

December 10, 2023, 11 AM
The Second Sunday of Advent
Olean First Presbyterian Church

Prelude

Good Morning Saints

Announcements

*Please sign the friendship pads and include your contact info, email, phone, and text.
We want to make sure we can communicate better with you.*

Choral Introit

God is Good

Everyday

And Everyday

God is Good

Call to Worship

Welcome to worship.

Welcome to worship.

I am glad you're here.

I am glad you're here.

Surely God is in this space.

Surely God is in this space.

I see God in your face.

I see God in your face.

Let us worship together.

Let us worship together.

Opening Prayer

God of today and God of tomorrow, we come to you this morning to thank you for the way that peace and joy binds us together. Thank you for contagious laughter, for inside jokes, for stories around dinner tables that can make us laugh until we cry. Thank you for comedy shows, for the familiar sound of a loved one's chuckle, and for the universality of smile lines, bringing peace and joy to our hearts and our world. Amen.

Lighting the Second Advent Candle ~ Wendy Brand and Dre Hollamby

A: How does a weary world practice peace?

B: By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.

By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor.

By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

A: There are a million ways to practice peace. So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge. With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.

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!

Minute for Mission ~ Doug Cashing, Christmas Joy Offering

Children's Time

Opening Hymn ~ *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* ~ No. 93

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

Prayers of the People

Lord's 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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Presentation of the Offering

*If you prefer, you can go to our website
Oleanfirstpresbyterian.com and click on the donate button.*

*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

Anthem

The 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 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, pro-

claiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Word of God
The Word of Life

Message

Music for Meditation

Closing 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!

Choral Benediction

Postlude

(Music permission by One License: 734848-A)

Today's Greeter is Matt Isenberg. Today's Ushers are Barry and Marilyn Hurley.

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:

14 ~ Beth (McGonnell) Kalafatich

CHURCH CALENDAR WEEK OF 12/10/23

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

Tuesday - Dec. 12 5pm Scout Meeting in Fellowship Hall
 6:30pm Scouts

Wednesday - Dec. 13 Noon PW Lunch at Brother's Bistro

Thursday - Dec. 14 1pm Deacons Meeting
 5:30pm Bring Your Own Dinner
 6:30pm Vespers
 6:45pm Scouts
 7pm Bible Study
 7pm Choir

Friday - Dec. 15 10am Coffee and Conversation
 at N. Union Tim Hortons

Saturday - Dec. 16 11am Choraliers

Sunday – Dec. 17 9:30am Bible Study
 11am Worship

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

Today's Flowers are given in loving memory
of our parents by Lynn and Louie McClure.



Orders Due Today

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.

Join us Christmas Eve

11am Worship - Children's
Christmas Program

7:30pm Candlelight Service

