.
One: We speak of dreams being fulfilled.
All: We speak of "glorias" and angel choruses.
One: We speak the words, "Do not be afraid."
All: Here on the heels of Christmas, we are called to speak, for the world needs a light.
One: A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.
All: Let us worship and listen. Then, let us speak. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

One: Where have we seen God these past days of Advent and Christmastide?
Seeing God in our midst is one thing.
Speaking it out loud for all to hear, that's entirely different.
The world needs the good news that God is found in things great and small,
significant and ordinary, found in all manner of people and works of creation.
We are not called to be silent.
Family of God, let us join our voices in praying for the spirit and imagination and courage to speak of God's unending presence.

All: God of today and tomorrow, we know that your fingerprints are all over this world.
And we know that those who dream cannot keep silent.
So today we pray: Give us eyes to see you. Give us courage to trust you.
And give us lips to speak of you in our midst.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . **And also with you.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH +

One: We believe in telling the story—
All: The story of a loving and merciful God, who will not let God's people go;
the story of a baby who grew up and changed the world; the story of our faith.
One: We believe in speaking up—
All: For our neighbors, for the oppressed, for the overlooked and marginalized.
One: We believe in speaking out—
All: Against violence, greed, abuse, fear, scarcity mindset, and bigotry.
One: We believe in passing the mic—
All: So that we are not the only ones speaking, so that we can lift up the voices
of those around us, so that we too might listen and learn.
One: We believe in the good news of the gospel.
All: We believe that this good news is too good to keep to ourselves.
We believe that those who dream cannot keep silent.
One: Speak to us, Holy God.
All: Speak through us, Holy God. May it be so. Amen

MUSICAL OFFERING *Prelude and Fugue in Eb, Book I* *Johann Sebastian Bach*
Cameron Edmiston, pianist

SCRIPTURE Psalm 148

A STORY *Papa Panov's Special Christmas* *Leo Tolstoy*

HYMN (see next page for the music) ***Love Has Come*** *BRING A TORCH*

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Noël, Chant du Roi René* *F. Alexandre Guilmant*

+ Liturgy adapted from Prayers by Sarah Are / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org.
Facebook Link: https://www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/

Earth Care Pledge: Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

The Mission of the Matthew 25 Church: Matthew 25:31–46 calls us to actively engage the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. We commit ourselves to congregational vitality by acting boldly and compassionately to end systemic poverty and structural racism, serving people who are oppressed, imprisoned, poor.

The Mission of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians is to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace. We are called to achieve this goal by furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, and by working for the unity of the PC(USA). The Covenant Network of Presbyterians calls the church to bear a unified witness to generous hospitality and faithful justice.

The Mission of More Light Presbyterians: Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQIA+) people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.