Christ Presbyterian Church
530 Tuscarawas Street West, Canton, Ohio 44702

Christ Presbyterian Church exists to glorify God, lead people to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, build one another up in spiritual maturity, and send out servants to share the Good News in word and deed.

December 22, 2019
Welcome to Christ Presbyterian Church

We’re so glad that you’re here. We hope that worshiping with us today nourishes your spirit and that you will come back to worship with us again. Please be sure to sign the guest pad located at the end of your pew so that we can follow up on your visit with us.

For our visitors with children under 3: our Nursery is open and available to you in our lower level where our caring volunteers are ready to watch over your child. You can worship with peace of mind as you will be given a pager so that you can be contacted immediately should you be needed.

Our Children’s Area located at the back on the Lectern Side of the Sanctuary has many resources to help your child and youth stay engaged in Worship.

An usher is able to help direct you if you need assistance.

Thank you for worshiping with us today.

*-At these moments, we invite you to stand in body or spirit.*

*Please silence all electronic devices prior to the service.*

Large print copies of the hymns and orders of worship are available in the Narthex or from an usher.
The Order For Morning Worship
Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019     Ten-Thirty O’Clock

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

Organ Voluntary      “Personent Hodie”             John Attebury
                      Christ Church Ringers

Welcome & Worship Notes

Call to Worship

  Leader:    God-with-us, Immanuel,
            comes to give us our own Holy Family,
            here with the body of Christ this day.
            Rejoice and be glad!

  People:    Amen.

*Hymn in Procession No. 105   “People, Look East”

*Prayer of the Day (in unison)

  Eternal God of power and grace,
    who comes to us in surprising ways—
    in angel appearances, in defeat of enemies,
    and in resurrection from the dead—
    show us the face of Immanuel in our time.

  Bring us from fear to awe, we pray;
    in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
    one God, now and forever.  Amen.

Call to Confession

  Assured that God hears our repentance,
    let us turn our minds to the truth,
    confessing our sins to God and one another.
Prayer of Confession

Leader: Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, Psalm 80
Lectern: we have turned away from you, neglecting welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made, taking from earth what we cannot give back.
Pulpit: We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life.
Leader: In your compassion, turn us to your way.
All: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.

Kyrie (Trisagion) From New Plainsong; David Hurd

Choir sings first line, then all join in on repeat:

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Holy God. Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

("Trisagion" is Greek for "Thrice Holy")

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: For the sake of the One God promised to send, named as God’s Son, who died, was raised, and through whom we receive grace, God forgives us all our sins.

People: We are God’s beloved, called to be saints. Thanks be to God. Amen.
*Response—Hymn No. 132 — Verse 3  “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED

Message for Children

All Children are invited to come forward for the Children’s Message.
After the lighting of the Advent Candles, children First Grade and older return to their families; children Kindergarten and younger may go downstairs for Kids’ Church and can be picked up in the lower level. Children and families are welcome to use the many resources available in the Children’s Area during Worship.

Lighting of the Advent Candles  Patrick, Jennie, Emma, & Ryan George

Prayer for Illumination

Leader:  As your Holy Spirit spoke to Mary, the mother of our Lord,
speak to us now through your Word
that by hearing we too may receive faith
and be strengthened to do your will.

People: Amen.

Hebrew Scripture  Isaiah 7:10-16  
A Sign from the Lord

Leader:  The Word of the Lord.  Pew Bible page 554
People:  Thanks be to God.  Large print Pew Bible page 779

Epistle Reading  Romans 1:1-7  
Concerning the Truth

Leader:  The Word of the Lord.  Pew Bible pages 913-914
People:  Thanks be to God.  Large print Pew Bible page 184

*Hymn No. 92  “While We Are Waiting, Come”
Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

The Birth of Jesus Christ


Pew Bible page 783

People: Thanks be to God.

Large print Pew Bible pages 1-2

Sermon

Rev. David de Vries

“The Overwhelming Experience of Believing”

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles’ Creed: page 35

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Dueteronomy 16:10 “... contributing a freewill offering in proportion to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you.”

Anthem

“Mary’s Magnificat” Andrew Carter

Softly a light is stealing, Sweetly a maiden sings, Ever wakeful, ever wistful.

Watching faithfully, thankfully, tenderly her King of kings.

