Salem Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 22, 2024, 4th Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery Organist: Connie O'Neill Flowers are given to the glory of God by Gloria Leiter

Prelude & Lighting the Candles

Welcome and Prayer

<u>Call to Worship</u>: God has done great things for us! **God's love is heralded in the** promise of Christ. Holy is God's Name! **God's promises are fulfilled in the** coming of Christ. God's mercy extends from generation to generation. **God's** salvation is offered in the gift of Christ. Glory to God in the highest. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

* <u>Hymn</u> :	Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus	84
The lighting of the	e Love Advent Candle	Skit@ the Bus Stop

<u>Prayer of Confession:</u> Loving God, even during this season of goodwill, there is much to confess. **Despite holiday cheer, stress and anxiety rule our lives.** We miss the reason for the season, focusing instead on Christmas parties, long to-do lists, and trying to get the shopping done. We fail to think about Your reordered world—a world where the lowly are lifted, and the hungry are filled with good things. Help us adjust our Christmas priorities, that we might join with You, O God, in preparing a world that welcomes the one who brings us peace. We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen. (*Let us now have a moment of silence to offer our prayers of confession*).

Assurance of Pardon

<u>Response</u>	Glory Be to the Father	Inside Front Cover
Joys & Concerns of	the Church	
Prayers of the Peop	ble	
Prayer Response	The Lord's Prayer	

Scripture Readings	*Micah 5:2-5 Luke 1:46-55 Hebrews 10:5-10	849 932 1095	
Time for Children			
* <u>Hymn:</u>	O Little Town of Bethlehem	92	
Sermon	"The Implication of Bethlehem"	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 Dedication Pray * <u>Response</u>	er Praise God		Inside Front Cover		
* <u>Hymn:</u>	What Child Is This?)	94		
*Taking the Light into the World					
*Charge and Benediction *Congregational Respons	e Three Fold Amen		Inside Back Cover		
*Those who can are invited to stand. ******************************					
Financial Update: Needed Weekly: Rec'd 2024-12-15:	\$2,298.10 \$2,355.00	Needed to Dat Rec'd to Date:	te: \$114,905.05 \$120,359.75		

Sunday:2024-12-229:30 AMWorship (nursery available, but not staffed)
Christmas Joy Offering
Sunday School

2024-<u>12-24</u> Christmas Eve Service and Communion

Sunday: 9:30 AM

9:00 PM

Monday:

<u>12-29-24</u> Worship with guest speaker John Zerbe (nursery with Rex & Lisa Lloyd) No Sunday School

Announcements:

Salem is collecting **Offerings from the Heart for the Salvation Army**. Each month, we collect different items; the December collection is toilet paper.

We will not be using the large white envelopes for church giving in 2025. If you want to put your money in an envelope, please use the small white envelopes found in the little brown boxes in the two vestibules.

The **2025 Flower chart** is in the vestibule. Please sign up.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the January newsletter. Submit them to <u>secretary@salemchurch.cc</u> or <u>PastorTomEmery@live.com</u>.

Upcoming Birthdays

23rd Samantha Morris Jan 2 Chris Beck 23rd Jeff Owens 3rd Emily Blackmore 30th Isaiah Pugh 5th Karen Pugh

Upcoming Anniversaries 28th Doug & Marilyn Strickler



Riding Into Bethlehem

Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | December 22, 2024 P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142 www.SalemChurch.cc | <u>secretary@salemchurch.cc</u>

Prayer Concerns:

LaDonna Allenbaugh (shoulder & elbow surgery) Charles Boroff (heart issue) Dave Burnett (heart issues) Tom Burnett (recovering from an accident) Pastor Tom Emery (long COVID healing) Marjorie Eutsler Millie Fletcher Ellen Friesner Cecil Foust (heart surgery) Shana Fryer Stephanie Gamble (eye issues) Bob & Jane Harter Sheryl Hefner (cancer) Carla Hillabrand (medical issues) sister to Nancy Breese Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher David Kroeger (pancreatic cancer) Jim Llovd (at Van Wert Manor for heart & foot issues) Mary Lou Morgan (Eleanor Morgan's daughter) David Morris (Zeb) Tim Morris Steve Muhlenkamp (cancer) Jen Pugh's stepdad Bev Place (cancer) Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer) Paul Price Denise Puah Ann Rees (in Van Wert Hearth & Home) **Bianca Richards** The area Nursing Homes and their residents

Serving Our Country:

Dillon Ellerbrock (U.S. Marines) Corbin Evans (U.S. Marine Corps) Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard) Butch Eutsler (U.S. Army) Madison Pugh (U.S. Coast Guard)

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Dillon Ellerbrock (U.S. Marines) Corbin Evans (U.S. Marine Corps) Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard) Butch Eutsler (U.S. Army) Madison Pugh (U.S. Coast Guard) Rev. Thomas Emery *"The Implication of Bethlehem" Micah 5:2-5a* Salem Presbyterian Church December 22, 2024

Like his fellow prophets, Micah denounced the sins of the people and the sins of the nobility. The leaders of the nation hated justice and perverted all that was righteous and holy. The Assyrians thundered toward Jerusalem and crushed the little villages because of the idolatry and faithless actions of those in corridors of power in Jerusalem. Micah declared hope would not come from Jerusalem but from an unlikely place, a little village that bore the cost of the rebellion against God in the capital. Front and center is Mary who sang a rousing and uplifting song with the fancy Latin title "The Magnificat." We can reflect on the simple fact that Mary sang a song of immense trust in God and hope for the world.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – The event at Bethlehem is the center of the universe.

POINT TWO – Jesus did not visit this planet when we became good enough to receive Him.

POINT THREE – The Messiah will be our peace.

THIS WEEK'S KEY PASSAGE

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf. (*Micah* 5:2 NLT).

ACTION POINT

Micah 5:2 is a good sample of one of the most precise messianic prophecies in the Bible. Remember that what Micah wrote here was written 750 years before the Lord Jesus was ever born. The Davidic line has been humiliated, defeated, and seemingly cut off. But that is not God's planned conclusion for the story. This new Davidic ruler comes from God and not from the Jerusalem succession of Davidic kings. Gospel logic always works this way. God has always been ready to correct human power and its foolishness. The prophet speaks of this God "whose origin is from old, from ancient days." Speaking on origins, Rudolf Bultmann (in his commentary on John) wrote about the meaning of being "born again." It's not a psychological rush; it's a whole new life. As Rudolf Bultman holds, "Rebirth means... something more than an improvement in man - it means that man receives a new origin; this is... clearly... a thing which he cannot give to himself." Why not make Christ the center of your life at the Bethlehem manger?

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