



Firelands Presbyterian Church

www.firelandschurch.org

December 7, 2025

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<https://www.facebook.com/firelandschurch>

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Second Week Of Advent

Welcome to Firelands Church, a community of believers gathered by the Holy Spirit and committed to serving God and growing together in Jesus Christ.

We invite all of our worshippers to stay for fellowship following the service so that we might become better acquainted.

The Order Of The Liturgy

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“The Hanging of the Greens”

Walz

*Call to Light

*All sing to the tune of What Child is This? Hymn 145

What child is this, who dwells on high,

Will come an infant sleeping?

Into our homes and souls and hearts

His presence will be keeping?

With us, Immanuel,

we share our spaces with our King;

haste haste, Grand Miracle.

The babe, the son of Mary!

Jesus is our Immanuel. He is God with us.
In a grand miracle, we no longer need to wonder who God is.
He is Jesus.
Like Jesus, our God is all-knowing, all powerful, and all-present.
So we no longer need to suffer doubt, fear or loneliness.
Our future is secure. Our place is permanent,
We will always be with God in Christ.

His kingdom come, his will be done,
wherever he is dwelling?
Good Christian, hear: You need not fear.
Our voices we are swelling:
We know that Christ is here,
He comforts us and dries each tear;
Hail, hail the Word made Flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Through Jesus, our God comes near to us with his free and unconditional love.
Christ has come to care for us eternally.
In Christ Jesus, our God shows us how to be a servant to others.
So we are called to help one another know Jesus more through acts of loving service.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Hymn “O Lord, How Shall I meet you” **Hymnal #104**

Call to Confession

The grace of God overflows in Jesus Christ who came into the world not to condemn, but to save. Trusting in this grace, let us confess together our sins against God and neighbor.

Prayer of Confession

Most loving God, we admit to you and to each other, that we are beings in whom light and darkness are uncomfortably mixed. We are creatures of cleverness yet foolishness, faith yet much unrest, strength yet frailty, compassion yet self-interest. We want to be close to you yet we ignore you. We praise you yet defy you. We serve you yet avoid you. We love you yet deny you. Lord, have mercy and forgive our ambiguous discipleship. Cleanse us by your grace, guide us in your truth, fill us with your love, and lead us forward in steadfast hope, that we might live lives of faithful commitment to the One who drew near to us, so we might be drawn ever nearer to your heart – Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. †

Words of Assurance

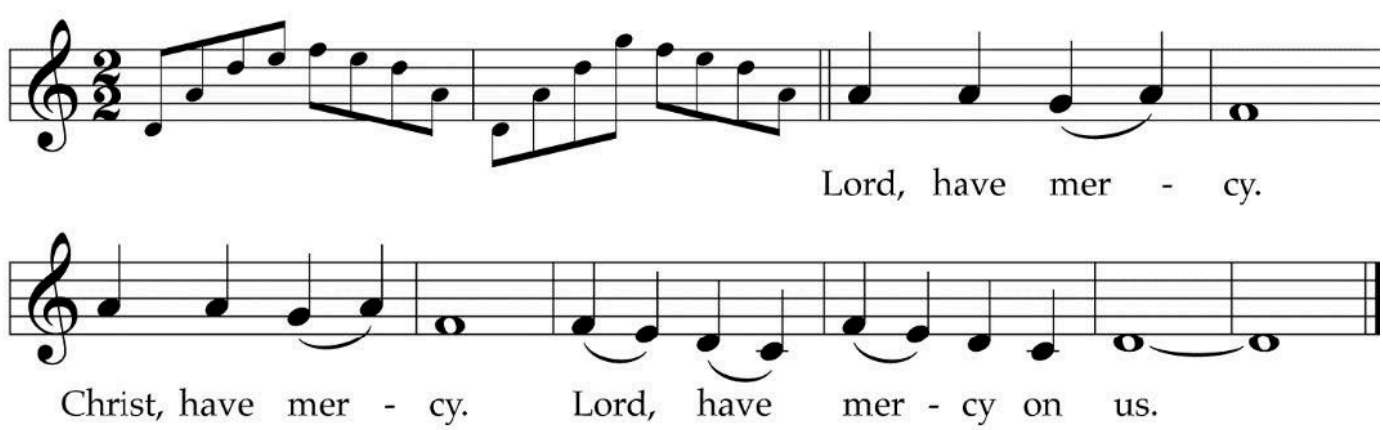
Who has a right to judge any one of us? Who is in a position to condemn? Only Jesus Christ – and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us. Even now Jesus Christ prays for each one of us. Brothers and sisters, let us trust in the One who redeems us! In Christ Jesus we are a forgiven people.
This is God’s Glory
Praise and thanks be to God!

Silent Meditation

Kyrie:

"Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us"

Hymnal #576



*Response:

Angels we have heard on high

Hymnal #113

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Faithful God, turn our feet from wayward paths, our minds to your wisdom, and our hearts to your grace; for the sake of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Second Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”’ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with^[c] the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Rev. Bobbie Bella

Anthem: “How Far is it to Bethlehem?” **arr. Stewey**

Affirmation of Faith: (A Brief Statement of Faith)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. We trust in God whom Jesus called Abba, Father. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offering Our Life and Gifts

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”** **Hymnal #606**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Prayers of the Church

Hymn **“O Lord How Shall I Meet You** **Hymnal #104**

COMMUNION

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Communion Meditation
Communion

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Arr. deSilva

Post Communion Prayer

SENDING

*Hymn

“People Look East”

Hymnal #105

***Charge**
Now go out in joy. Walk in faith, confident of God’s presence even in times of sorrow and struggle, with assurance for what is and all that will be, hope in the measured unfolding of our lives, and radical trust in the hands that hold the universe.