My soul doth magnify, doth magnify the Lord:

And my spirit hath rejoiced, rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Mary her song to Jesus softly, serenely sings:

‘I will love you, I will serve you, May my lullaby glorify, magnify my King of Kings’.

*Doxology—Hymn No. 654

In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God; do not be afraid.

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

We thank you for your steadfast love,

for sending signs of assurance,

and for the gift of faith.

Use our gifts to bring comfort and justice to those in need,

reforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life.

Amen.
REENTRY INTO THE WORLD TO SERVE THE LORD

Being Christ’s Church — Living Our Faith

(Please sign the Friendship Pad found in your pew and return it toward the center aisle, noting names of those with whom you are worshiping.)

*Hymn in Procession No. 100 “My Soul Cries Out” (Canticle of the Turning)

*Benediction

Choral Response (Hymn No. 113 – stanza 3) GLORIA

Organ Voluntary “Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol” Gerald Near

For anyone wishing confidential individual prayer, immediately following the service a member of the Stephen Ministry will be available in the Chapel.

PREPARING FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019—CHRISTMAS EVE


Consider: This is a night for treasuring and pondering (Luke 2:19) the gift and mystery of Christ’s incarnation. How is it possible, why is it necessary, and what does it mean for God to be a human infant, and for a human infant to be God?

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 63:7–9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10–18, Matthew 2:13–23

Consider: Like many immigrants today, Joseph took his family across the border when they were in danger. Though they eventually returned to their home country, danger was still a present possibility. In what ways did Jesus, in his life and ministry, threaten those who held power in his day? How are we, as we practice the Christian life among present powers, challenging violence and injustice today? What dream or vision do you have for the world Christ came to save?
The flowers in the Chancel vases today are

The Cathedral Hour today is made possible through the generous donations from members and friends of Christ Presbyterian Church.

Liturgist: Karen Peterson

Acolytes: Tommy Rice (Crucifer), Jane Rice (Acolyte), Eva Skolnik (Acolyte), Nathan Skolnik (Bible Bearer)

Youth Acolyte Master: Ty Ohlinger
Adult Acolyte Master: Vanessa Worley

**Bicentennial Logo Contest**

As a part of our bicentennial preparation, we invite one and all to participate in designing a new logo that will be identified with all of our celebrations. The winning logo will appear on all publications and will be used for all official purposes regarding the bicentennial anniversary. Each entry should be submitted electronically to Pastor Michael <mwallace@cantoncpc.org> on or before February 3, 2020. You may submit multiple entries but each must be submitted individually. Entries must conform to the Submission Guidelines set out below.

**Submission Guidelines**

The purpose of the contest is to design a logo for the materials associated with Christ Presbyterian Church’s 200th Anniversary Celebration. The logo will be used online, in print, and on any merchandise. Flexibility is a key requirement, including the need to resize easily and to look good in black and white as well as color. The final version of the logo will need to be suitable for high quality printing.

Take care to ensure that your entry is an original work, and does not contain, nor look similar to, existing logos or other copyrighted images. The logo must contain the words, Christ Presbyterian Church, Christ Church, or CPC and should make it clear that it is for the 200th Anniversary and include the years 1821 to 2021. The logo could incorporate elements from the PCUSA logo, stained glass windows/ mosaics of the sanctuary, the façade of the building, or something representative of Canton or the church.

**Judging and Selection of Winner**

The winning design will be selected by the congregation and the Bicentennial Committee in February 2020. The winner will be announced in March 2020. The winner will receive a $50 prize.
Christmas Caroling

Caroling to our Homebound
COME JOIN US!
Sunday, December 22, 2019 following 10:30 am service
A light lunch will be served before we depart.

The light shines in the darkness. . . John 1:3
The Longest Night
A service of healing and hope in the midst of Christmas
Monday, December 23rd at 5:15 pm

Christmas Lessons & Carols
Combined Worship Service
Sunday, December 29, 2019
10:30 am

No 8:00 am service
There will be no Children’s Sunday School at 9:15 am.
EPHANY MADRIGAL FEAST
Saturday, January 4, 2020
in Westminster Hall
Doors open at five o’clock
The Feast begins at half past five
featuring
Firestone High School Madrigal Singers
Tickets are $25 for Adults; $10 for Children
Tickets available online and in the Church office.
Proceeds from this event benefit the Food, Clothing, and Prayer Ministry of Christ Church.

