

December 15, 2024, 11 AM
The Third Sunday of Advent
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

“Teacher,” the crowd asked, “What should we do?” If you have two shirts, give one away. Hold onto hope. Live like we belong to one another. Speak the truth. Look for God. Do the good that is yours to do. It’s all that easy, and it’s all that hard. Let us worship our present and active God.

Opening Prayer

Merciful God, you come into our midst longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with you, show us the path toward just relations, and bring us into your unimaginable peace; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Lighting the Third Advent Candle ~ Wendy Brand

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

All: Let us start small. Let us begin with what is right in front of us. Let us do the good that is ours to do and let us do it with joy!

One: Yes, let us begin with joy. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

All: May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action. May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.

One: May it be so! 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.

Children's Time

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

Sing, choirs of angels;
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all
glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

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 ~ Doug Cashing for Christmas Joy

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 ~ *Jesus is Born* ~ Florence Martin

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 12

¹You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. ²Surely God is my salvation; I will

trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. ⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Luke 3:7-18

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Word of God **The Word of Life**

Message

Music for Meditation

Closing Hymn ~ *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* ~ No. 143

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o’er all the earth;
you, who sang creation’s story,
now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Benediction

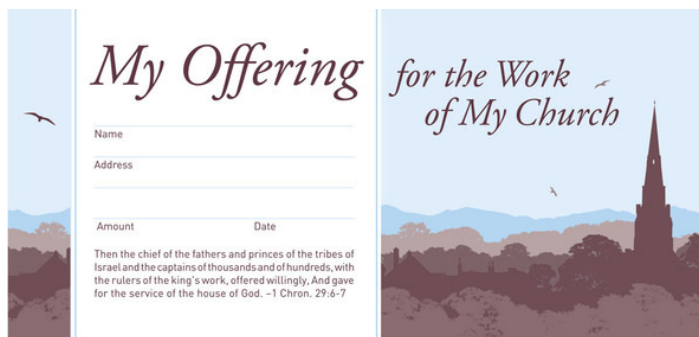
Choral Benediction

Postlude ~ *Angels We Have Heard on High* ~ Henry Balcombe

(Music permission by One License: 734848-A)

Please Note: Pastor Bruce will be out of the office from Wednesday, December 25th, until Saturday, January 18th. The Church Office will be closed from Tuesday, December 24th, through Friday, January 3rd.

Please let Andrea know if you would like a box set of offering envelopes for 2025. Call 716-372-7844 or email oleanfpc@wny.twcbc.com.



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:

17 ~ Cindy Shaver

18 ~ Rick Snyder

21 ~ Brenda Snyder

CHURCH CALENDAR WEEK OF 12/15/24

Sunday – Dec. 15	9:30am Bible Study 11am Worship
Tuesday - Dec. 17	10am Brunch at La Dolce Vita 6:30pm Scouts
Thursday - Dec. 19	5:30pm BYO Dinner 6:30pm Vespers 6:30pm Scouts 7pm Choir 7pm Bible Study
Friday - Dec. 20	10am Coffee & Conversation at N Union St Tim Hortons 7pm Bird Club
Saturday - Dec. 21	11am Choraliers
Sunday – Dec. 22	9:30am Bible Study 11am Worship ~ Christmas Pageant

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