

Order for the Worship of God

Welcome & Announcements

GATHERING

Welcome *from Isaiah 63:7-8*

L I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord
C because of all that the Lord has done for us.

L God has shown us his great mercy,
C According to the abundance of his steadfast love.

Prayer

*Opening Hymn (Blue #40) *"Joy to the World"*

Worship from the Psalms *(Psalm 148)*

L Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
C Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

L Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!
C Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!

L Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.
C He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

L Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
C Fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

L Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
C Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

L Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
C Young men and women alike, old and young together!

L Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.
C He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.

A Praise the Lord!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn (Blue #59) *"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"*

*Offering Prayer

*Doxology

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The prayers of thanksgiving and intercession are responsive. There will be time for you to offer your own silent prayers. When you hear the leader say:

O Christ, our light,
Please respond,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying:

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 #51) *"See Amid The Winter's Snow"*

*Blessing and Benediction

Departing Music

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)

The prayer of confession and the assurance of pardon are adapted from Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy at <http://sermonizing.wordpress.com/>.

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, Bruce Brown, 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.

If you still wish to contribute to the **Christmas Joy offering**, envelopes are in the back of the sanctuary. 50% of the receipts go to help current and retired pastors in need, and 50% to the schools and colleges the PC(USA) works with to serve students of color.

Please sign up to be **liturgist** for January and February.

Congregational Life meets on Thursday, January 8th at 10:00 a.m.

Annual Reports are due by Sunday, January 11. Bruce will be sending out copies of last year's reports to committee chairs this week.

Connect to the Community meets on Tuesday, January 13th at 4:00 p.m.

Our Bedding and Towel Collection for the Salvation Army starts on Sunday, January 18th. More information to come!

Next Sunday we have **cookies after church**, but with no real plans. Please bring whatever leftover holiday cookies you have that you want to share.

Our **special music** is "Lord Remind Me" by Jon Guerra & Valerie Guerra.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VRjS4oRnM8>

He writes this (excerpted) about this song:

Christians are in a season of celebrating the arrival of a "shoot from Jesse's stump." It's a transgressive celebration of fragility and vulnerability.

- We wanted a fully matured tree - God gave us a shoot coming from a stump.
- We wanted a strong leader - God gave us a vulnerable baby.
- We wanted a strength that dominates - God gave us a weakness that submits.
- We wanted victory - God gave us defeat, destitution, death.

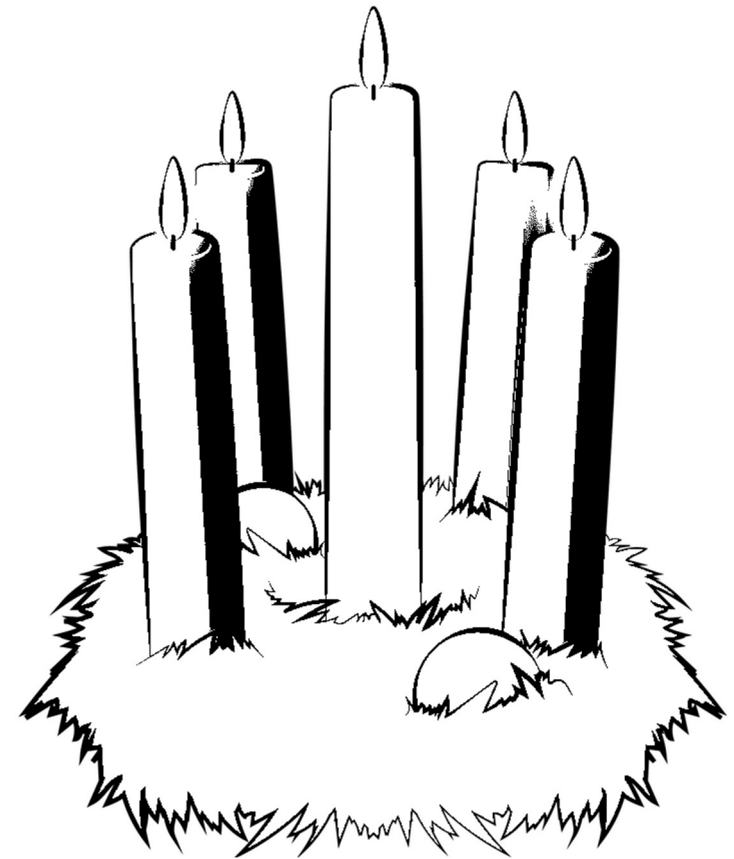
.. So here's to remembering hope in God's unconditional love towards the desolate stumpiness of ourselves and the world this season - and to believing that this is not the end of the story.

Lord, remind me.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

303 West Washington St.

Napoleon, OH 43545



ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 28th, 2025

10:00 a.m.

419-592-7736 - fpcnapoleon@gmail.com

fpcnapoleon.org - CCLI# 2888061

Hymn (Blue #38)
Prayer of Confession

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child, who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world. We would like to be those who cared for God in his infant vulnerability, who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing child, that he might know love and safety.

Merciful God, we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod. Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions, find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others for health and safety, convict us of our self-centeredness. Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than advocating for the rights of the oppressed, convict us of our self-righteousness. Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know, and to change, the injustices of this world, restore us from our hopelessness.

Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Reflections
Assurance of Pardon

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Special Music
Prayer for Illumination

"Lord Remind Me"

Scripture *Isaiah 63:7-9*
I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully,"
and he became their savior in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them;
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled,
because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

Hymn (Blue #23) *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*
Message *Bruce Brown*
Prayer of Affirmation