

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

Friends in Christ, Serving Together with Love

January 7, 2024

Epiphany of the Lord, January 7

PIECING TOGETHER CHRISTMAS

The Light is Among Us



Hearing assistance available: FM receivers & earpieces are stored near the AV room. See sound technician with questions.

Coffee House Worship: in education wing foyer. Enjoy a more casual environment while worship is livestreamed from the sanctuary.

GATHERING MUSIC

Rise Up, O Saints of God!
FESTAL SONG

Setting by Theodore Beck

PRELUDE

Manger Medley:

Away in a Manger
CRADLE SONG

William James Kirkpatrick

Silent Night, Holy Night!
STILLE NACHT

Franz Gruber

Gail Carter, saxophone / Ed Carter, piano

WELCOME**CALL TO WORSHIP** *Isaiah 60, Matthew 2*

One: Christ's light is shining,

All: calling us to respond with joy.

One: Christ's light is shining,

All: calling us to worship and praise.**OPENING PRAYER** *Isaiah 60, Psalm 72*

All: God of glory and grace, shine upon our worship with your presence. Shine in our hearts with your love. Shine in our lives with your grace, that we may arise with the confidence and go forth to bring your justice and love to all. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

We Three Kings of Orient Are
KINGS OF ORIENT

No. 151

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Joshua Bowyer

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Isaiah 60, Ephesians 3, Matthew 5*

Let us take a moment for personal reflection.

All: Merciful God, grant us the grace to behold your glory and offer us the assurance that your loving light will not burn us. Grant us the confidence that we too can shine your light in our world. Remove the lampshades of fear and shame that hide our light. Dust off the cobwebs of doubt and despair that shadow our light. Shine in and through us, that your light may brighten our world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Ephesians 3, John 8, Matthew 5*

One: Here is the mystery: Grace is ours, no matter what. God's love is ours, no matter what. Grace and love save us and shine in us. They allow us to shine as the light of the world with the Light of the World. Amen.

ANTHEM

Joseph's Song
JOSEPH, A WITNESS

Michael Card

Joan Wojcicki Fortney, cello / Rick Fortney, vocal and piano

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** *Psalm 72*

One: May we be like the rain that falls on the mown grass, nourishing and renewing one another with God's peace and love. May we share signs of this peace and love with notes of kindness, symbols of love, and actions of justice. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Arise, Your Light is Come!
FESTAL SONG

No. 744

Verses 1 and 3

LORD'S PRAYER**PRAYER RESPONSE**

Arise, Your Light is Come!
FESTAL SONG

No. 744

Verse 4

SCRIPTURE READING

[Isaiah 60:1-6](#); [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

SERMON

"The Light is Among Us"

Pastor Rick Stein

***OFFERING/DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

No. 606

OFFERTORY PRAYER*COMMUNION**

All who profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are welcome at the Lord's table. Please hold the bread until all have been served and partake as directed by the Pastor. Likewise, please hold the cup until all have been served and partake as directed. Please note that ALL bread is gluten-free and the cup is filled with juice.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Receiving the Body and Blood of Christ

Prayer of Communion

COMMUNION MUSIC

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

Setting by
Randall Sensmeier

Let Us Break Bread Together

BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

Setting by
Robert J. Powell

***CLOSING HYMN**

As with Gladness Men of Old

DIX

No. 150

BENEDICTION

One: Each week we remind ourselves

All: to go out into the world. Return no one evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, and honor every person. Every person. And rejoice in the Lord always.

One: And now may the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with each of you, all your loved ones, and all your concerns, now and forever. Amen.

POSTLUDE

As With Gladness Men of Old

DIX

Setting by
Henry J. Markworth

Welcome to Avon Lake Presbyterian Church!

*“In awe, we Receive God’s Grace and Gospel.
In gratitude, we Respond with Worship and Servanthood.
In love, we Represent Jesus Christ as we minister to transform lives
in family, community, and the world.”*

As you join us for worship at Avon Lake Presbyterian Church, we hope that you will sense God’s presence, be caught up in joyful praise, be challenged by God’s Word and leave strengthened to live for Christ in the world.

