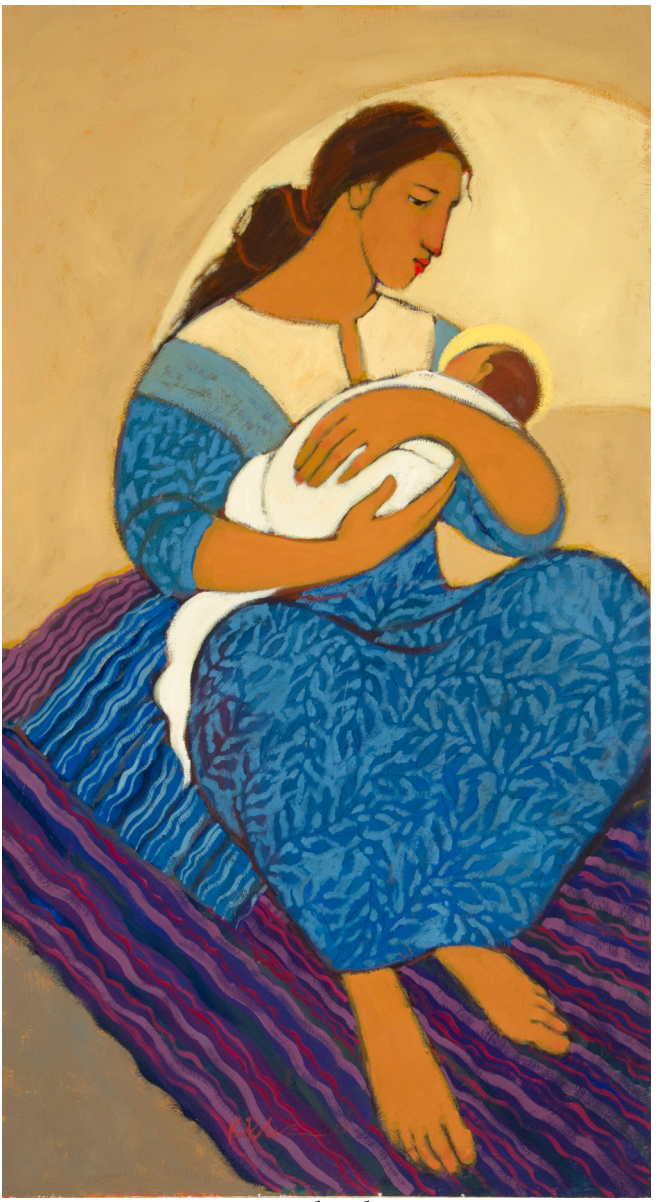
CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

530 Tuscarawas Street West, Canton, Ohio 44702



Mary and Baby Jesus
Kathleen Peterson
from Art in the Christian Tradition,
a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

December 21, 2025

The Order for Morning Worship

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21, 2025 — Ten-Thirty in the Morning

**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–fifth grade) is available after the Children's sermon.

Assemble in God's Name

Voluntary "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Lee Afdahl
Christ Church Ringers

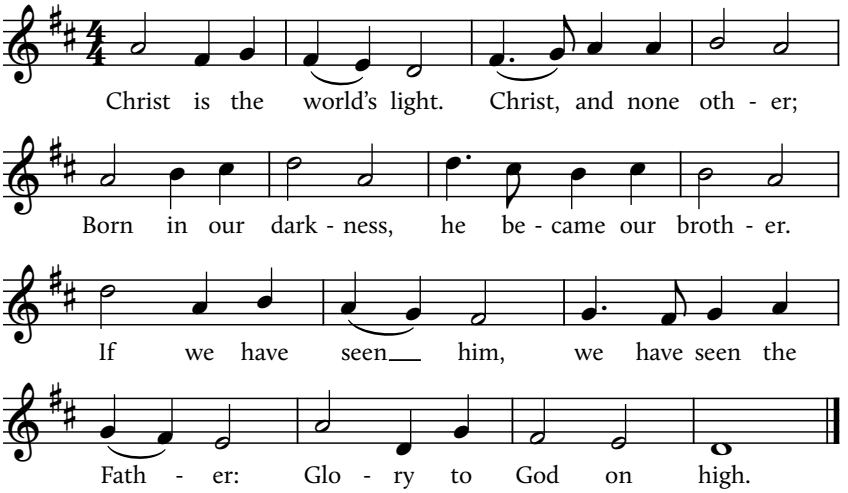
Welcome and Worship Notes

Call to Worship

Leader: God-with-us, Immanuel, comes to give us
our own Holy Family, here with the body of Christ this day.
People: Rejoice and be glad! Amen!

