

December 31, 2023, 11 AM
First Sunday After Christmas
Olean First Presbyterian Church

Prelude ~ *People Look East* ~ Dale Wood

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

Every year we celebrate Christmas.

Every month we break bread.

Every week we gather for worship.

Every day we count our blessings.

Every minute God is near.

Yes, every minute God is near.

These are the rituals of our faith.

Let us worship Holy God.

Opening Prayer

We thank you, O God, for the good news of Jesus, the gift salvation, and we will try to live according to your word. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Children's Time

Opening 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!

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 Light Still Shines* ~ Natalie Sleeth

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 ~

Matthew 25:14-30 ~ New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴ “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once ¹⁶ the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

The Word of God

The Word of Life

Message ~ Talents and Gifts

Music for Meditation

Closing 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*)

Choral Benediction

Postlude ~ *Toccata* ~ Robert Thygerson

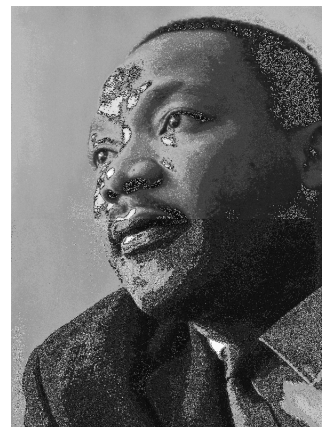
(Music permission by One License: 734848-A)

Martin Luther King, Jr., Service Sunday, January 14th, 4pm First Presbyterian Church

Please join us in the multi-cultural, interfaith
expression of peace, hope and unity.

A fellowship dinner will be held immediately
following the event.

All are welcome.



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:
5 ~ Wendy Brand
6 ~ Andrea Oakley

CHURCH CALENDAR WEEK OF 12/31/23

Sunday – Dec. 31	11am Worship ~ Della Moore, Guest Preacher
Monday - Jan. 1	Happy New Year!
Church office closed	
Tuesday - Jan. 2	6:30pm Scouts
Thursday - Jan. 4	5pm Finance Meeting 6:45pm Scouts 7pm Choir
Friday - Jan. 5	10am Coffee and Conversation at N. Union Tim Hortons
Saturday - Jan. 6	11am Choraliers
Sunday – Jan. 7	9:30am Bible Study 11am Worship Noon De-Deck the Halls

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