Holiday Office/Building Hours
In observance of the Christmas and New Year Holiday, the Church office and Building Hours will be as follows:

Tuesday, December 24—Office Closed All Day
Building Open for Evening Services
Wednesday, December 25—Office/Building Closed All Day
Tuesday, December 31—Office/Building Closed All Day
Wednesday, January 1—Office/Building Closed All Day

Christmas Eve Services
Tuesday, December 24, 2019
6:30pm
Family Worship in the Sanctuary
Song & Stories

9:30pm
Festival Choral and Organ Music

10:00pm
Candlelight Communion Service in the Sanctuary
Broadcast Live on 640 WHLO
When is the best time
to write your will
or trust? Now . . .
and remember that a
bequest to Christ
Presbyterian Church
goes on helping
for years to come.

Daily Grace
CPC Rhythms of Worship and Discipleship
The Week of December 22, 2019
Using Sunday’s Order of Worship, we enter into
worship and prayer every day of the week. We worship together . . . separately.
The Call to Worship
The Prayer of Adoration (Followed by silence)
The Prayer of Confession (Followed by silence)
The Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Readings — Worship texts for Sunday, December 29:
   Monday: Isaiah 63:7-9   Thursday: Matthew 2:13-23
   Tuesday: Psalm 148       Friday: Isaiah 63:7-9
   Wednesday: Hebrews 2:10-18   Saturday: Psalm 148
Silent Meditation and Prayer
   (Listening for God’s voice in Scripture and silence)
Prayers of the People
   (Lifting others before God)
Prayer of Dedication
Becoming Familiar With Holy Scripture
If you wish to become more familiar with the Bible and the best known stories of
scripture, read Moses in the Nile and at the Burning Bush (Exodus 1-4).

2020 Offering Envelopes
If you requested envelopes, you will find them in alphabetical order on the
table in Cloister Hall. If you do not find envelopes with your name, and would
like to receive them, please call the church office or print your name on the
pad found on the table. If you are not able to pick up your envelopes, please
call the church office, and we will gladly mail them out to you.
Sunday Morning Adult Classes 9:15—10:15 a.m.

Coffee & Conversations Classes meets in the Pine Room.

The Intergenerational Class meets in the Upper Room. Every week is a unique discussion. Together we will seek to know God’s will and wisdom. Please speak with Mike Ophardt if you have any questions about this class.

The Parlor Class continues to study from the Present Word. 12/29—David’s Prayer, led by Les Morgan.

Westminster Class continues to ask the questions of faith as we seek to understand God. See you at 9:15 am Sunday mornings!
♦ December 22—The Providence of God and the Mystery of Evil, led by Pastor Michael.

There will be NO Westminster Class on Sundays, Dec. 29 or Jan. 5.

December Youth Events

Sunday, December 22—Gingerbread House Making Contest
6-7:30pm in the Youth Room
A little friendly competition and general merriment!

Sunday, December 29
No Meeting
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Have you dreamed of making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Israel?

Planning for CPC’s second pilgrimage to Israel is well underway. The dates for the main tour are February 21 – March 3, 2021. There are two optional extensions returning home on March 6. If you are interested or just want to learn more, please plan to attend an informational session on Sunday, January 19 at 11:45 in Westminster Hall. Sunday, January 26 is our backup date in the event of bad weather. Light Mediterranean refreshments will be served. Please sign up in the kiosk area. Questions? Give Nancy Irving a call at 330.280.1868.
Please Note:
December 29
January 5
Combined Worship at
10:30 am
No 8:00 am Worship
& No 9:15 Sunday
School for Children

Sunday, December 29, we will be taking down the Christmas decorations. We need several people to help take down the trees, wreaths, garland, and bows. This will take place after the 10:30 am worship service. The more helpers we have, the faster the task is completed. A simple meal will be provided. Please sign up in Cloister Hall or online if you can help.

Helpers needed for Madrigal Dinner
It takes a lot of hands to make all the revelry and pageantry happen! We are in need of a few extra hands to help supplement our hard working Deacons to help with set up on Friday, January 3rd and at the event on Saturday, January 4th. It's also a great way to enjoy the event at no cost; plus I firmly believe that the "peasants table" for the helpers has the best seats in the house! There is a sign up sheet on the kiosk that details where we need help and you are welcome to contact Jennie George at the office for more information. Thanks for supporting this great night that benefits our Food, Clothing, and Prayer Ministry.

