

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

**December 22, 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Prayer Requests**

**Minute For Missions**

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

Leader: Today the fourth candle, the candle of Love, joins the candles of Hope, Peace and Joy. Like the combined glow of many candles, let this season remind us of the strength found in unity as we come together to love and uplift one another. Let the warmth of love illuminate the connections that bind us together and foster us in a deep sense of belonging.

Leader: Love creates the bonds that provide us with deep meaningful relationships.

**People: The greatest of all gifts is love**

Leader: Love inspires random acts of kindness and generosity

**People: The greatest of all gifts is love**

Leader: Love causes us to only look for the best in others

**People: The greatest of all gifts is love**

Leader: Love allows us to be accepted for who we are, flaws and all

**People: The greatest of all gifts is love**

Leader: Gracious Creator, we gather in your presence today, hearts brimming with gratitude for the extraordinary gift of love you have bestowed upon us. May the celebration of love extend beyond our immediate circles, creating ripples of compassion and unity in the world. In recognizing the beauty of love, may we become vessels of your light, shining brightly for all to see. Amen

**Opening Hymn**

***It Came Upon A Midnight Clear***  
**v. 1, 2, 4 #38 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 wrap up your prophets in myth and sweetness, failing to listen to the call they put in our lives. 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

Luke 1:39-46

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." <sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

Choir – Joseph's Prayer

A MOMENT WITH CHILDREN – God's Mom

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; <sup>50</sup> indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Sermon - There's Something About Mary

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 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.**

**Closing Hymn**

***Prepare the Way***

**#13 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 22, 2024 Worship Team	
<b>Liturgist</b>	Chris Winther
<b>Musicians</b>	Julie Baker Greg Meeuwesen
<b>Sound Room</b>	Ethan Crusan
<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**

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***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**

**January 22nd**

**5pm – 6pm**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Christmas Eve Service**

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**6 pm**

**Annual Congregational Meeting**

**February 9<sup>th</sup>**

**After Service**