



Fourth Sunday of

*Advent*

## Worship Team

Rev. Dr. Matt Reeves  
Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Tom Rice  
Pastor for Discipleship

Rev. Betsy Rice  
Pastor for Member  
Ministries

Russell Nagy  
Director of Music  
Ministries

Nicholas Robison  
Director for Youth  
Ministries

Annie Barner  
Int. Director for  
Children's Ministries

Kim Anderson  
Organist

*Visit our website for a  
complete list of WPC staff.*

## Sanctuary Flowers

*We enjoy the festive  
Christmas poinsettias that  
grace our chancel  
and sanctuary. The  
dedications will be listed  
in the Christmas Eve  
bulletin.*

## Serving Us Today

- Ushers: Gregg Russell & Dan Foley, captains
- Video: Bill Yost
- Carillon: Laura Schlader

## Contact Us

Mon - Thurs: 8am-4pm;  
Fri: 8am-2pm

**wpcnow.org**  
614.885.5355

*In Christ's love, we...*

**CONNECT > SERVE > TRANSFORM**

## Welcome

Welcome to Worthington Presbyterian Church. This congregation has worshiped together in the Worthington community since 1805. We welcome all who seek faith, hope, and joy.

Visiting for the first time today? You're invited to stay after the service. Join us downstairs in Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.

## Children & Youth

Children are invited to join Sunday School following a brief children's message. Nursery care begins at 9:45AM in the Nursery located outside Fellowship Hall. You can pick your child up in the following rooms after the service.

- *Pre-K:* Room 113
- *K-2:* Room 112
- *3-5:* Room 111

There is no Youth Sunday School or Confirmation today.

## Accessibility

Accessible features of the building include:

- Handicap parking near east and west entrances
- Wheelchair ramp at the main entrance
- Elevator access
- Multiple accessible restrooms
- T-coil hearing capabilities for those with compatible hearing aids
- Listening devices for the hearing impaired available

*If you would like a large print bulletin and/or a hearing device, please see an usher.*



## Prayer Requests

Please write prayer requests on the pew prayer cards and place them in the offering plate.

*The cover artwork is provided by Sophia Fouts, Leighton Syron, Amy Lane and Joseph Clinger. Last week's artwork was provided by Trevor Nembuanyi, Charlie Fleming, Garrett Claybon and Joshua Evans.*

**Worthington Presbyterian Church**  
**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**December 21, 2025**

**10:00 AM**

**GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

*\*Please stand*

**WELCOME**

Rev. Dr. Tom Rice

Invitation to Mission & Discipleship (*Please sign & pass the Friendship Pads*)

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

*Please stand and greet one another in the Peace of Christ.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP  
IN MUSIC**

“While Shepherds Watched  
Their Flocks”

Mary Beth Williams

Kim Anderson, organist

*The music is a call to open one's spirit to God's presence in our midst.*

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

The Holcomb Family

The Fourth Candle: Love (*Isaiah 7:10-17; Psalm 80*)

*(When you hear: “People of God,”*

*Please respond: “**Live in the love of the Lord.**”)*

**\*HYMN #137**

“He Came Down”

*He came down that we may have love;*

*he came down that we may have love;*

*he came down that we may have love;*

*hallelujah forevermore.*

**\*HYMN #93**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*in unison*)

Loving God, thank you for your grace.

You have called us to walk with you, but we have not followed.

Forgive us when we ignore you and each other.

Have mercy on us and show us your way

so that we can learn to do your will.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*(Silent confession)*

\*Advent Congregational Response (#121, v. 4, "O Little Town of Bethlehem")  
*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Advent Gloria (Refrain from #113, "Angels We Have Heard on High")  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

### MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

Pastor Betsy

*Children will attend Sunday School after the message. See inside cover for details.*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shine Robison

#### 1<sup>st</sup> SCRIPTURE READING      Psalm 130:5-8

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;  
my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!  
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem.  
It is he who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### ANTHEM

"Before The Marvel of This Night"

Carl Schalk

The Chancel Choir - Russell Nagy, Director

Before the marvel of this night adoring, fold your wings and bow,  
then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.  
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and sorrow cease:  
Sing, peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made.  
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.  
Give earth a glimpse of heav'nly bliss a teasing taste of what they miss:  
Sing, bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,  
now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:  
Sing, love, sing love, sing God is love!

## **2<sup>ND</sup> SCRIPTURE READING**

John 1:1-18

Rev. Dr. Matt Reeves

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

"Becoming Flesh"

Pastor Matt

## **\*HYMN #146**

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Betsy Rice

Sharing of Prayer Requests and Blessings

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

**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.**

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS



CHRISTMAS JOY  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Offertory

"Christmas Brings Joy to Every Heart"

Gilbert M. Martin

**\*ADVENT DOXOLOGY** (*Hymn #144, v. 4*)

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

**\*DEDICATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS**

Scan the QR code or visiting [bit.ly/engagewpc](http://bit.ly/engagewpc)



## GOING IN GOD'S NAME

**\*HYMN #136**

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Pastor Matt

**POSTLUDE**

"Christmas Joy"

Gilbert M. Martin

*Please remain seated during the postlude as it is the final "Amen" to our worship.  
Those who need to leave early are free to do so quietly.*

Please join us downstairs in Fellowship Hall!

## TODAY

The **Christmas Joy Offering** is received in worship today. Offering envelopes are in the pew racks. Please make checks payable to WPC with "Christmas Joy Offering" in the memo. Thank you!