***Benediction**
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the comfort and challenge of God the Holy Spirit surround, sustain, and uphold us all this day and every day.

***Benediction Response:**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem

#121 vs 4

**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**

Postlude

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Smart/Long

**It is our tradition to stand or sit quietly until after the
postlude is over before greeting old or new friends in the sanctuary or heading over for a time of fellowship in
the social hall after the service.**

† Adapted, Prayers, Collects, and Litanies, B. D. Prewer

Ministers in This Sunday’s Service	Ministers in Next Sunday’s Service
Preacher: Rev. Bobbie Bella	Preacher: Bobbie Bella
Reader: Janet Gray-Moore	Reader: Ed Carlson
Musicians: Susan Larcey, Sometimes Serendipity Singers	Musician: Susan Larcey, Sometimes Serendipity Singers
Greeter(s) & Usher(s): TBD	Greeter(s) & Usher(s): TBD
Communion Assistants & Ushers:	Communion Assistants &
Marilyn Umlauf & Wes Bella	Ushers: John & Kay McIntosh
Refreshment Host: Dottie & Harold Douglass	Refreshment Host: Session
Advent Wreath Lighters: Dave & Sally Wahlers	Advent Wreath Lighters: Bill & Pat Sharp

Prayer Concerns

Anne, Bob, Lisa, Tom, Tom Wade, JoAnn McIntosh, Rob & Cindy Constien, Garrett Holcomb, Bill & Pat Sharp, Vince Decker, Lois Harris, Simon Edwards, Deb, Danny, Kevin Reffitt, Janet Miller, John McLaughlin, Kenny Ambrozy, Jerry Boroff, John Shuman, Susie, Judy, Former Pastor Mark & Jill Cooper, Gene Bailey, The Witkowski Family, Karla Hoffman, Betty & Jim Layton, Chris Brown, Nancy Montagna, Karen Dietz, Mason Fenton & Anne Trombatore

If you have a name to add to the prayer list, please contact the office. Names remain on this list for up to one month unless they are resubmitted.

Feeding The Hungry

Last week our mission committee voted to focus this November on helping to provide food for the Free Shed at the Family Advocacy Center! As we consider those who are food insecure in this season of Thanksgiving, we want to do all we can to help. Some of us might not realize that November first began the loss of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits because of the government shutdown. (Formerly food stamps)

The Free Shed provides food to those who do not have access to the weekly or monthly food pantries in Ottawa County.

Shopping Suggestions for shelf stable items (NO GLASS CONTAINERS)

Proteins:	Grains & Carbs:	Milks & Beverages:
Canned Meats	Pasta	Shelf stable milk
Canned or packets of fish	Rice	Powdered or Condensed milk
Nut/Seed Butter	Beans (canned or dried)	Water Bottles
Shelf Stable Cheeses	Shelf stable pizza crust	Jugs of Water
Jerky	Tortillas	Bottles of juice
Protein Bars	Cereal & Granola	Non-Food Items:
Assorted mixed nuts	Trail Mix	Deodorant
Fruits & Vegetables:	Crackers	Toothpaste & toothbrush
Applesauce	Rice Cakes	Shampoo & conditioner
Dried Fruit	Pretzels	Toilet Paper
Canned Fruit	Popcorn	Feminine hygiene products
Fruit strips or gummies	Pudding or Jello cups	Cleaning supplies
Canned Vegetables	Boxed Entrees:	All pantry items must
	be:	
Pizza Sauce	Mac & Cheese	Shelf stable (non-perishable)
Baby Food	Canned Chili	Sealed Able to
Soups, Stocks & Broth	Ready Meals	Able to withstand high &
	low	
Soups (boxed or canned)		Temperatures
	Broth or Stock	

	THIS WEEK AT FIRELANDS
Today	9:30am Adult Class 10:30 am Worship with Communion followed by Fellowship 7pm Thanksgiving Worship @ St. Johns
Monday	OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Monday Sewing Group 10am Sewing Group
Tuesday	10:30-2:30 Office Hours 2:00pm Dulcimer Group
Wednesday	OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 Bible Study 1pm Port Clinton Ministerial
Thursday	10:30am - 2:30pm Office hours Cleaning Ladies
Friday	OFFICE CLOSED 3:30 Choir
Saturday	
Next Sunday	9:30 Adult Class 10:30 am Worship followed by Fellowship

The Chosen

We are beginning Season 4 of the Chosen. Jesus' influence grows and opposition mounts, setting up for Holy Week. The series explores the deepening divide between Jesus and the religious authorities as they begin to conspire with Roman leaders out of fear of His rising popularity. Season 4 sets the stage for climatic events to come.

Join us on Thursdays at 2:00 in the large meeting room.

- OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OTHERS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!
- *Volunteer to ring the Salvation Army bell on December 8. We will be ringing inside at the Friendship Convenience Store at 1810 East Perry Street. The sign up sheet is on the table in the church lobby.
 - *Donate a new winter coat to a family in need. Accepting adult and children sizes. All coats will be donated to the Salvation Army.
 - *Help fill the mitten tree in the church lobby with mittens, gloves, hats or scarves. All items will be given to Bataan School in Port Clinton and the Salvation Army.
 - *Donate a new unwrapped toy in the Salvation Army box. Gift cards may be placed in the large envelope attached to the toy box.

DONATIONS WILL BE COLLECTED UNTIL DECEMBER 8.

Tables

We have 8 old (round) tables, previously used in our Fellowship Hall, available free of charge to any parishioner who would like one (or more). You will need to be able to transport them home yourself. Any unclaimed tables will be donated to either Habitat for Humanity, Portage Resale, or Goodwill. Please let John McIntosh know if you would like one.

Pastor Bobbie's office hours are variable at this time.

Typically she will be in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

She is always available by cell.