

The People of God Gathered to Worship As  
**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WEST SALEM**

**December 8, 2024**  
**Communion Sunday**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Prayer Requests**

**Minute For Missions**

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

Leader: We continue our Advent journey today with the lighting of the Hope candle and the second candle; the candle of Peace. Let the gentle glow of these candles symbolize the tranquility we seek in our hearts and homes, fostering a sense of peace that transcends the chaos of this world.

Leader: In a world filled with conflict and confrontations

**People: We humbly seek the gift of peace.**

Leader: For the storms that sometimes rage within us

**People: We humbly seek the gift of peace.**

Leader: As we rush and hurry our way through busy lives

**People: We humbly seek the gift of peace.**

Leader: And for those around us we know are carrying heavy burdens

**People: We humbly seek the gift of peace.**

Leader: Gracious Creator, in the quiet moments may we find solace in your presence, and in the noisy chaos of life may your peace prevail. Calm the storms that rage within and around us. May we be instruments of your peace, fostering understanding, compassion, and harmony in our hearts. Amen

**Opening Hymn**

***Lift up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates***

**v. 1-3 #8 Presbyterian Hymnal**

**Prayer of Confession**

Precious Lord, we live in a world in desperate need of a savior. We cry out to you for your hope, your love, and your wisdom in the world, but often fail to listen for your response. We have not done all that you have called us to do, and frequently we do the things you ask us not to do. We see the world as just the way it should be, forgetting the upheaval we call for every time we call on you. Lord, we believe: help our unbelief, and hear the silent confessions we lift up to you.

**Moment of Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son**

**And to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.**

**World without end. Amen.**

## Passing of the Peace

Let us greet one another as forgiven sinners with the peace of Christ:

*"May the Peace of our LORD Jesus Christ be with you!"  
And also, with you."*

Hymn of Illumination

*Go, Tell it On the Mountain*  
v. 1 #29 Presbyterian Hymnal

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 1: 3-11

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God for every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy <sup>5</sup> for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Choir – Come As You Are

A MOMENT WITH CHILDREN – Feel The Love

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3: 1-6

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, <sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Sermon - Valleys lifted up, Mountains Laid Low Pastor Dan McCurdy

Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of  
God the Father Almighty.**

**From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy catholic church,  
The communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
The Resurrection of the Body, and the Life Everlasting. Amen.**

### **Presentation of Tithes, Offerings, and Gifts**

The Gifts of God are all around us, our lives and our homes, our talents and our joys, our family and friends, and the greatest gift of all was the Salvation promised, the life of Christ seeking to end our division from God and each other. When we give, we do not do so to purchase anything... for the gifts of God were already given. Instead, we give in imitation of our LORD, offering what we have to support others, and to be ourselves the gift that God gives the World, so let us worship God without Giving.

### **Offertory**

### **Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

**Gracious God, our gifts are small next to all that you have given us. Take our gifts, LORD, and make them holy, so that they may help to feed the hungry, grow the church, and share your Light with a world lost in darkness. Amen.**

### **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's prayer (Debts/Debtors)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your Hearts.

**We lift them up to the LORD!**

Let us give thanks to the LORD our God!

**It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Most holy and gracious God, we praise you who has gathered us around this table... and who forever sing to the glory of your name;

**Holy, holy, holy LORD, God of Power and Might,  
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD,  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Forgiving God, we call upon you in our times of fear and doubt... for great is the mystery of the faith:

**Christ has died,  
Christ is Risen,  
Christ will come again!**

And while we wait on that day when we will share this meal in heaven with you, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray, saying...

**The 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.**

**Receiving The Elements**

**Closing Hymn            *Come, Ye Thankful People Come*  
                                  #551 Presbyterian Hymnal**

**Benediction**

**Song of Sending            *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*  
                                  v. 1 #2 Presbyterian Hymnal**

Pastor: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**The Postlude**

**Nursery Available – 4k and under only  
Not staffed**

December 8, 2024 Worship Team	
<b>Liturgist</b>	Nick Miller
<b>Musicians</b>	Caroline Sells Greg Meeuwesen
<b>Sound Room</b>	Elsa Wolbrink
<b>Choir Director</b>	Vicki Arndt
<b>Usher</b>	Kelly Crusan

**Tithes and Offerings**

Donations can be mailed to:

**Presbyterian Church of West Salem  
PO Box 861**

**West Salem, WI 54669**

**Copyright Information:**

- For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use
- All rights reserved, www.ccli.com BI
- CCLI License 1958492
- Reprinted from Celebration Hymnal, copyright 1997 by Word/Integrity La
- Reprinted from Presbyterian Hymnal, copyright 1990, Westminster/John Knox Pres

***Tabitha Circle***

**First and Third Mondays**

**11:30am – 2:30pm**

**Bring a lunch**

***Would you like a visit from the Pastor?***

***You are important to the Presbyterian Church  
of West Salem. Please contact the church  
office if you would like a pastoral visit or to set  
up an appointment with the pastor.***

***Call 608-786-0910***

***Or [preschurchws@gmail.com](mailto:preschurchws@gmail.com)***

The ongoing mission of The Presbyterian Women is to support the Salvation Army and WINN (What I Need Now) by collecting needed items (lists are on tables and Lamplighter. All items can be placed in the purple tote at the back of the sanctuary. Money donations are accepted as well.

**Exercise Group**

**Not on December 24<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Tuesdays and Fridays**

**9:00 to 10:00 am**

**Fellowship Hall**

***Handbell Rehearsals***

***Thursdays***

***6:30 pm***

***Choir Rehearsals  
Not on December 26<sup>th</sup>  
Thursdays  
7:30 pm***

**Sunday School**

**9 am**

**Sunday Bible Study**

**9-9:45 am**

**Galilee Room**

**Youth Group (Jr. High through High  
Schoolers)**

**6-7 pm at Church**

**Confirmation Classes**

**9:15 am in Chapel**

**Community Dinner**

**December 18<sup>th</sup>**

**5pm – 6pm**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Congregational Meeting  
December 15<sup>th</sup> after Service**

**Christmas Pageant**

**December 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Pageant practice on December 14<sup>th</sup>  
at 4:30pm**

**Pizza and Game Night at 6pm**

**Christmas Ecumenical Service  
Wednesday, December 11 at 7 pm**

**Christmas Eve Service  
Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
6 pm**