**NNEMAP Breakdown** - Join us at 11AM in Fellowship Hall as we sort supplies for NNEMAP. Donations of sugar, coffee, salt, diapers, and dog/cat food are welcome. Place items in the wooden NNEMAP bin. All ages are invited to help!

**Alternative Christmas** continues in Fellowship Hall today. Support meaningful mission partners as you shop, including Buckeye Military Moms, Romania/Ukraine, Costa Rica Outreach, Salem Elementary, Kindway, and Worthington Resource Center. Questions? Contact Jessica Holcomb [jessica.s.holcomb@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.s.holcomb@gmail.com).

## LOOKING AHEAD

### **Christmas Eve Services (Dec. 24):**

3:00 PM Family Service

6:00 PM Candlelight

9:00 PM Candlelight

*(Nursery available at 3PM & 6PM).*

**Holiday Office Hours** - The church office closes at noon on December 24 and reopens Monday, December 29 at 8AM. The office will also close at noon on December 31 and reopen January 2.

**Winter Weather Closures** - If services are canceled due to weather, updates will be shared on [wpcnow.org](http://wpcnow.org), and our social media, and local news. The parking lot will be plowed for snowfall over two inches.

**Staff Appreciation Gift** - The Personnel Committee invites contributions to the annual Staff Appreciation Gift (pastors excluded). Give by December 31 via check

to WPC (memo: "Staff Appreciation") or through Engage.

**Christmas Lights Van Trip | Dec. 29** - Join us for a van trip to Butch Bando's Fantasy of Lights, 6 - 8PM. \$5 suggested donation. RSVP required. Scan the code below or contact Pastor Betsy.

**Youth Envelope Fundraiser** - Support our youth mission trip to Ghost Ranch and the Youth Scholarship Fund by selecting a numbered envelope (1-100) in Fellowship Hall. Our fundraiser ends today. Thank you for your support.

The Personnel Committee invites you to contribute to the annual **Staff Appreciation Gift** (pastors excluded at their request). Contributions of any amount are welcome and will be shared equally among staff. Please make checks payable to WPC with "Staff Appreciation" in the memo, or give via Engage by December 31.

## UPCOMING CLASSES

*Sundays at 9AM in Room 222 & Zoom*

**Dec. 28 - No class**

**Jan. 4 - The Bible in One Hand, the Newspaper** in the Other. Join the conversation as we explore current headlines through the lens of faith.

**Jan. 11 - The Anxious Generation:** NYT bestselling author Jonathan Haidt examines how the shift from play-based to phone-based childhood has affected kids, and what parents, teachers, and churches can do. All are welcome. Please RSVP via the QR code or link in the latest church email, so we can plan. Childcare provided!



Scan code or visit  
[wpcnow.org/links](http://wpcnow.org/links)

## Merry Alternative Christmas 2025 Order Form

Help spread Christ's love across the country and around the world at Christmas time. Please join us in Fellowship Hall after the service to learn about the wonderful projects you can help locally and around the world, with the ability to make your donation in honor of someone special in your life.

Please use the order form below to complete your purchases. Order forms, with checks payable to Worthington Presbyterian Church (Alternative Christmas in the memo), may be dropped off at the church office prior to December 24 or in Fellowship Hall today. All gifts are 100% tax deductible.

ORGANIZATION	TOTAL AMOUNT
<b>Worthington Resource Center</b> (Local) Serving financially stressed families in six zip codes, the Resource Center provides food and personal care items to our neighbors in need. Because the grant money WRC receives can only be used for food, DIAPERS are always in short supply. Consider one or more of these gifts: 192 size 1-2 Infant diapers for \$35; 168 size 3-4 Toddler Diapers for \$45; 900 Baby Wipes for \$20	
<b>Romania/Ukraine</b> (International) Ukrainians who have fled to Romanian borders are being fed and housed, under the direction of Pastor Florin, friend of the Posey's. Ukrainian soldiers fighting across the border are also being fed by these Romanian Christians. Feed a Ukrainian family for \$50; Feed a Ukrainian soldier for \$25.	
<b>Salem Elementary</b> (Local) Help supply Spring Break food for food-insecure children at Salem Elementary School plus other school related needs. One backpack of food for a student in need = \$30.	
<b>Buckeye Military Moms</b> (Local and National) Buckeye Military Moms is the local chapter of Blue Star Mothers. Our children are veterans or active duty serving in all branches of the military. Our chapter provides soldier boxes to deployed troops, provides scholarships, and supports VA activities and many other military causes. All of our efforts are grass roots designed to promote support and thanks to our military and their families. Fill a box for a soldier- \$35; Mail a box to a soldier- \$15; Support a scholarship for a soldier- \$100	
<b>Kindware Jewelry</b> (Local) - A collection of hand-crafted one-of-a-kind pieces made by the incarcerated men and women at The Ohio Reformatory for Women at Marysville, Ohio and the Marion Correctional Institution at Marion, Ohio. Proceeds from these items provide resources to support our men and women of Kindway's Embark Program on their journey from incarceration to independence.	
<b>Costa Rica Ministry</b> (International) - Our Presbytery support Jen Bent and Mark Hark (from central Ohio) on a ministry in Costa Rica. Their Christian work in Costa Rica focuses on environmental sustainability and farming.	
<b>GRAND TOTAL FOR ALL GIFTS</b>	
	\$

**DONOR NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Worthington Presbyterian Church with "Alternative Christmas" in the memo line. Return to the church office by December 24. Thank you for your gift!

**Note:** You can also complete your purchases online. Scan the QR code. We ask you to please cover the transaction fee to ensure the full value of your purchase is made available to each organization.