In the event you need to step out of the Sanctuary, speaker systems are in both the foyer and the nursery so that you may listen to the worship service. When leaving the Sanctuary during the service, take care to close the door softly.

If you feel you would like a call or visit from Pastor Rick, please contact the church office at 440-933-6240.

Please silence cell phones during our worship services.

Offerings may be given through [SimpleGive](#) and are always appreciated. Scan this code with your smartphone to easily access SimpleGive.



Confidential prayers are available now at the back of the sanctuary from the Healing Prayer Ministry after worship.

Per capita for 2024 will be \$38 per person. Payments may be made using cash or check, or online through SimpleGive (see above).

Fix-it Saturdays will begin January 13! This new fellowship opportunity will be organized by the Property Committee on the second Saturday of each month, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Bring your toolbox and help the Committee check off tasks from their to-do list; coffee and donuts will be provided!

2024 Offering Envelopes that have not been picked up from the narthex will be mailed out next week.

The 2023 Annual Report is in the works. Please email your information to Kenzi at alpresby@avonlakepc.org by January 21, 2023.

Unhanging of the Greens will take place January 11 at 9:00 a.m.

Taters & Games: Join your ALPC family for an afternoon of (you guessed it), taters and games! We'll cook up our best baked potatoes, put them out with your favorite toppings, then pull out the board games and card games for a cozy winter afternoon activity. Feel free to bring any games you want to share. January 21, 11:30 a.m.

Please keep in your prayers this week...

Lee L.'s family in the Ukraine; keep them safe and bring an end to this war. We pray not only for the end of the war in Ukraine but an end to violence everywhere.

All those who have been affected by cancer, either personally or through loved ones. Pray for **Joyce B.'s daughter, Brenda**. We lift up special prayers for **Lynne S.** who continues to receive infusions and recently suffered a broken hip. Please pray for **Matt & Sybil W.'s nephew, Tommy**, who is being treated for leukemia. Pray for **Beth S.** as she continues chemo treatment. Lift up **Joe U.** as he prepares for further cancer. Give him and his wife, **Carol Unger**, strength as they once again go through the process. **Penny H.'s daughter, Jen L.'s** cancer has returned; please pray for her healing through surgery and radiation.

Keep **Jan M.'s daughter Jessie** in your prayers for her continued healing from serious health issues.

Pray for continued healing for **Cathy G.** following her abdominal surgery. Lift up **Charlie and Debbie S.** as they face health issues.

Lift up **George L.** for continued healing and ask for strength for him and his wife **Sue S.** during this time.

Please keep **Noel Peel** in your prayers for spiritual healing.

Continue to include **Bill & Deb G.** in your prayers; Bill has COVID and pneumonitis.

Pray for a smooth recovery for **Joy H.** as she begins rehab after surgery.

This Week at the Church

- Monday:** Walking Group meets at the church at 8:30 a.m. The Worship & Spiritual Life and Property committees will meet at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday:** The church staff will meet at 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle will meet at 10:30 in the church library. Prayer Group will meet at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- Wednesday:** Walking Group meets at the church at 8:30 a.m. Handbell Choir will meet in the Sanctuary at 6:45 p.m., followed by Chancel Choir at 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday:** Bible Study will begin at noon in the Pastor's office. The Unhanging of the Greens will begin at 9:00 a.m. The CE Committee will meet at 5:00 p.m. Yoga will begin at 6:30 p.m.
- Friday:** Walking Group meets at the church at 8:30 a.m.
- Saturday:** Fix-It Day will take place 9:00 a.m. to noon.
- Next Sunday:** Worship begins at 10:00 a.m.
- Birthdays:** Mike Richardson, *today!* Sharon Call, 1/9; Elizabeth Shoemaker, 1/13; Madeline Waggoner, 1/14

Volunteers Today

Greeters

Darlena Gallant, Jagger Dahl

Worship Assistant

Lynn Bondurant

Sound Board

Gary Uhl

Projections

AmyLynn Kaspar

Ushers

Sue Mabe, Barb Lehmkuhl

Children's Sermon

Joshua Bowyer

Sunday School Teacher

Terry Vine

Communion Servers

Nancy Baldwin, Shawn Brunner, Lee Lohr, Sherry Spenzer

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

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