

December 28, 2025

# 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS



**WORTHINGTON**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*In Christ's love, we connect, serve, and transform*

## 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

*The flowers on the  
chancel are given to the  
glory of God by Rose  
Berendt in memory of  
John & Garnet Ashburn  
and Joe & Mary Jo Berendt*

## Serving Us Today

- Ushers: Team B - Bob Freed & Jordan Quickel, 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 and Youth

We invite all of our young learners from kindergarten through 8th grade to participate in worship with their families. Worship bags are available for younger children. These are at both entrances of the Sanctuary

## 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. You can also share joys, concerns and sorrows with Pastor Betsy at **brice@wpcnow.org**.

**Worthington Presbyterian Church**  
**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**December 28, 2025**

**10:00 AM**

## **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

*\*Please stand*

### **WELCOME**

Rev. Betsy 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**

"March of the Wise Men"  
Kim Anderson, organist

George Blake

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

### **OPENING SENTENCES (*from Psalm 148*)**

One: Praise God in the heights! Praise God, all angels! People of God,

**All: Praise the Lord!**

One: Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, shining stars! Praise God, the highest skies; praise God, the waters below! People of God,

**All: Praise the Lord!**

One: Mountains and hills, fruit trees and evergreen! Wild animals and farm animals, bugs and birds! People of God,

**All: Praise the Lord!**

Kings and queens, rulers and leaders, all people of the earth, all ages and sizes, quiet and loud together. People of God,

**All: Praise the Lord!**

Let all praise the name of the Lord, for God alone is our guide. God has protected God's people. People of God,

**All: Praise the Lord!**

**\* HYMN #140**

"Once in Royal David's City"

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

Loving God, thank you for coming to be with us. You suffered and felt all the feelings we do. We are sorry for things that we think and say and do that make you sad. Forgive us. Show us your way. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*(Silent confession)*

**\* 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**

**\* 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**

Nicholas Robison

*Nursery Care, Sunday School, and Confirmation are on recess today.*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Joshua Bodnar

**1<sup>st</sup> SCRIPTURE READING**      Psalm 32:1-5

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silent, my body wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Becker / Jewell Family Singers

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

John 1:19 - 34

Rev. Dr. Tom Rice

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, **"Who are you?"** He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, **"What then? Are you Elijah?"** He said, "I am not." **"Are you the prophet?"** He answered, "No." Then they said to him, **"Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"** He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,' "

as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, **"Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"** John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

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

## SERMON

"Recognizing Christmas"

Pastor Tom

## \*HYMN #96

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Nicholas Robison

Sharing of Prayer Requests and Blessings

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**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

Offertory

"Song of Mary"

Robert Howell

### \*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

*You can give online by scanning the QR code or visiting [bit.ly/engagewpc](https://bit.ly/engagewpc)*



## GOING IN GOD'S NAME

### \* HYMN #132

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor Tom

### POSTLUDE

Noel in G

Louis-Claude Daquin

*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.*

Join us downstairs in Fellowship Hall  
for coffee and fellowship after the service.

## TODAY

**Sunday School, Adult Education, Confirmation, and Nursery Care** are on recess today. **Worship Bags for Children** are available at each entrance of the sanctuary.

Reminder - All contributions for your **2025 Pledge** must be postmarked by Dec. 31. If you wish to drop off your contributions in person, the church office will be open Dec. 29, Dec. 30, and Dec. 31 (until noon). You can also place your contributions in the church offering today; be sure to place "2025 pledge" in the memo line of your check. Or you can give online via Engage.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Church Office** will close at noon on Wednesday Dec. 31 and will reopen Friday Jan. 2, 2026.

**Adult Education** returns Sunday, Jan. 4 with "The Bible in One Hand, the Newspaper in the Other" in Room 222 and Zoom. Our discussion comes to life with lessons taken from current event headlines.

**New Class for Everyone: 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. Childcare will be provided! Books are available in the church office or via Amazon. *Sundays at 9AM from January 11 – February 15. See more info on the back page.*

**Youth Group** will return from Christmas Break on Jan. 11. We meet every other Sunday from 5 - 7PM.

**Chancel Flower Donations** - Honor a loved one or special occasion by donating chancel flowers. The cost is \$100, and arrangements are delivered to members unable to attend worship. To reserve a date, contact **flowers@wpcnow.org** or scan the QR code below. Available dates: **January 11 and January 18.**

**Staff Christmas Gifts** - The Personnel Committee invites contributions toward Christmas bonuses for staff (pastors excluded). Any amount is appreciated. Please make checks payable to **WPC**, noting "Staff Christmas" in the memo line, and submit via the offering plate or church office. You may also give online using the QR code provided.

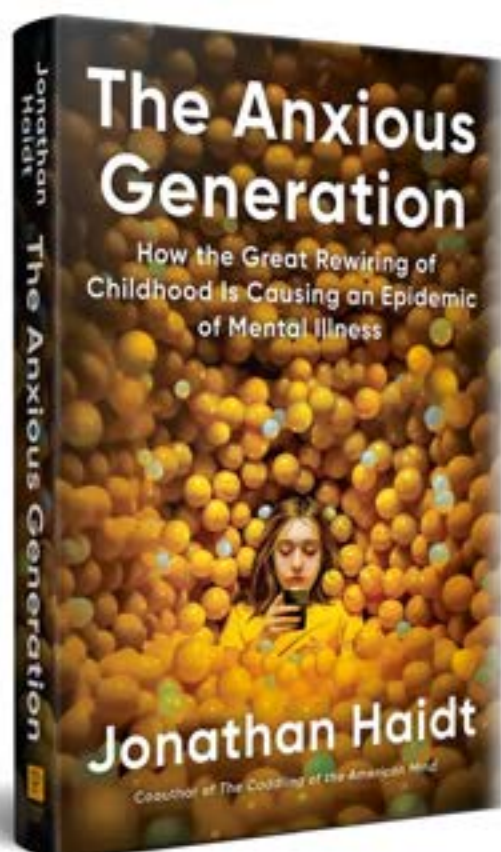
**Priority Preschool Registration** begins Jan. 5 and is given to current families with children in the school, as well as to WPC members. Contact Preschool Director Carrie Houk at **614-885-3765** or **wpps@wpcnow.org** with have questions.

**Winter Weather Reminder** - We're aligned with Franklin County's weather emergency levels 1, 2, and 3. We will communicate any changes or cancellations to church services or events promptly to WBNS-10TV and NBC, our website and social media. Please note that our parking lot only gets plowed when snowfall surpasses 2 inches.

Scan this code if you are trying to find a sign up form.



# New Class Series 'The Anxious Generation' Begins January 11



Based on the acclaimed book by Jonathan Haidt



**Sundays at 9AM**



**Room 222 or Chapel**  
(depending on class size)



**Childcare Provided**

This class is open to the entire congregation, preschool families, Scout families, friends, and all who wants to take part in an important and timely conversation! All are welcome!

**Please RSVP!**  
[bit.ly/anxiousgen2026](https://bit.ly/anxiousgen2026)