Lunch Bunch—A new opportunity to fellowship and break bread
When: Every Sunday following 10:30am worship service
Where: La Pizzaria
(3656 Dressler Rd. NW, Canton, OH 44718)
Who: Everyone and anyone!

Lunch bunch is an informal gathering of church members, visitors, and friends at La Pizzaria at approximately 12:00 PM every Sunday. It is a great way to meet other people and get to know new friends. If you would like to attend, but need transportation or have any questions, please call Carolyn Hess at 330-353-0909.
Making Contributions: When making your Gather Us In contributions, PLEASE make sure that you indicate on the memo line of your check that the contribution is for Gather Us In. If you do not indicate this, then your contribution will be applied to your General Fund Pledge. It is VERY important that you indicate your intent in the memo line of your check or attach a note along with your check as to how you wish it applied. This will help to resolve conflicts when you receive your contribution statements and find that your gifts were not applied as you had intended.

Thank You for helping us help you,
Donald Weltlich, Assistant Treasurer

Please see a few examples below:

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GF = General Fund
GUI = Gather Us In
FCPM = Food, Clothing, Prayer, Ministry

Pay Your Pledge From Our Website:
Remember CPC is able to accept your taxable contributions, for your pledges, Gather Us In, and other favorite ministries, securely online from the church website. Simply go to www.cantonepc.org, and you will see the Green Online Giving button in the left column, simply click on the button and this will take you to the secure donation page.

2019 Charitable Contribution Deduction:
Please remember that all cash donations and/or stock transfers must be delivered to the Church Financial Office by **December 31, 2019**, in order to claim them as a charitable contribution deduction on your 2019 tax returns. Checks placed in the Church offering on the first Sunday in 2020 **will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2019**, even if the check is predated to 2019 or was actually written in 2019.

When contributing stock, please send a letter of direction and intent to Merrill Lynch and also a copy to myself in the church office.

Thank you,
Donald Weltlich

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING CARDS
As an outreach to our congregational family, we will have cards each week in Cloister Hall on a podium for the “family” to sign. Please stop in Cloister Hall and sign the cards this week for:

Marjorie Morris
(Happy Birthday)

Dorothy Killian
(Happy Birthday)
ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF December 22

Today
8:00 am  Worship Service—Chapel
9:00-9:15 am  Children’s Choir—Chapel
9:15 am  Sunday School Classes
10:15 am-11:30 am  Infant Nursery (ages 0-2) – Room L4
10:30 am  Worship Service – Sanctuary
12:00 pm  Church-Wide Caroling (Light Lunch)
6:00-7:30 pm  Youth Group Gingerbread House Making Contest

Monday
10:00 am  Staff Meeting
5:15 pm  The Longest Night Service—Chapel

Tuesday
Church office closed.
6:30 pm  Family Worship—Sanctuary
9:30 pm  Festival Choral & Organ Music—Sanctuary
10:00 pm  Candlelight Communion Service—Sanctuary

Wednesday
Merry Christmas!
Church Building & Office closed.

Sunday, December 29
10:15 am-11:30 am  Infant Nursery (ages 0-2)—Room L4
10:30 am  Worship Service – Sanctuary
12:00 pm  De-Greening

Update on our Partnership with Habitat’s Hope ReStore:
I am so pleased to let you know that our partnership with Habitat has provided over 35 clients an opportunity to make purchases at the Habitat ReStore. Their vouchers have allowed them to “purchase” things like stoves, microwaves, kitchen tables, recliners, lamps and so much more. We currently have two friends who would like to make some furniture purchases but don’t have access to a truck to transport them from the Habitat ReStore to their home in Canton. If you are able to help us out, please call me and I can discuss the details. My cell # is: 330-495-8963.
With much love—Lorraine Murphy
We are excited to participate in this program with Habitat for Humanity. Over 30 of our FCP friends have already used these Vouchers to help them with household items or furniture. Hope ReStoRed needs our donations to stock their warehouse- I hope that you will consider our partnership with them when you have unwanted items. If you have questions, please call Lorraine Murphy at 330-495-8963.

**Prayer Chain:**
Whenever there’s a need for prayer, please call one of our Prayer Chain co-chairs:

**Sandy Kohler ~ 330-575-5874**  
midnightingaletoo@gmail.com

**Judy Smith ~ 330-771-0598**  
judithllsmith@gmail.com

**Carol Orin ~ 330-833-2351**  
jlocao4638@gmail.com