***Hymn 105** "People, Look East" Besançon

Lighting of the Advent Wreath



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

Eternal God of power and grace, who comes to us in surprising ways—in angel appearances, in defeat of enemies, and in resurrection from the dead—show us the face of Immanuel in our time.
Bring us from fear to awe, we pray; in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Call to Confession

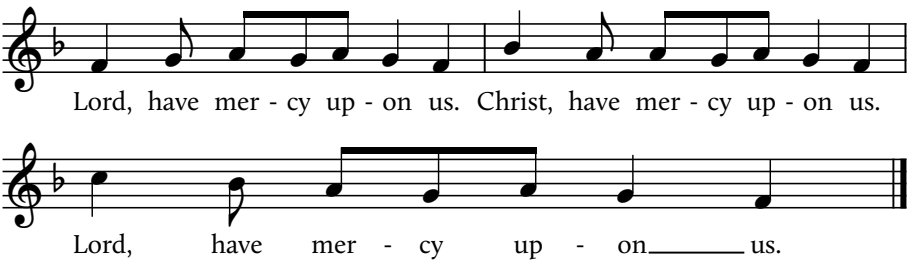
Assured that God hears our repentance, let us turn our minds to the truth, confessing our sins to God and one another.

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made, taking from Earth what we cannot give back. (*prayer continues on next page*)

We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives.
Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life.
In your compassion, turn us to your way.
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Kyrie Merbecke

