

Order for the Worship of God

Welcome & Announcements

GATHERING

Welcome *from Isaiah 7:14; Romans 16:25-27*

L Look! A young woman is with child;

C She will call him Emmanuel, for God is with us.

L The mystery of the ages is now revealed.

C To God be the glory forever! Amen.

Prayer

*Opening Hymn (Blue #2) *"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"*

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Worship from the Psalms *(from Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19)*

L Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

C You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth!

L Stir up your might and come to save us!

C Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

L O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

C You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

L You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

C Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

L But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

C Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

A Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Prayer of Confession

O Christ, we long for your return in power. Hasten that day when those who seek you in every nation will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit at the table in your kingdom. Hasten the day when your kingdom will come in all its glory, and suffering and pain and sickness and oppression and

death will be overcome forever. Hasten the day when we will be resurrected to live in peace, harmony, joy, and love together. Until that day, as we live in between this present evil and age and the world to come, forgive us for the ways we do not live out your hope, your peace, your joy and your love in our lives. Reshape us and redirect us into the image of your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Reflections

Assurance of Pardon (from Revelations 5:6-10)

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Special Music *"A Babe is Born in Bethlehem"*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture *Isaiah 7:10-17*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Special Music (Blue #309)

"Of The Father's Love Begotten"

Message

Bruce Brown

Prayer of Affirmation

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn (Blue #27)

"Gentle Mary Laid her Child"

*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'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 #44)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*Blessing and Benediction

Departing Music

***First Presbyterian
Church***

***303 West
Washington St.
Napoleon, OH
43545***

***Order For The
Worship Of God***

***December 21st, 2025
10:00 a.m.***

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



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, Lynn Yarnell, 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.



Our **Christmas Eve service** will be at 7:00 p.m. on December 24th. If you do not drive at night, please talk to Bruce or someone else in the church. We'd be glad take you to and from worship.

A great thank you to everyone who helped make the **Christmas Wednesday nights** at our church, Christ United Methodist Church and St. Paul United Methodist Church, through you planning and work and attendance.

The **Christmas Joy offering** is being taken today and on Christmas Eve. 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.

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 first piece of **special music** is "A Babe Is Born in Bethlehem" sung by the Beckenhorst Singers, written by Dan Forrest and Craig Courtney off the Beckenhorst Choral Music Christmas 2025 album, © 2025 Beckenhorst Press.

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)

