

December 14, 2025, 11AM
Third Sunday in Advent
Olean First Presbyterian Church

Prelude

Good Morning Saints

Announcements

Choral Introit

God is Good

Everyday

And Everyday

God is Good

Call to Worship

Our God can part the sea.

God can bring water from a rock, and provide bread in the desert.

Our God can walk on water.

He can heal the sick, and turn water into wine.

Our God sets the stars in the sky.

God hears our voice when we cry, and is closer than our own breath.

There is nothing our God cannot do.

Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

Lighting the Third Advent Candle ~ Ashley, Carson and Connor Haynoski

A: How does a weary world practice joy?

B: By dancing and throwing birthday parties. By hanging Christmas lights, and holding sleepy babies. By singing loudly and looking for good news. By telling the story of Jesus and showing up for our community.

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

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.

Call to Confession

Let the desert rejoice, and let the dry land be glad, for God has come to save us. Let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Now return to the lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Our God Is an Awesome God ~ No. 616

Our God is an awesome God
who reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love;
our God is an awesome God!

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, your prophets have long spoken of the one who would come to save us. Now the promise is fulfilled; now your kingdom has come near. Send us as messengers of your way, to go and tell all the world of the wonders we have seen and the good news we have heard, through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

Sunday School Program ~ “The Festival of Almost 9 Lessons and Carols”

Participants ~ Nathaniel McClellan Connor Haynoski
 Carson Haynoski Madeline Schroll

Once in Royal David's City ~ No. 140

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to Earth from Heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and meek and lowly,
Lived on Earth our Savior holy.

O Little Town of Bethlehem ~ No. 121

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God our King and peace to men on Earth.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ~ No. 119

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!
Peace on Earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest Heaven adored, Christ, the ever-lasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

What Child is This ~ No. 145 (vs. 1 and 3)

What child is this, who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh;
Come one and all to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

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.

Minute for Mission ~ Christmas Joy, Doug Cashing

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

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 35

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus 2 it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

3 Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

6 then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;
7 the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

8 A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
9 No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

John 1:6-28

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") 16From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

19This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." 21And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." 22Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. 24Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25They asked him,

“Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?”
26John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know,
27the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.”
28This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Word of God
The Word of Life

Message

Music for Meditation

*Closing Hymn ~ *Angels We Have Heard on High* ~ No. 113

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction

Postlude

(Music permission by One License: 734848-A)

From Sunday School ~ Special thanks to:

- The Christian Education Committee, for their support and assistance.
- Marilyn Hurley and Ashley Haynoski, who always lend a hand downstairs with preparations.
- The congregation, for supporting the students in their efforts all year long.
- Rick Snyder, for providing the music for today's program.
- The Sunday School students and their families; thanks for making God a priority for your children!
- Andrea Oakley, for preparing the program.

Merry Christmas Everyone!



Today's flowers are given in loving memory of past church members who are now among the angels, but whose memories we cherish.

Christmas Memorials

Order forms in Fellowship Hall

Orders due are due TODAY



***Join Us Christmas Eve For A
Candle Light Service At 7:30pm***

All Are Welcome

Prayer List

Joe Hovey	Emily Kennedy	Matt Isenberg
Judy Sanchez	Martin Hatch	Craig Polson
Joe Gullo	Mark Newcomb	Chase Ewoldt
Sally Belloli	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	Bruce Levine
Cataleya Casas	Ron Register	

***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

17 ~ Cindy Shaver

18 ~ Rick Snyder

CHURCH CALENDAR WEEK OF 12/14/25

Sunday - Dec. 14 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	9:30am Bible Study 11am Worship ~ Children's Christmas Program 1:15pm Meet at the Pines for Christmas Caroling
Tuesday - Dec. 16	6:30pm Scouts
Thursday - Dec. 18	5:30pm BYO Dinner 6pm Scouts 6:30pm Vespers 7pm Choir 7pm Bible Study
Friday - Dec. 19	10am Coffee & Conversation at Tim Hortons
Sunday - Dec. 21 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	9:30am Bible Study 11am Worship

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