

December 18, 2022, 11 am
Olean First Presbyterian Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent, Love

Prelude ~ *Come, Thou Long Awaited Savior* ~ David Paxton

Good Morning Saints

Announcements

God is Good
Everyday
And Everyday
God is Good

Call to Worship

Keep watch!
For the One who brings peace is coming.
We wait in anticipation for Christ.
We wait for God's revealing of joy.
Remain alert!
Love is coming to dwell among us.
Hope draws near.

Hymn ~ *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ~ No. 133

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him,
born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God,
Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created! (*Refrain*)

Sing, choirs of angels;
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all
glory in the highest! (*Refrain*)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing! (*Refrain*)

Opening Prayer

Mighty and Merciful God we rejoice that you look upon us with favor and bless us with grace and forgiveness. Transform this weary world bringing all your people together in a spirit of hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.

Advent Song ~ *Light One Candle* ~ Natalie Sleeth

Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope.
He brings hope to every 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!

Lighting the Advent Candle ~ Sunday School Group

Draw near to love (Light the Candle)

Voice A: I used to think love was a feeling.
That was before I knew that love is a fire—unquenchable and bright.

Voice B: That was before I knew that love is a river—forging paths where none have gone before.

Voice C: That was before I knew that love is a song—etching its melody into my memory.

Voice A: I used to think that I had to find love for it to find me.

Voice B: But that was before I knew that love is that which breathes us into beginning.

Voice C: That was before I knew that love had already found me, never letting me go.

Voice A: Friends, today we light the candle of love as a reminder that it is from love that we are made,

Voice B: it is in love that we are raised,

Voice C: and it is for love that we are sent.

Voice A: You were made from love

Voice B: to be love,

Voice C: to give love.

Voice A: Draw near to God because God, who is love, has and will always draw near to you.
Amen.

Children's Program: "The Jesse Tree"

Performers:

Theodore McClellan

Nathaniel McClellan

Kaleb Green

Please join us in singing the first two verses of these favorite Christmas Carols during the performance today.

Lo, How a Rose 'Ere Blooming

Lo, how a rose 'ere blooming, from tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore for us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the Earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit, Raise us to thy glorious throne.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, o come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Gabriel's Message

The angel Gabriel from Heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he "O lowly maiden Mary,"
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother you shall be,
All generations praise continually.
Your son shall be Emmanuel by seers foretold,"
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 ever-lasting 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 men on earth.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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 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 ever-lasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head 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!"

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
Oh, star of wonder star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to they perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain; gold I bring to crown Him again.
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.
Oh, star of wonder star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to they perfect light!

Joy to the World! ~ No. 134 Please sing all verses!

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.

Special thanks to:

The Christian Education Committee, for their support and assistance.

The congregation, for supporting the boys in all of their efforts all year long.

Mr. Snyder, for providing the music for today's program.

The Sunday School students and their families.

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Prayers of the People

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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Minute for Mission ~ Craig Polson

Presentation of the Offering

Doxology ~ No. 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer for Illumination

**Listen to the word that God has spoken;
listen to the One who is close at hand;
listen to the voice that began creation;
listen even if you don't understand.**

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*Hymn ~ *The First Nowell* ~ No. 147 (verses 1 & 6)

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.

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. (*Refrain*)

Blessing

Postlude ~ *March of the Three Kings* ~ Roger Wilson

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Today's flowers are given in loving memory of
Harold & Leeta Huber and Bill & Jean Burton
by the Burtons.

Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

Prayer List

Margaret Quigley	Emily Kennedy	Matt Isenberg
Barbara & Chuck Compher	Martin Hatch	Craig Polson
David Cross	Colt Matz	Chase Ewoldt
Stacey MacRae	Diane Trippany	Avrie Sinesiou
Joseph Kwiatkowski	Alyssa Daly and Family	Gretchen Randon
Dale Isenberg	Punkie Sinesiou	Renee Ensell

***Please let the office know who can be removed and who needs to be added.*

*Thank you for your help! ***

Happy Birthday to:

18 ~ Rick Snyder

21 ~ Brenda Snyder

CHURCH CALENDAR WEEK OF 12/18/22

Sunday – Dec. 18	9:35am Adult Discussion 11am Worship ~ Christmas Play
Tuesday - Dec. 20	10am Tea with Bruce and Phil at Union Tea 6:30pm Scouts
Thursday - Dec. 22	5:30pm Bring Your Own Dinner 6:30pm Vespers 6:45 Scouts 7pm Choir 7pm Bible Study
Friday - Dec. 23	10am Coffee and Conversation at North Union Tim Hortons
Saturday - Dec. 24	7:30pm Christmas Eve Service
Sunday – Dec. 25	11am Worship

Please note:

- Pastor Bruce will be out of the office from Monday, December 26th until the afternoon of Thursday, January 5th.
- Andrea will be out of the office from Monday, December 26th until Tuesday, January 3rd.
- Messages will be checked during this time.

If you wish to speak with Pastor Bruce, please call 716-378-6773.