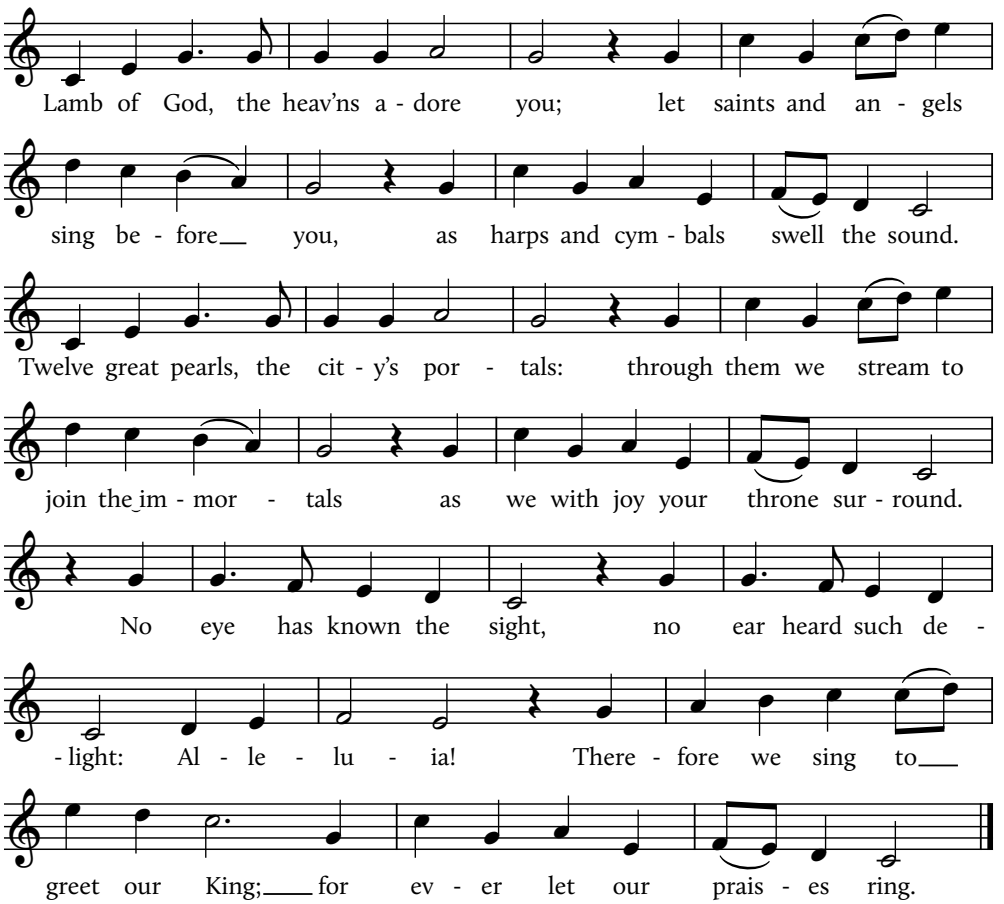


***Assurance of Pardon**

You are called to belong to Jesus Christ.
For the sake of the One God promised to send, named as God's Son,
who died, was raised, and through whom we receive grace,
God forgives you all your sins.
You are God's beloved, called to be saints. Grace to you and peace.

***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

Listen for God's Word Read and Proclaimed

Message for Children

Following the Children's sermon, children ages 3 through fifth grade are invited to follow the teachers out for Children's Church. 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 *"Isaiah Gives the Sign of Immanuel"* Isaiah 7:10–17
Leader: The Word of the Lord Pew Bible, p. 554
People: **Thanks be to God** Large Print Bible, p. 779

Epistle Reading *"Salutation"* Romans 1:1–7
Leader: The Word of the Lord Pew Bible, pp. 913–14
People: **Thanks be to God** Large Print Bible, p. 184

***Hymn 92** "While We Are Waiting, Come" WAITING (Cason)

Gospel Reading *"The Birth of Jesus the Messiah"* Matthew 1:18–25
Leader: The Gospel of the Lord Pew Bible, p. 783
People: **Thanks be to God** Large Print Bible, pp. 1–2

Sermon "Who Is Your Lord?" Rev. Benjamin George

Our Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed,* p. 35

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

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem "Ave Maria" Anton Bruckner

Ave Maria, gratia plena	*Hail, Mary, full of grace*
Dominus tecum.	*The Lord is with you.*
Benedicta tu in mulieribus et	*Blessed are you among women and*
benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus	*blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus*
Sancta Maria, mater Dei,	*Holy Mary, mother of God,*
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,	*pray for us sinners,*
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.	*now and at the hour of our death.*
Amen.	*Amen.*

