

Salem Presbyterian Church

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Rev. Thomas Emery

Organist: Dave Van Tilburg

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Dave & Carla Breese



Prelude

Welcome & Prayer

Lighting of the Love Advent Candle

See Insert Page

*Hymn

What Child Is This?

94

Call to Worship

Psalm 80:1-7,17-19

529

Prayer of Confession: Immanuel, there is a lot of focus on You during Christmas. **We put up our nativity scenes and hang up our stars.** We pay attention to You, and give You the honor that is due You. **But so often, throughout the rest of the year, we forget to remember the significance of who You are.** You are God with us, Immanuel, God in the flesh. **Forgive me for being so easily distracted that I do not give You the honor that is due You, each and every day.** Forgive me for looking outside of You to try and find that which only You can supply – **my meaning, my purpose and life. We pray this together in Jesus' Name. Amen.** *(Please take a moment of silent confession).*

Assurance of Pardon

Response

I Love You Lord 2X

(see insert)

Joys & Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

Prayer Response

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Readings

*Isaiah 7:10-16

623

Matthew 1:18-25

877

Romans 1:1-7

1024

Special Music

Jake Wilder

Time for Children

*Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

92

Sermon

“Immanuel, God Is with Us”

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: Prayer of Dedication

Response

Praise God

Inside Front Cover

*Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

89

*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.



Financial Update

Needed Weekly:	\$ 2,126.78	Needed to Date:	\$106,338.80
Rec'd 12-11-2022	\$ 2,539.50	Rec'd to Date:	\$110,094.40

Sunday: 12-18-2022
 9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Mark & Missy Zielke*)
 Christmas Joy Offering

Tuesday: 12-20-2022
 7:30 AM **Men's Bible Study** at the Van Wert Hospital Cafeteria.
 7:00 PM **Women's Bible Study** in the church kitchen.

Thursday: 12-22-2022
 Noon **Van Wert County Prayer Meeting** at the Church on the
 Horizon at 634 N. Washington St., Van Wert.

Saturday: 12-24-2022 **Christmas Eve Service**
 9:00 PM Traditional Service with Communion

Sunday: 12-25-2022 **Christmas Day Service**
 9:30 AM Informal Participatory Worship with Communion and Prayer
 (no nursery).

Announcements

522 of the Christmas Gravy Packets were collected for the Salvation Army this year. Thanks to everyone that helped meet our goal!

The **Confirmation Class** will begin on Sunday, January 8, and finishing with an Easter Sunday induction. We will also begin a **New Member Class** for those interested in joining Salem as adults.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the January newsletter. Submit them to secretary@salemchurch.cc.

Upcoming Birthdays:

23rd Jeff Owens 30th Isaiah Pugh

Upcoming Anniversaries:

28th Doug & Marilyn Strickler



Isaiah 7:10-17

Salem Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894

419-667-4142 Office

Secretary 419-303-2032

secretary@salemchurch.cc

December 18, 2022

Prayer Concerns:

Edie Basham (back surgery)
Jason Boyd (limited time to live - terminal cancer)
Charles Boroff (heart issue)
Jeff Coil (open heart surgery)
Lynn Collins (cancer)
Kathy Comer
Irene Cooper (In a coma after a fall)
Stephanie Dillon (lymphoma)
 LaDonna's stepdaughter
Pastor Tom Emery (Long Covid healing)
Marjorie Eutsler
Deb Fair (cancer)
Nikki Ford (surgery & funds for surgery)
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Jane Harter
Jerry Holscher
Mandolin Jones-cancer
Ann King (cancer)
Becy Lee (Carpal tunnel surgery)
John Lloyd
Steve Martz
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Wayne McMichael
David Morris (Zeb)
Todd Morris (heart surgery)
Paul & Doris Price
Evan Pugh
Evelyn Schwartz
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Tori Wells (serious spine injury)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

Serving Our Country

Gyer Blackmore (U.S. Army)
Dillon Ellerbrock (U.S. Marine Corps)
Butch Eutsler (U.S. Army)
Phoebe Eutsler (U.S. Army)
Micah Linger (U.S. Marine Corps)
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4th Sunday of Advent
“God Uses the Unlikely” – Isaiah 7:10-16
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In Isaiah 7, the back story of the prophecy of Jesus is that the foolish King Ahaz of Judah refuses to trust in God for deliverance from the powerful Israelite-Syrian alliance against him. Ahaz even turned down God’s offer of a divine sign meant to build his faith in the confidence of God’s care for him. But, God gives him a sign anyway—a young woman (NLT, “virgin”) will give birth to a child called Immanuel (“God is with us”). In Isaiah 9, however, it is indicated that there are spectacular characteristics about the future coming child that will be fulfilled only through the Messiah. Isaiah calls Him, “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.” Ahaz did not show faith in God for God’s care for him, but here to us, God is asking if we will have faith in His Son who is “God with us” to show His care for us.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – *God uses who and what He wants to accomplish His purposes.*

POINT TWO – *It pleases God to use the unlikely.*

POINT THREE – *Then, we can easily surmise that God can use any of us.*

THIS WEEK’S VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’) (Isaiah 7:14 NLT).

ACTION POINT

When God offered the gift of salvation, He didn't send a technical book for us to figure it out; He sent His only Son. A young couple experiences the miraculous in their lives. A humble carpenter husband shows extraordinary love and trust. And God enters into human experience so we can know and trust Him. Christmas is a time for reflecting on God reaching out to us in love. God’s Son is reaching out to you to begin a relationship with Him. Why not take the time this Christmas season and receive by faith the gift of salvation that God is offering to you?

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Advent IV Love Candle

Pastor: This is how God showed his love among us:

All: **He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him.**

Pastor: This is love: not that we loved God,

All: **But that he loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

Pastor: And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

All: **God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in Him.**

Mother: I am a mother. Each day I nurture, teach and love my children. Each night I tuck them into bed and pray for God's blessings on them. I worry about them. I teach them skills and lessons about life. I show them right from wrong. I love them to the point of sacrifice. Nothing can be compared to a parent's concern and love for his or her child.

The Bible says, "how great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him" (1 John 3:1). If we are God's children, then we know and feel God's concern and love. We read His laws and promises in His Holy Word. We know God's greatest sacrifice.

As we near the birth of the Babe born in Bethlehem, we light the fourth Advent candle, the candle of LOVE, for God is love. He has demonstrated His love in the gift and sacrifice He made for us, His children. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16)

Pastor: The candle of love prepares us for Christ's coming.

All: **Our hearts glow with the light of love.**

Pastor: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: **We wait with love. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen**

"I Love You, Lord"

I love you , Lord
And I lift my voice
To worship You
Oh, my soul, rejoice!

Take joy my King
In what You hear
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound
In Your ear

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