

Dec 3, 2023, 11 am
First Sunday in Advent
Olean First Presbyterian Church

Prelude ~ *Veni, Emmanuel* ~ Pietro Yon

Good Morning Saints

Announcements

Choral Introit

God is Good

Everyday

And Everyday

God is Good

Call to Worship ~

In God's house, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious. We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be honest—

**inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful, connected or curious,
and everything in between.**

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship our loving God. Amen.

Opening Prayer

God of power unexpected, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down;
to make mountains quake, water boil, and stars to fall until all nations tremble at your presence!

But you, you will not perform according to our wants and whims.

Instead, you come like the sound of sheer silence: Thin. Quiet. Instead, you are born among us as
an infant. Instead, you show us how love is made perfect in weakness.

So we will stay alert, or at least we will try, because we are your people and there is no other God
besides you. Amen.

Lighting of the first Advent Candle ~ Lanna Waterman, Kristen Gibbs

A: How does a weary world hope?

B: By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night, and planting seeds in the winter that
will bloom in the spring. By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the side-
walk. By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

A: There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a
reminder and a charge.

B: With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. 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!

Children's Time

*Hymn ~ *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* ~ No. 82

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.

Prayers of the People

Anthem ~ *Will We Know Him?* ~ Besig and Price

Presentation of 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

Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Illumination ~ No. 455

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

Readings ~

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides

you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Word of God
The Word of Life

Message

Music for meditation

The Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O God of mercy and might. In your wisdom, you made all things and sustain them by your power.

You have called forth people in every age to be your servants and speak your word. When we rebelled against your call and turned from your ways, in your love you called us back to you. You delivered us from captivity, and made covenant to be our sovereign God. You sent prophets to call us to justice and compassion. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. Baptized in Jordan's waters, Jesus took his place with sinners and your voice proclaimed him your beloved. Your Spirit anointed him to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, to restore sight to the blind, to free the oppressed. He lived among us in power and grace, touching broken lives with your healing peace. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. O God, as you once claimed us in the Spirit's waters and number us among your own beloved, give us power to do your work, to show your love, and to live holy and joyful lives. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, We pray the prayer he taught.

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.

The Communion of the People

Closing Hymn ~ *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* ~ No. 88

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 Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Benediction

Choral Benediction

Postlude ~ *Rorate Coeli* ~ Pietro Yon

(Music permission by One License: 734848-A)

Today's Greeters are Andrea Hollamby and Matt Isenberg.
Today's Ushers are Martha Nenno and Joan McGonnell.

Christmas Memorials

Order forms in Fellowship Hall

**Orders due by
Sunday, December 10th.**



The PW Mitten Tree will be up until Sunday, December 17th. Donations of mittens, hats, scarves and socks are appreciated. Collected items will be donated to the Olean Food Pantry.

Prayer List

Margaret Quigley	Emily Kennedy	Matt Isenberg
Judy Sanchez	Martin Hatch	Craig Polson
Joe Gullo	Colt Matz	Chase Ewoldt
Dale Isenberg	Diane Trippany	Avrie Sinesiou
Joseph Kwiatkowski	Alyssa Daly and Family	Renee Ensell
Ken Stebbins	Punkie & Craig Sinesiou	Kim Whitney
Judi Blair	Judi Mitchell	

***Please let the office know who can be removed and who needs to be added.
Thank you for your help! ***

Happy Birthday to:

3 ~ Matt Lang, Barbara Taft

CHURCH CALENDAR WEEK OF 12/3/23

Sunday – Dec. 3 9:30am Bible Study
 11am Worship
 Noon Deck the Halls

Monday - Dec. 4 5pm Session

Tuesday - Dec. 5 6:30pm Scouts

Thursday - Dec. 7 10am Bible Study
 5:30pm Bring Your Own Dinner
 6:30pm Vespers
 6:45pm Scouts
 7pm Bible Study
 7pm Choir

Friday - Dec. 8 10am Coffee and Conversation
 at N. Union Tim Hortons

Saturday - Dec. 9 11am Choraliers

Sunday – Dec. 10 9:30am Bible Study
 11am Worship

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