

Olean First Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve 2021

Prelude ~ *Creator Alme Sinderum* ~ P. Yon

Welcome Saints

Greeting

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Hymn ~ Angels, from the Realms of Glory ~ No. 143

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Call to Worship

One: If you are like Joseph, and you are seeking truth,

All: There is room here for you.

One: If you are like Mary, and you are seeking rest,

All: There is a seat here for you.

One: If you are like the wise men, and you are looking for a sign,

All: These candles are here for you.

One: If you are like the angels, and you cannot help but sing,

All: There is a melody here for you.

One: Come in. You are in God's house.

Love was born tonight, and there is love here for you.

All: Let us worship the God of love.

Hymn ~ Gentle Mary Laid Her Child ~ No. 146

Gentle Mary laid her child

lowly in a manger;

there he lay, the undefiled,

to the world a stranger.

Such a babe in such a place,

can he be the Savior?

Ask the saved of all the race

who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth;

wise men sought and found him;

heaven's star shone brightly forth,

glory all around him.

Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,

heard the angels singing;

all the plains were lit that night;

all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child

lowly in a manger;

he is still the undefiled,

but no more a stranger.

Son of God, of humble birth,

beautiful the story;

praise his name in all the earth;

hail the King of glory!

Lighting of the Christ Candle ~ Lynn and Louie McClure

What Can't Wait?

Voice A: This Advent, we have waited.

Voice B: We have waited for family to arrive.

Voice A: We have waited, singing, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

Voice B: We have waited for snow to fall.

Voice A: We have waited in fear and uncertainty.

Voice B: We have waited for the Pandemic to end.

Voice A: We have waited for our lives to return to normal.

Voice B: We have waited to raise our candles.

Voice A: We have waited to sing "Silent Night."

Voice B: We have waited in the midst of everything for the magic of this night.

Voice A: And now the wait is over. It is Christmas Eve, which means God is here and we are loved.

Voice B: May that truth change us. May it inspire us, challenge us, and burn in us like the light from these candles.

Voice A: For tonight we light the candles of hope, peace, love, and joy to remind us of our journey to this space. And to those lights we add the Christ candle reminding us

Voice B: Love is here. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Advent Song ~ *Light One Candle* ~ Natalie Sleeth

Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope.

He brings hope to ev'ry heart. He comes! He Comes!

Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace.

He brings peace to ev'ry heart. He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy.

Ev'ry nation will find salvation in Bethl'em's baby boy.

Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love.

He brings love to ev'ry heart. He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for Christ, one bright candle for Christ.

He brings life to ev'ry heart. He comes! He comes!

Hymn ~ *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* ~ No. 119

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king,
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Our Prayer

**Living God, on this holy night we gather—
to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;
to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.
May the good news of this night inspire us
to tell the world of our great joy:
for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.
May the angel voices remind us to fear not.
Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.**

Hymn ~ *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ~ No. 121

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

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!

Nicene Creed

Let us confess the faith of the universal church.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn ~ The First Nowell ~ No. 147 (verses 1-4)

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. (*Refrain*)

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. (*Refrain*)

This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. (*Refrain*)

Doxology

**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.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, Holy One, for the world of wonder you have made—forest and field, sea and sky and for the gift of grace that you have given—a little child, lying in a manger. Receive these gifts of tenderness and love, of gratitude and praise, and use them for your glory; in the name of Jesus Christ, the child of Bethlehem, we pray. Amen.

Hymn ~ *What Child is This* ~ No. 145 (verses 1 & 2)

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let 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!

Reading

Special Music

Prayer for Illumination

God of angel choruses, from the beginning of time you have been speaking words of love into this broken world. To creation you said, "It is good." To your people you said, "You are mine." To our sins you said, "You are forgiven." So tonight, we lean a little closer to you, like flowers bending toward the light, because we are hungry for your Word. Speak to our hearts once more, for we are listening. We are hungry for your good news.

Isaiah 9 :2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hymn ~ *Joy to the World* ~ No. 134

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Luke 2:1–20 King James Version

2 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

² (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

¹⁸ And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Hymn ~ *Love Has Come* ~ No. 110

Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Christmas Communion

Invitation to the table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

...Together we pray our Lord's Great 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

Partaking of the elements

Prayer after communion

Lighting of the Candles

Hymn ~ *Silent Night three verses* ~ No. 122

Silent night, holy night

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child

Holy Infant so tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace

Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night

Shepherds quake at the sight

Glories stream from heaven afar

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia

Christ the Savior is born

Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night

Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy holy face

With the dawn of redeeming grace

Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

2021 Christmas Memorials

In loving memory of Helen McCully

~ families of Don, John, Dean, Jean and Joan

In loving memory of James & Elaine

Trippany

~ John Weinhold, Jr. & Diane Trippany

*In loving memory of Carol & John B.
Weinhold, Sr.*

~ John Weinhold, Jr. & Diane Trippany

In loving memory of Gregg Gruver

~ Gary Gruver & Family

In loving memory of Kathleen Gruver

~ Gary Gruver & Family

In loving memory of Bob Watson

~ Karen & Tom Bowersox

In loving memory of

All My Loved Ones

~ Lanna Waterman

*In loving memory of Deceased Family
Members*

~ Martha Nenzo

*In loving memory of Our Parents and
Grandparents*

~ Dave & Kay Shultz

In loving memory of Kathy Gruver

~ Karen & Tom Bowersox

