# CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

530 Tuscarawas Street West, Canton, Ohio 44702

*Mary: Keep Watch* (2015)
Kelly Latimore

from Art in the Christian Tradition,
a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

December 7, 2025

# The Order for Morning Worship

Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2025 Ten-Thirty O'Clock

**At these moments, we invite you to stand in body or spirit*

*Please silence all electronic devices prior to the service*

*Nursery is available in the Children's area on the lower level.*
*Children's church (age 3–kindergarten) is available after the Children's sermon.*

## Assemble in God's Name

**Voluntary** Variations on Puer Nobis Jean-François Dandrieu

**Welcome and Worship Notes**

**Call to Worship**

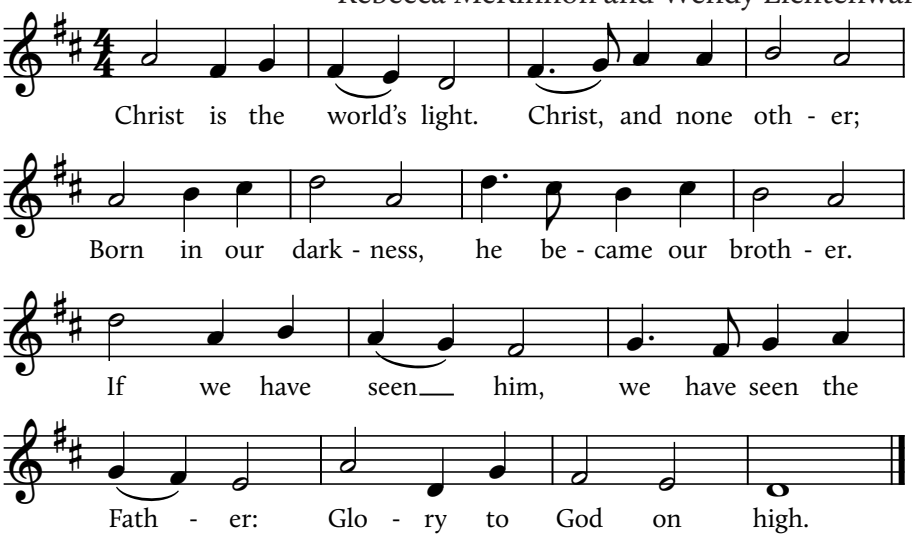
Leader: Christ, the One who was, and is, and is to come, welcomes you to this place.

**People: As one body, with one voice, we honor and glorify the giver of wisdom, counsel, knowledge, and joy.**

***Hymn** "On Jordan's Banks" Puer Nobis

*please see insert*

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Rebecca McKinnon and Wendy Lichtenwalter

***Prayer of the Day (*in unison*)**

**O Root of Jesse, O Peace, stir up your power within us,**
**that in this time we may await with abundant expectation**
**the fulfillment of your eternal presence in creation,**
**for you live and reign among us, Maker, Savior, and Giver of Life,**
**one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Call to Confession**

Let us lay before God and one another the distances between us,
the impatience, idolatries, and lack of compassion
that form our confessions this day.
For if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves.
Yet in mercy, God will forgive us and renew us.

**Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)**

**Gracious and welcoming God, have mercy on your people.**
**We confess that we do not believe in your incarnation.**
**We do not heed your word each day in all that we say and do.**
**We do not see our neighbors, families, and friends**
**as beloved children whom you have made.**
**In your mercy, forgive us, for we repent of our ways**
**and look to your power to heal us and raise us up.**

**Kyrie** Merbecke

*please see insert*

***Assurance of Pardon**

The reign of God has come near; the repentant will be judged with righteousness. You are forgiven.
Be filled with hope, believing in the power of the risen Christ to bring you to new life. Rejoice and believe.

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
**People: And also with you.**

***Response to the Assurance of Pardon** Wachet Auf

*please see insert*

## Listen for God's Word Read and Proclaimed

**Message for Children**

*Following the Children's sermon, children ages 3 through kindergarten are invited to follow the teachers out for Children's Church. Children first grade and older will return to their seats to sit with their families until the conclusion of worship. Nursery continues to be available starting at 9:00 AM until the conclusion of worship.*

Leader: Now let us bless each other.
**Adults: God be with you as you go.**
*Children: God be with you as you stay.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

Your word, Holy God, was written for our instruction.
By your Holy Spirit open our ears and fill us with the mysteries of your ancient love; through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen**.

