

Salem Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 20, 2015
4th Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery

Organist: LaDonna Allenbaugh



Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Catie Emery

Welcome & Prayer

Call to Worship

Micah 5:2-5a

849

*Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

93

Advent Candle – Peace

The Martz Family

Prayer of Confession: God comes to us, to upset our notion that we have to save ourselves. In Jesus, God comes to us, removing our sin, our failures, our expectations, so we might have new life. Please join me as we pray...

We confess we are not the people You hope us to be, Advent God. The very ones You favor, we too often ignore or ridicule. The ones You knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate. We are so focused on having more and more. Forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us. That... We would live secure in Your love; we would be the ones of peace for our world, and that we would seek to do Your will, as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose Name we pray. Amen.

(Let us now have a moment of silence to offer our personal prayers of confession).

Assurance of Pardon
Response

Glory Be to the Father

Inside Front Cover

Joys & Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

Prayer Response

The Lord's Prayer

Special Music

Senior Choir

Scripture Readings

Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-56

1095
932

A Time with the Children

*Hymn

What Child Is This?

94

Sermon

“Favored By God”

Rev. Thomas Emery

*Apostle's Creed: **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.**

Offertory: *Ushers will receive God's tithes and our offerings.*

*Response

Praise God

Inside Front Cover

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

100

*Taking the Light into the World

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response

Three Fold Amen

Inside Back Cover

*Those who are able are invited to stand.



The flowers are given to the glory of God by the Lee Lare Family.



December 20, 2015

Today: 12-20-15
9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Dave & Carla Breese)

Thursday: 12-24-15
10:00 PM Christmas Eve Service / Communion

Sunday: 12-27-15
9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Bob & Kathy McCollow)

Announcements:

A **Christmas Joy offering** will be taken and give to a local organization serving the needy.

Communion will be served at the Christmas Eve service.

David Owens wrote:

Thank you, everyone for the many cards and wishes for my 90th birthday. Also, our entire family enjoyed the Advent Breakfast, so thank you to all who prepared it. We love and appreciate our church family.

We still have **Salem Church Christmas ornaments**. They are \$12.00. See Ann Rees to obtain one.

Once again, we have decorated the church with **poinsettias**. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia(s), see Carla or Lisa. They are **\$5.00 each**.

Financial Updates:

Needed Weekly:	\$2,067.00	Needed to Date: \$99,216.00
Rec'd 11-29-15:	\$17,029.30	Rec'd to Date: \$94,764.30
Needed Weekly:	\$2,067.00	Needed to Date: \$101,283.00
Rec'd 12-6-15:	\$1839.25	Rec'd to Date: \$96,603.55
Needed Weekly:	\$2,067.00	Needed to Date: \$103,350.00
Rec'd 12-13-15:	\$1310.25	Rec'd to Date: \$97,913.80



Rooted in our heritage and called into God's future, we proclaim in new ways the unchanging Good News of Jesus Christ in a changing world.

Salem Presbyterian Church
Venedocia, Ohio

Established 1848, Built 1898

www.SalemChurch.cc | 419-667-4142 | P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894

Rev. Thomas Emery
“Favored By God” Luke 1:39-45
Salem Presbyterian Church
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Being “favored by God” doesn’t make life easier. In the very midst of the harsh reality that Elizabeth and Mary lived, they continued to believe and hope in a God who can do awe-inspiring things. They did this in a world not much different from ours. They were favored by God, and God individually came to them, not because they were somehow protected from tough reality. But precisely because in the midst of their cruel reality, they continued to be open to the call of God on their lives.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – *God transforms the mundane into the meaningful.* God will use you as you are if you are willing to submit to Him. You don’t need to be unusually strong or bright or well-to-do, to be His servants.

POINT TWO – *God is reaching out to each of us, and He comes to us as Love.*

POINT THREE – *If Mary’s significance comes from her being a person in and through whom God worked his purpose and will, there is nothing that prevents us from being included with her.*

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant (Luke 1:46-48 NLT).

ACTION POINT

It was faith that enabled them to experience the favor of God and to do the things that they did with God. Above the noise of Roman armies and in a strife-torn homeland, these two women heard the silent voice of God. While others went about their daily routines, they saw the choirs of angels of heaven singing. By faith, they saw, they heard, they believed. And through Mary, Christ came into the world. Likewise, Christians are not immune to life’s hardships. But God teaches us how to live in our harsh reality. He can teach you faith, and He can likewise favor you and do great things with you.

Prayer Concerns:

Larry Profit (heart issues)
Norma Adams (diabetic issues)
Brendan Daily (friend of Morgan Pugh)
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit’s niece)
Hope Eutsler (leukemia)
Eric Fancher (chemotherapy – son of Rev. Jon & Mary Fancher)
Bev Hefner (aunt of Jenny Pugh)
Melanie Huddleston (cancer – sister of Kim Coil)
Jesse (seeking help from heroin addiction)
Betty Lloyd (broken hip)
Eileen Lucier (cancer treatment)
Evelyn Pugh
Marjorie Rhoades (leg pains)
Mike Rowland (diagnosed with brain tumor)
Dave Slygh (organ transplant problems)
John Stutz
Thad Summersett (malignant brain tumor – grandson of Warren Summersett)
Kevin Thatcher (ALS)
Steve West (son-in-law of Jeff & Marcia Pollock)
Noah Wyatt (recovering from surgery – son of Stuart Wyatt)

Serving our Country:

Micah Linger (U.S. Marine Corps)
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)
Pete McCollow (U.S. Marine Corps)
Will Morrison (U.S. Army Reserves)

Birthdays This Week:

12/19 Sue Ann Skanes
12/23 Jeff Owens
12/24 Mary Ellen Lloyd

If you have a prayer request, please write it down and leave it in the offering plate or send an email to secretary@salemchurch.cc so that we can have a contact person to follow up and to insert the prayer request with the correct spelling and details. Thank you!