

December 1, 2024, 11 AM  
The First Sunday of Advent  
Olean First Presbyterian Church

Prelude ~ *Good King Wenceslas* ~ Stephen Otis

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.*

*The loose offering today supports the Deacons in their work of compassion.*

Choral Introit

God is Good

**Everyday**

And Everyday

**God is Good**

Call to Worship

God says,

**“Do not be afraid.”**

God says,

**“I have called you by name.”**

God says,

**“I will be with you.”**

God says,

**“You are precious and honored in my sight.”**

At the beginning of this season,

**at the start of this week,**

at the top of this hour,

**may we wrap ourselves in these words.**

**May we begin again.**

Let us worship our Holy God!

Opening Prayer

Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near.

Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

Lighting the First Advent Candle ~ Louie and Lynn McClure

A: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

B: Let us begin with the good news! Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God. Let us begin with music and singing! Let us begin with warmth and welcome. Let us begin with hope.

A: Yes, let us begin with hope.

B: Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world. May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh start. May this be our new beginning.

A: May hope flow forth from here. 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

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

Presentation of the Offering

*If you prefer, you can go to our website [Oleanfirstpresbyterian.com](http://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 ~ *A Christmas Alleluia* ~ Audrey Snyder

## 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

*Psalm 25*

<sup>1</sup>To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

<sup>3</sup>Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

<sup>6</sup>Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

<sup>7</sup>Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

<sup>8</sup>Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

<sup>9</sup>He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

<sup>10</sup>All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

*1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of God

**The Word of Life**

## Message

## Music for Meditation

## The Lord's Table

### Invitation to the Table

Friends, Advent is a season of waiting. We wait for Christ to be born. We wait for the feeling that love is near. We wait for God's promised day. Advent is a season of waiting. And while we humans are good at many things, waiting is not high on that list. We are an impatient and anxious bunch, eager for the hope of what comes next. Maybe that's why this Table is such a gift. For when we come to this Table, for just a moment, the waiting stops. When we come to this Table, for just a moment, we get a glimpse of God's promised day. We get a glimpse of a world where all are fed and all are welcomed. And for just a moment we can believe the angels when they say, "Be not afraid." For just a moment, Mary's words tumble through our minds— words of justice and hope, words like, "the hungry have been filled" and "the humble have been lifted." So come to this Table. Come catch a glimpse of what could be. Come end your waiting, for love is hovering close. This is what it's all about. God is all around us. So come. This good news is for you. All are welcome here.

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, We come to this Table today longing for a new beginning. In a world that so often feels like it's ending, we crave the hope of a new beginning. We long to heal from the endings and crash landings of our hurting world and start again, rooted in your good news. So week by week, bit by bit, we return to your Word. Week by week, bit by bit, we return to each other. Week by week, and bit by bit, we repeat the truths that we so often need to hear, trusting that by your grace, it is never too late to start again. So in this spirit of beginnings, we come to your Table. Once more we ask that you would meet us here. Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary meal, that in this bread and cup we may glimpse a new day. May the sight of everyone being welcomed at this Table remind us that all are loved by you. May the evidence that there is food for all remind us that no one is meant to go hungry. May the fact that our own sin, shame, and doubt do not keep us from this Table remind us that you welcome and love us as we are. And may all of these Communion truths serve as building blocks for a new day, for a new beginning. With hope in our hearts, we pray. With hope in our hearts, we gather. With hope in our hearts, we begin again. Meet us here. Allow this joyful feast to be the start of something new. With joy and hope, we weave our voices together to pray the words your son taught us to pray, saying:

**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.**

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!

Benediction

Choral Benediction

Postlude ~ *Rorate Coeli* ~ Pietro A. Yon

(Music permission by One License: 734848-A)

Today's Ushers are Martha Nenno and Louie McClure.

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



**2025 Per Capita is \$40.**

**TODAY** following Worship

Plan to stay to Deck the Halls! There are trees to be decorated, wreaths and bows to be hung, decorations to be displayed, and holiday cheer to be shared! We will have a pizza lunch for those volunteering to stay.



## *PW Christmas Gathering*

*at Brother's Bistro*

*Wednesday, December 11th at Noon*

All women of the congregation are invited to attend this Christmas lunch gathering for food, fellowship and fun.

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.



The PW Mitten Tree will be up until Thursday, December 12th. Donations of mittens, hats, scarves and socks are appreciated. Collected items will be donated to the Olean Food Pantry.

## **Christmas Memorials**

**Order forms in Fellowship Hall**

**Orders due by  
Sunday, December 8th**



We are in need of another usher. If you are interested, please contact Punkie Sinesiou at 585-307-2327.

  
*Come celebrate*

*Christmas Eve*

*with us at  
First Presbyterian Church*

*212 Laurens Street  
Olean, NY 14760*

*Christmas Eve Service with Communion at 7:30 p.m.*

*All are welcome to join us in this time of joy, hope, and peace.*



Prayer List

Margaret Quigley	Emily Kennedy	Matt Isenberg
Judy Sanchez	Martin Hatch	Craig Polson
Joe Gullo	David	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	Barbara Compher	Carol Bess
Thomas Burian	Sylvia Lynch	Pastor Bruce Levine

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

Happy Birthday to:

1 ~ Gunnar Jahnke

3 ~ Matt Lang, Barbara Taft

CHURCH CALENDAR WEEK OF 12/1/24

Sunday – Dec. 1	9:30am Bible Study 11am Worship Noon Deck the Halls
<i>Communion</i>	
Tuesday - Dec. 3	Bruce Off 6:30pm Scouts
Wednesday - Dec. 4	5pm Book Club at Perkins 7pm Choir
Thursday - Dec. 5	5:30pm BYO Dinner 6:30pm Vespers 6:30pm Scouts 7pm Bible Study
Friday - Dec. 6	10am Coffee & Conversation at N Union St Tim Hortons
Sunday – Dec. 8	9:30am Bible Study 11am Worship

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