

December 21, 2025 11AM
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Olean First Presbyterian Church

Prelude ~ *Communion* ~ Pietro Yon

Good Morning Saints

Announcements

Choral Introit

God is Good
Everyday
And Everyday
God is Good

Call to Worship

**God with us. Immanuel comes to give us our own holy family,
here with the body of Christ this day. Rejoice and be glad! Amen.**

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle ~ Lanna Waterman

I will wait for the DMV.

I will wait for the right moment.

I will wait for the fire to grow.

I will wait for the popcorn to pop.

I will wait for political reform.

I will wait for the light to turn green.

I will wait to leave a message at the beep.

I will wait for my kids to come home.

I will wait for the paint to dry.

I will wait for the right words to say.

I will wait for Christmas to arrive.

I will wait for a lot of things, but I will not wait for a chance to share love.

The world needs love. We need love.

So today we light the candle of love to remind us to spread love wherever we go.

May we be courageous enough to love our neighbors as ourselves. 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.

Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love.
He brings love to ev'ry heart. He comes! He comes!

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

Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made, taking from Earth what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your compassion, turn us to your way. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

"You are called to belong to Jesus Christ." For the sake of the one God promised to send, named as God's son, who died, was raised, and through whom we receive grace, God forgives you all your sins. You are God's beloved, called to be saints. Grace to you and peace.

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

Eternal God of power and grace, who comes to us in surprising ways - in angel appearances, in defeat of enemies, and in resurrection from the dead - show us the face of Immanuel in our time. Bring us from fear to awe, we pray; in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Time

*Opening Hymn ~ *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* ~ No. 136

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. (*Refrain*)

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. (*Refrain*)

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. (*Refrain*)

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

*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 ~ *Behold, a Tiny Baby* ~ Mary Lynn Lightfoot

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 7:10-16

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 11 “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” 12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” 13 Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. 15 He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” 24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Word of God
The Word of Life

Message

Music for Meditation

*Closing Hymn ~ *What Child is This* ~ No. 145

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!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
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!

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction

Postlude ~ *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* ~ Lani Smith

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Today's flowers are given in loving memory of our family in heaven who are always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts by Bill, Chris, Will and Luke Burton.



***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	Dennis Whittaker

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

Happy Birthday to:
21 ~ Brenda Snyder
26 ~ Tom Bowersox
27 ~ Ryan Whitney

Happy Anniversary to:
28 ~ Dixie Grabow & Stephen Yehl

Please Note: Pastor Bruce will be out of the office from Thursday, December 25th, until Tuesday, January 6th. The Church Office will be closed from Wednesday, December 24th, through Friday, January 2nd.

CHURCH CALENDAR WEEK OF 12/21/25

Sunday - Dec. 21 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	9:30am Bible Study 11am Worship
Tuesday - Dec. 23	10am Brunch at RocketCup Coffee 6:30pm Scouts
Wednesday - Dec. 24	7:30pm Christmas Eve Service
Thursday - Dec. 25	Merry Christmas
Sunday - Dec. 28 <i>Noisy Cans</i>	11am Worship ~ Della Moore

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