**Hebrew Reading** *"A Ruler Brings Justice and Peace"* Isaiah 11:1–10
Leader: The Word of the Lord Pew Bible, p. 558
**People: Thanks be to God** Large Print Bible, p. 784

**Epistle Reading** *"Living in Harmony"* Romans 15:4–13
Leader: The Word of the Lord Pew Bible, p. 924
**People: Thanks be to God** Large Print Bible, p. 199

**Sermon** "A Tangible Hope" Rev. Benjamin George

## Our Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Nicene Creed,* p. 34

# The Great Thanksgiving

*The bread used for Holy Communion is free of nuts, gluten, dairy, and preservatives. For persons having difficulty handling the communion elements, a small cup containing both the gluten free bread and grape juice is offered by the communion servers.*

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

***Hymn 500** "Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread" St. Flavian

***The Great Thanksgiving**

Leader: The Lord be with you.
**People: And also with you.**
Leader: Lift up your hearts
**People: We lift them to the Lord.**
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: Holy are you, God of Jesse...
...with whom forever we sing your praise

***Sanctus** Picardy

*please see insert*

*(please be seated)*

Leader: Anointing God, your Spirit rested upon your Son...
..."Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Leader: Great is the mystery of faith.
**People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Leader: Astonishing God, your prophet Isaiah envisioned a day...
...Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
**People: Amen.**

**Music during Communion**

"Wachet Auf!" J.S. Bach

| | |
|---|---|
| Zion hört der Wächter singen, | *Zion hears the watchmen singing;* |
| Das Herz tut ihr vor Freuden springen, | *Her heart takes to leaping for joy;* |
| Sie wachet und steht eilend auf. | *She wakes and hurriedly stands up.* |
| Ihr Freund kommt vom Himmel prächtig, | *Her beloved comes from heaven: magnificent,* |
| Von Gnaden stark, von Wahrheit mächtig, | *Strong in grace, mighty in truth;* |
| Ihr Licht wird hell, ihr Stern geht auf. | *Her light becomes bright, her star rises.* |
| Nun komm, du werte Kron, | *Now come, you valuable crown,* |
| Herr Jesu, Gottes Sohn! Hosianna! | *Lord Jesus, God's Son! Hosanna!* |
| Wir folgen all zum Fruedensaal | *We all follow God's Son to the hall of joy* |
| Und halten mit das Abendmahl. | *And join in keeping the Lord's Supper.* |

Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599 J.S. Bach

Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes Sohn, BWV 611 J.S. Bach

**Prayers of the People *and* the Lord's Prayer**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** "The Feast of Wisdom" G. Britt Cooper

*dedicated to Dorothy Kandel on the occasion of her 100th birthday*

Wisdom has built her house so fair, carved seven pillars standing there,
She sets the table, welcomes all, and summons to the sacred call.
She sets the table, tends the door, and feeds our souls forevermore.
Come eat my bread and drink my wine,
leave foolish ways, your heart refine;
choose wisdom's voice, both loud and clear,
and let God's love be all you hear.
Wisdom proclaims from palace high to troubled people passing by,
"Let all in darkness come this way, and learn to live in Light today."
Come eat my bread and drink my wine,
leave foolish ways, your heart refine;
Walk in the path where life is found
and let His truth your steps surround.
Long days to fly with Wisdom's wings,
long years to serve the King of Kings,
long lives of purpose, truth, and love,
all granted by our God above!

***Doxology: Hymn 102, vs. 4** Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, Virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally.

***Prayer of Dedication (*in unison*)**

**We give you thanks, Holy One, for all good things:**
**for this universe and for Earth itself,**
**for creatures and plants, for water and food, for light and darkness;**
**for Jesus, our brother, who enlarged our vision,**
**setting himself before us as the bread and wine of abundant life;**
**and for the Holy Spirit, who comes to us in baptism**
**and moves in our midst with the power to lead us to you.**
**Turn our offerings to your good will,**
**and turn us always to you in gratitude. Amen.**

## Re-entry into the World to Serve the Lord

**Being Christ's Church—Living Our Faith**

***Hymn 106** "Prepare the Way" Bereden Väg för Herran

***Benediction**
**Response** "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper" Jefferson

**Voluntary** Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661 J.S. Bach

The Cathedral Hour this morning is made possible through generous donations from members and friends of Christ Presbyterian Church.

