



First Presbyterian Church of Defiance

December 24, 2023 – 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve

501 Washington Avenue, Defiance, OH 43512

419-782-2781

www.1presby.com

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DEFIANCE.

***As you enter this holy space, please enter with reverence,
respecting those who are preparing for worship.***

GATHER

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

L: How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, spread joy,
or know love?

P: How does a weary world combat cruelty?

L: How does a weary world shine a light into our bleakest night? We do
all these things with God's help.

P: For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem. Tonight, Christ draws near.

L: Tonight, we light the Christ Candle. Tonight, we know we are not
alone.

**P: God is near. Love has drawn close. Rejoice! For God loves this weary
world.**

L: The angels are singing,

P: "Be not afraid."

L: The angels are singing,

P: "Good news and great joy!"

L: So come in, come in!

P: There is room for us here.

***HYMN 133**

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

OPENING PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC

HOLY CHILD MEDLEY

arr. John Rutter, soloist Charlie Bates

HEAR

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 2: 1-20

HOMILY

THE WEARY WORLD MAKES ROOM AND REJOICES

RESPOND

HYMN 121

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING NOTE – The offering is received at the doors.

If you wish to make a special offering to Christmas Joy Gift, please use the envelopes in the pews. If you wish to make an offering for the Deacons' Pay Down School Lunch bills, please note that on a check or envelope. All other offerings are received for the work of the church.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF DEDICATION 145

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

***SHARING THE LIGHT**

We have lit candles to inspire in us hope, peace, joy and love. We light candles and pray prayers, hoping to embrace the answers to the question "How does a weary world rejoice?" Tonight as you light your candle, offer your own weariness to God and receive Christ's peace, open your eyes to hope, sense the love of God around you and find your way to rejoice in song- Christ our Savior is born!

Leave the lit candles upright- tip the unlit candle to receive light.

SCATTER TO SERVE

***HYMN 122**

SILENT NIGHT

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Family of faith, as you leave this time, you go into a weary world- so speak tenderly. Do the good that is yours to do choose connection. Hold onto hope. And remember that Christ took on flesh for you. You are God's beloved. So go rejoicing. The world needs it.

POSTLUDE

As the lights come up, stay as long as you wish to visit and wish Merry Christmas to one another!

**Please stand as you are able.*