

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

www.avonlakechurch.com

"Friends in Christ, Serving Together with Love"

Sunday after Christmas

10:00 AM

December 26, 2021

**"THE PRINCE OF PEACE IN A
WAR FILLED WORLD"**

DEC. 26

REV. KURT WALKER,
VISITING PREACHER

Worship with us in the sanctuary
or online at home, 10am every Sunday!

Streaming on Facebook and YouTube.
Replaying on AL-CTV daily
at 6am and 6pm.

GATHERING MUSIC/PRELUDE

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Holst/Day

O Little Town of Bethlehem

arr: Mark Hayes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 63

Leader: I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of God most high.

People: Because of all that the Lord has done for us, according to the abundance of God's love.

Leader: It was your presence that saved the house of Israel, your love and pity redeemed them.

People: We join with them as your people, O God, your children who sing you our praises.

ALL: Let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER

We praise the name of the Lord, O God; the heavens praise you and the waters above the heavens. You commanded and they were created; you established them forever and ever. Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds all praise you. Young men and women alike, old and young together exalt your name. Your glory is above earth and heaven and yet you have chosen to live amongst us. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth we praise your name. Amen.

*HYMN

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory" (REGENT SQUARE)

No. 143

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of compassion, have mercy upon us as we make our confession. The year is soon spent. What we ought to have done still awaits action, while we commit acts not in accord with your will. We think
(continued on next page)

of ourselves before others; we serve our own needs. We keep for ourselves the gifts of your graciousness. The new life you offer is not yet proclaimed in the land. Forgive us our sins and make us more faithful. Help us to use our time wisely as we follow Christ's way. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Hear Paul's words of assurance: "If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. . . . The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." In Christ we are forgiven.

All: Praise Be To God

PASSING OF THE PEACE

During the Advent season, if you feel moved, use the sign for Hope, Joy, Peace, Love, Christ Child and God Protects (as shown on the video with Mary Earley and Sarah Mills signing).

HYMN "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (W ZLOBIE LEZY) No. 148

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE; AND LORD'S PRAYER

**OFFERTORY
OFFERTORY PRAYER**

ANTHEM *Shepherds and Angels* (CHRISTMAS; REGENT SQUARE) Arr. Henry T. Smart
Cathy Graves, flute; Barb Graves, piano

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:13-23 Jackie Butrey

SERMON "The Prince of Peace in a War Filled World" The Rev. Kurt Walker

HYMN "In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy" (IN BETHLEHEM) No. 153

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Let There be Peace on Earth* Sy Miller and Jill Jackson
Arr. Lorie Line



We welcome The Rev. Kurt Dean Walker to the pulpit today. Rev. Walker currently serves in a validated ministry as Chaplain at Wesleyan Village, a Life Plan Community located in Elyria. He has previously served as a chaplain at Breckenridge Village in Willoughby and in two Acute Care Hospitals located in Southern Indiana. His calls to serve congregations have included an interim ministry at East Side Presbyterian Church in Ashtabula, an interim ministry in Indiana, and as installed pastor to congregations in Iowa and Wisconsin. He has served the Presbytery of Western Reserve as past Moderator of COM and will be the Teaching Elder Commissioner for the Presbytery at the 2022 General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky. Kurt earned his M.Div. from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and was ordained in 2005 by the Western Kentucky Presbytery. He concluded a Chaplain Residency in 2014 earning four units of Clinical Pastoral Education. He likes to read, golf, garden, and is a licensed private pilot. Kurt lives in Amherst with his wife, Rev. Jennifer Walker Noyes, his son, Isaac and two cats.

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.

Parents please note: In the event you need to take a restless infant or child out of the Sanctuary, speaker systems are in both the foyer and the crib room so that you may listen to the worship service.

Please also note: When leaving the Sanctuary *during the service*, take special care to close the door softly.

Due to the new CDC guidance reflecting a rise in COVID cases, masks are requested of all people inside the church building regardless of vaccination status. Please wear a mask to worship.

Birthdays this week : Ann Lee Loescher, 12/27; Sheryl Dickey, 12/28; Megan Barnes, 12/29; Lee Lohr, 12/30; David Burr, 12/31; Ken Mohr, 1/1; Fran Asire, 1/3.

Per Capita 2022 - All Presbyterians are called to take part in the ecclesiastical and administrative work shared by the whole church through per capita giving. The annual rate is a per-member apportionment that is assessed biennially by the General Assembly. (Book of Order, G-3.0106) All congregations — large and small — are encouraged to participate, either through an annual budget item or through a special direct appeal to their congregations. In your monthly offering envelope packet there is a special offering envelope specifically for your contribution to the Per Capita. Per Capita is a "head tax" assessed by the denomination to help with the cost of the work in the local Presbytery, the Synod and the work of the General Assembly. The amount you need to pay **per member is \$34.91.**

Good news – the bathroom project is nearing completion. It won't be long until we can feast our eyes on the improvements. As the final payment draws near, any additional donations toward the project are welcome. If you are interested in contributing in this way, please indicate "bathroom project" on you check or payment.

Today: You can pick up your offering envelopes in the Narthex on the table. Everyone who is a member has offering envelopes to take home.

When halls are decked and greens are hung, they eventually must be undecked and unhung! Although we don't really want to think about it yet, we have selected Wednesday, December 29th, at 10 AM to begin (and hopefully finish) taking down all of our Advent and Christmas decorations, packing them back up and preparing the sanctuary for Epiphany. Will you join us? Many hands make light work! If you can make it, please sign up by calling Cindi in the church office or by adding your name to the sign-up sheet on the table nearest the office door. If you are free and didn't sign up, please come!

2022 Pledge: If you have not turned in your pledge for 2022, it's not too late!

If you have not taken your poinsettia home, please do so today as we won't be here to water them!

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Pastor Charlie and his family need all of our prayers as he goes through this transition.

Betsy, Eddie Lou Bush's daughter, needs prayers as she goes through chemo.

Joan Wojcicki Forney's mom is receiving radiation for cancer.

Please keep all those with COVID in your prayers.

This Week at the Church

- Monday:** Church office is closed for Christmas holiday.
Tuesday: Church office is closed for Christmas holiday. Zoom prayer group will meet at 3:00 pm.
Wednesday: Church office is open 9-3 today; no Bell Choir or Chancel Choir today.
Thursday: Church office is open 9-3 today.
Friday: New Year's Eve – Church office is closed today.
Sunday: Charlie's last worship service with us is at 10:00 am; celebration with Charlie will be immediately following the worship service.
Monday: Church office is closed for the New Year's holiday.

Volunteers Today

Worship Assistant
Greeters
Audio Visual Team
Ushers

Jackie Butrey
Sharon and Fred Call
Joan Wojcicki Fortney, Jay Knox, Beth Shoemaker
Jeff and Sherry Spenzer