The chancel flowers are given in honor
of the anniversary of Paul and Barb Batchelder

# Activities for the Week of December 7, 2025

**Sunday, December 7, 2025**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:30 AM | Worship Service (Chapel) |
| 9:00 AM | Children and Youth Music Rehearsal (Various) |
| 9:15 AM | Sunday School (Various) |
| 9:30 AM | Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) |
| 10:30 AM | Worship Service (Sanctuary) |
| 11:45 AM | Breakfast in Bethlehem (Westminster Hall) |
| 4:00 PM | Concert Series: Vivaldi *Gloria* Singalong (Sanctuary) |

**Monday**

| | |
|---|---|
| 10:00 AM | Staff Meeting (Parlor) |
| 6:00 PM | Open Table Small Group (Pine Room) |
| 6:30 PM | G.I.F.T.S. Small Group (Offsite) |

**Tuesday**

| | |
|---|---|
| 9:30 AM | Pastors' Bible Study (Parlor) |
| 11:15 AM | Handbell Rehearsal (Sanctuary) |
| 4:00 PM | Property Meeting (Parlor) |
| 6:00 PM | Personnel Meeting (Parlor) |
| 8:00 PM | Young Adult Cluster (Offsite) |

**Wednesday**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:00 AM | Men's Bible Study (Online) |
| 8:00 AM | Food, Clothing, and Prayer Ministry |
| 3:30 PM | Worship Ministry Meeting (Parlor) |
| 6:30 PM | Stephen Ministry Meeting (Parlor) |

**Thursday**

| | |
|---|---|
| 9:30 AM | Women's Bible Study (Parlor) |
| 7:15 PM | Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) |

**Saturday**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:00 AM | Food Ministry Breakfast (Westminster Hall) |

**Sunday, December 14, 2025**

| | |
|---|---|
| 9:00 AM | Children and Youth Music Rehearsal (Various) |
| 9:15 AM | Sunday School (Various) |
| 10:30 AM | Combined Worship Service (Sanctuary) |
| 11:45 AM | Youth Group Fellowship Time |


**Christ Presbyterian Church**

Ministers: The People of Christ Church
Co-Pastors: Rev. Michael Wallace & Rev. Benjamin George
Director of Music & Organist: Heather Cooper
Director of Chancel Choir: Dr. Britt Cooper
Director of Children's and Family Ministries: Hannah Miller
Director of Youth Ministry: Bonnie Wiggins
Director of Camp Wakonda: Zack White
Business Administrator/Assistant Treasurer: Diane Nave
Music Associate & Managing Editor: Dr. Sarah PC
Head Custodian: Kurt A. Gottschick
Custodian: Chuck Troescher

**Elders**
Jennifer Anderson
Charles Ash
Becky Banfield
Elisa Case
David Hudson
Brian Leggett
Richard Milligan
Adam Wiggins
Kristi Wood

**Deacons**
Geoffrey Darling
Becky Fort
Charity Gingerich
Debbie Jacob
Gail & Eric Mueller
Lorraine Murphy
Michael Ophardt
Pam Ray
Ava Skolnik
Judy Smith
Aaron Speakman



