



First Presbyterian Church of Defiance
December 24, 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
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.***

PRELUDE – *pick up some goodies quietly*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

"I will light candles this Christmas.
Candles of joy, despite all the sadness.
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.
Candles of courage where fear is ever present.
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days.
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.
Candles of love to inspire all of my living.
Candles that will burn all the yearlong. " (Howard Thurman)

HYMN 110

LOVE HAS COME

READING

LUKE 1:67-80 THE BENEDICTUS

HYMN 109

BLEST BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL

READING

LUKE 1: 46-55 THE MAGNIFICAT

HYMN 100

CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

COMMENTS ON THE CANTICLES AND THEIR PROMISES

HYMN 134

JOY TO THE WORLD, STANZAS 1, 4

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 128

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

OFFERING NOTE

Thank you for your gifts and tithes to the church. You may want to participate in our special offerings for Christmas Joy Gift or the Deacons' project to pay down school lunch bills in the county schools.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HOWARD THURMAN POEM

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are
home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among the people,
 To make music in the heart.*

HYMN 136

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

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.

Food and Fellowship continue. Merry Christmas to all! Join us tonight at 7 pm for our traditional Christmas Eve Service.

Cover art photo by Daniel Sessler, unsplash.com