***Doxology: Hymn 108, vs. 6** DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

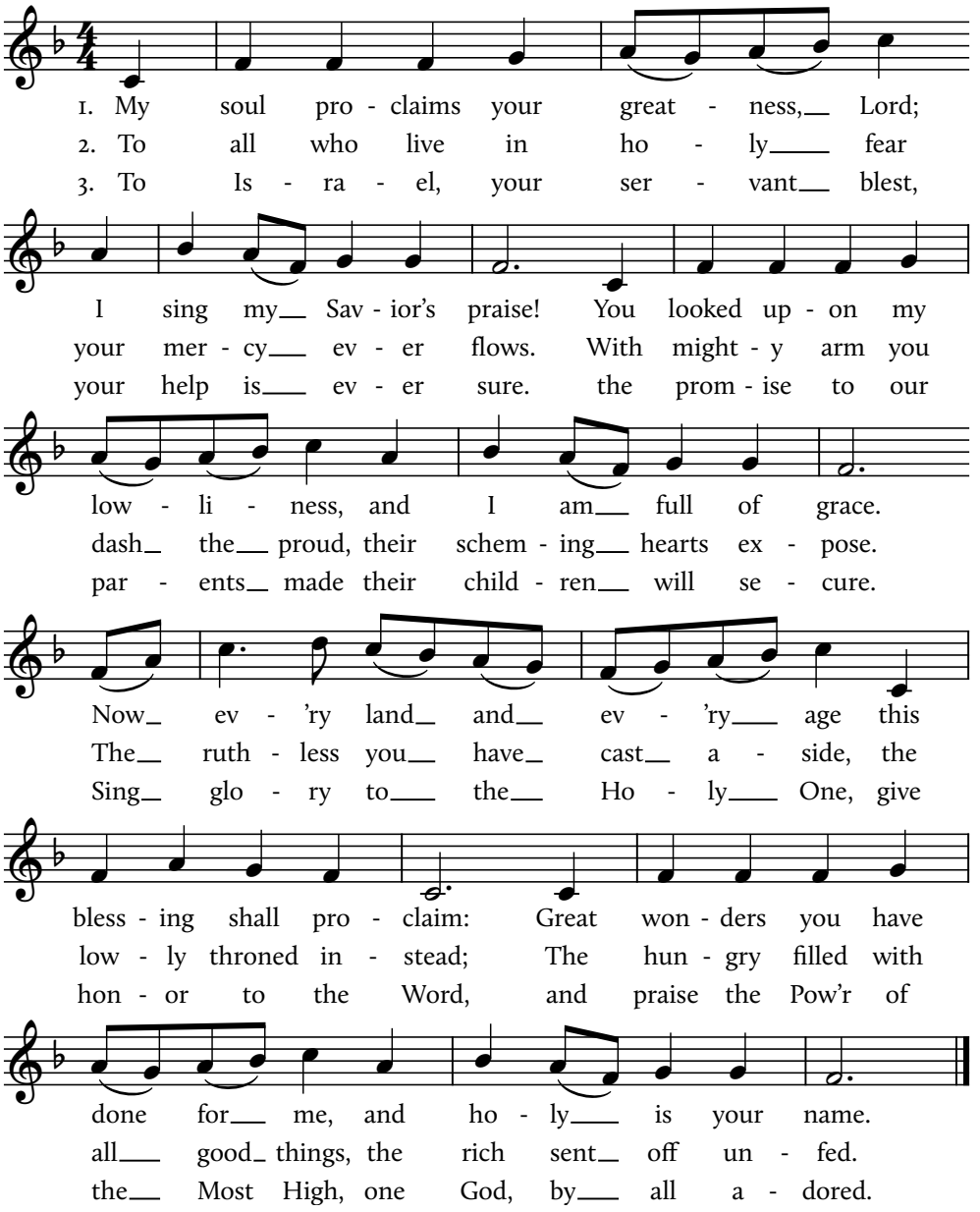
Christ, to thee with God the Father, and O Holy Ghost, to thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore!

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

Holy God, you bless us with many gifts, you retrieve us from despair and fear, you visit us with surprising proclamations, and you intend for us good things. We thank you for your steadfast love, for sending signs of assurance, and for the gift of faith. Use our gifts to bring comfort and justice to those in need, reforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life. Amen.

Re-entry into the World to Serve the Lord

Being Christ's Church—Living Our Faith

***Hymn** "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" Forest Green

***Benediction**

Response "No Wind at the Window" John Bell

Voluntary "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" arr. Lloyd Larson

Christ Church Ringers

Activities for the Week of December 21, 2025

Sunday, December 21, 2025

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	Caroling

Monday

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting (Parlor)
6:30 PM	G.I.F.T.S. Small Group (Offsite)

Wednesday ✠ Christmas Eve • Church Office Closed

8:00 AM	Men's Bible Study (Online)
3:00 PM	Christmas Eve Family Service (Sanctuary)
8:30 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)

Thursday ✠ Christmas • Church Closed

Sunday, December 28, 2025

10:30 AM	Community Worship Service (Sanctuary)
11:45 AM	Community Fellowship (Westminster Hall)

The Cathedral Hour this morning is given in memory of my husband, Jon, by Barb Gheen.

The chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Leland Weir by Janet Creighton

Christ Presbyterian Church

Ministers: The People of Christ Church
Co-Pastors: Rev. Benjamin George & Rev. Michael Wallace
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
Financial Administrator/Assistant Treasurer: Diane Nave
Business Administrator: Carl Brand
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*