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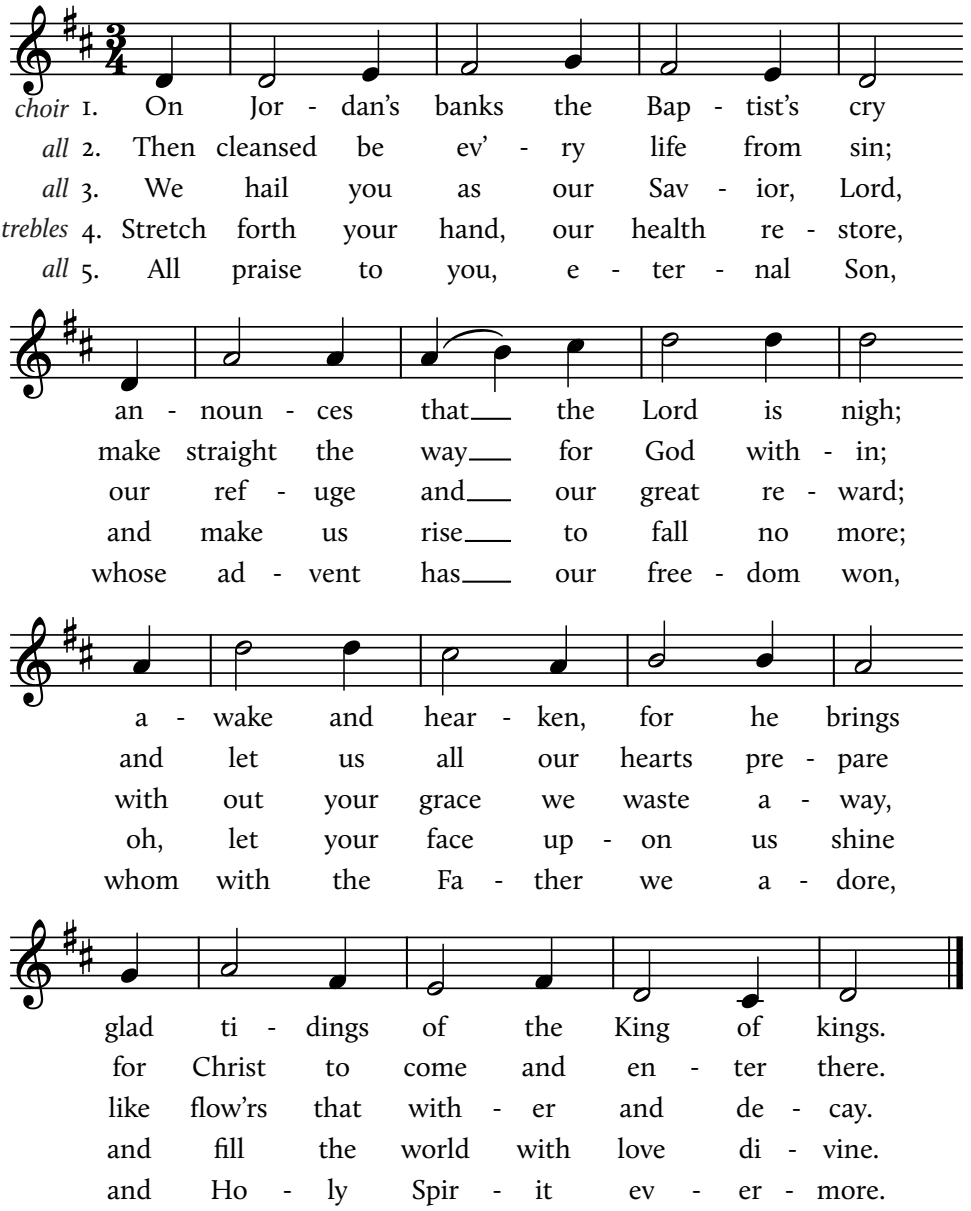
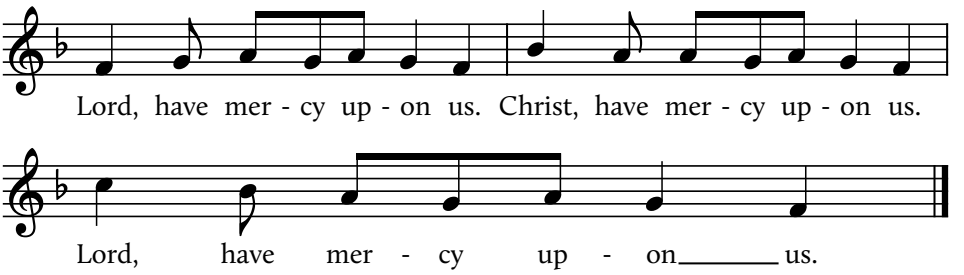
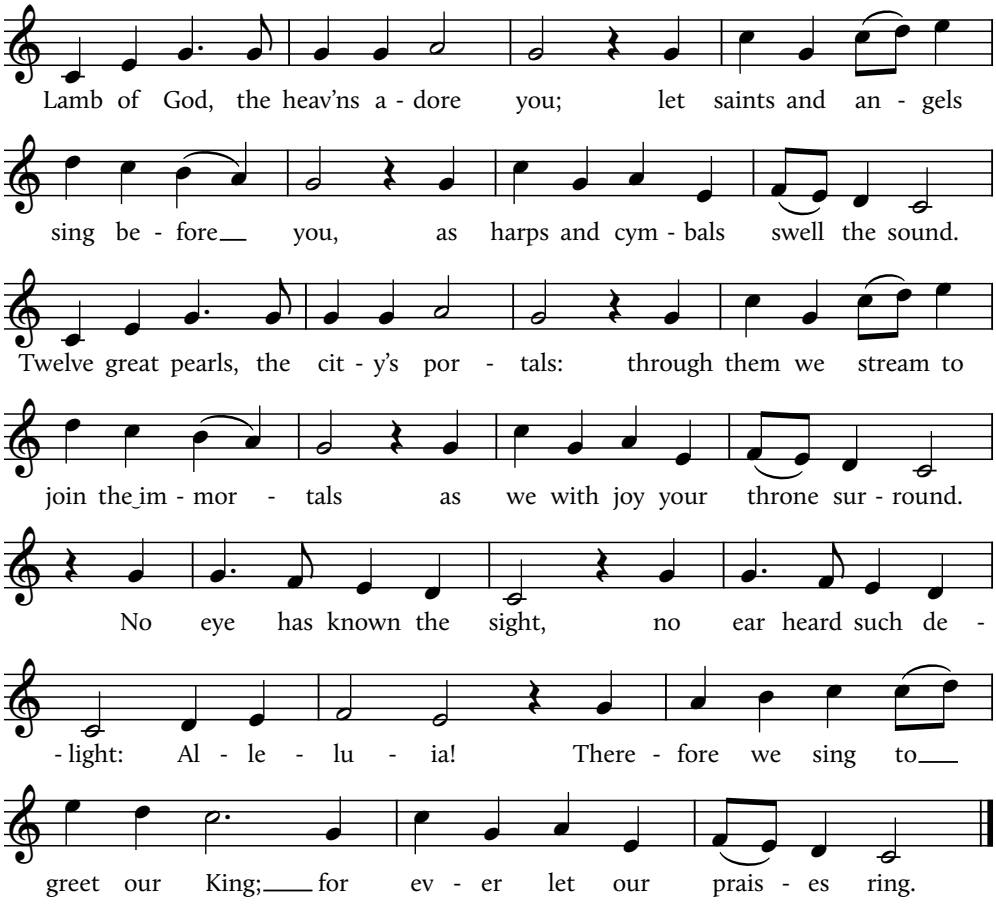
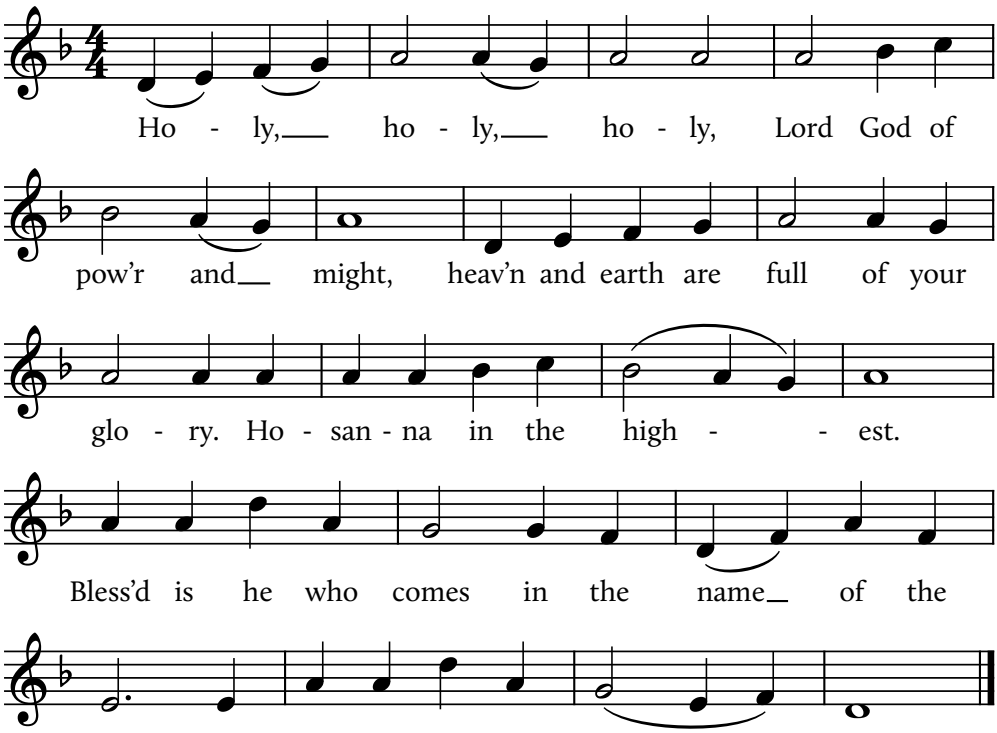
Prayers adapted from *Feasting on the Word* and *The Book of Common Worship*

***Hymn** "On Jordan's Banks" PUER NOBIS




**Kyrie** Merbecke



***Response to the Assurance of Pardon** WACHET AUF

***Sanctus** PICARDY