

Order for the Worship of God

Welcome & Announcements

GATHERING

Welcome

from Luke 1:46-50

L My soul magnifies the Lord;

C My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

L He has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant;

C Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed.

L The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his Name;

C His mercy is for all those who fear him.

Prayer

*Opening Hymn (Blue #53)

"What Child Is This"

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Worship from the Psalms

(from Psalm 146)

L Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

C I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

L Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

C When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

L Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

C who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

L who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

C The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

L The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

C The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow,

L but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

C The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

A Praise the Lord!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn (Blue #37)

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

*Offering Prayer

*Doxology

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The prayers of thanksgiving and intercession are responsive. When you hear the leader say:

Lord, in your mercy,

Please respond,

Hear our prayer.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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

SENDING OUT

*Closing Hymn (Blue #49)

"Once In Royal David's City"

*Blessing and Benediction

Departing Music

Welcome to our Worship!

We are glad to have you with us today. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. Everyone is welcome for refreshments and fellowship after worship. Thank you, Dan Badenhop, for being liturgist today.

Our **offering** is received on the back table in the sanctuary, you can give online using the **QR code** at right or donate from our **website**.

Please volunteer to be **liturgist** or **bring cookies**.

Signup is at the back table in the sanctuary.



We had a better turnout and great time at our carol singing, soup dinner, and game night last Wednesday. Thank you for everyone who helped put together the event.

- On Wednesday, December 17th, we are invited to St. Paul United Methodist Church for a dinner at 5:30 p.m. and a blues Christmas worship service at 7:00 p.m. with the "Third Floor Blues Band".

After church, we are having a **Christmas-themed potluck**. If you didn't bring anything, please come down and eat with us. There will be plenty.

Session meets on Monday, December 15th at 4:00 p.m.

Our **Friendship Meal** is this Tuesday, December 16th at 11:00 a.m. at Hill's Restaurant. (Bruce may have a surprise for those who come.)

Our **Cards of the Week** is for former pastors and their families.

CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

VANCREST: Dollie Smith

SIMMONS CROSSING: Connie Cobb

ALPINE VILLAGE: Sandy Johnson

PRAYER LIST: Gene & Carol Detmer, Joe & Linda McOscar, Julie Fogle, Kathy Schilens (Jana Schroeder's sister), Enoch & Adyē Castro Vásquez (Olga Hall's father and mother), Jacob Clegg (Brenda Stough's friend), Betty Sladek (Ed Sladek's Wife)

First Presbyterian Church

303 West
Washington St.
Napoleon, OH
43545

Order For The Worship Of God

December 14th, 2025
10:00 a.m.

419-592-7736 - fpcnapoleon@gmail.com
fpcnapoleon.org - CCLJ# 2888061



Prayer of Confession

God, we confess that we place our hope in people and things that let us down. We search for peace in the wrong places, and we mistake joy for momentary pleasure and entertainment. We limit who we love, excluding those who need our loving kindness the most. God, when we have lost our way, show us yours. Guide us toward a hope in you that renews our strength. Lead us to peace that transcends all understanding. Fill us with the joy we experience in your presence. Remind us that you have always loved us with an everlasting love, so that we may share that love with others. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Reflections

Assurance of Pardon (from Mark 6:34)

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Special Music (Blue #12) *“People Look East”*

Arranged by Craig Courtney, sung by the University of Oklahoma Men’s Glee Club

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture *Isaiah 35:1-10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God. He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools,

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Message *Bruce Brown*

Prayer of Affirmation