



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

2nd Sunday of Advent

CCLI License # 2839486

December 8, 2024

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Candle Lighting

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah #85 vs. 2

CALL TO WORSHIP

In this season of waiting, our God comes.

Come suddenly, Holy God, into our slow expectations and fill us with your urgent hopes for justice.

In this holy season of delight and wonder, our Savior comes.

Come suddenly, Companion of the poor, and challenge us to share in the gospel of welcome for all.

In these days of remembering what our lives are to be, our Spirit comes.

Come suddenly, Preparer of the way, to take us by the hand to walk with our sisters and brothers down the path to service.

GATHERING PRAYER

Covenant God, you send us messengers to cleanse and refine us for your coming. Help us endure the mirror of the prophets' message, that we may see you when you suddenly appear among us; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN: "All Earth is Waiting"



1. All earth is wait - ing to see the prom - ised One,
2. Thus says the proph - et to those of Is - ra - el,
3. Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be made plain,
4. In low - ly sta - ble the Pro - mised One ap - peared.



and o - pen fur - rows a - wait the seed of God. All the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el". One whose
o - pen new high - ways, new high - ways for our God, who is
Yet, feel that pre - sence through - out the earth to - day, for Christ



world, bound and strug - gling, seeks true li - ber - ty; it
name is "God with us", our Sav - iour shall be, through
now com - ing clos - er, so come all and see, and
lives in all Chrit - ians and is with us now; a -



cries out for jus - tice and search - es for the truth
whom hope will blos - som once more with - in our hearts.
o - pen the door - ways as wide as wide can be.
- gain on ar - riv - ing, Christ



brings us li - ber - ty.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We may appear pure and blameless to others, but we know the mistakes we have made with our words, our thoughts, and our actions. But God promises not only to save us from our enemies, sin and death, but from ourselves as well. Join me as we offer our confessing words to the One who will make us new once more.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You witness the sorts of lives we lead, Approaching God. Asked to share the gospel of hope, we place it on our to-do list instead. Given the chance to cry out for justice for others, we fall strangely silent. Invited to pray with joy in every moment, we prefer to grumble about every insignificant thing in our lives.

Have mercy on us, God of grace, and prepare our hearts for Your forgiveness to have its way in them. Fill us with Your hope so we might lighten the shadows of others. Help us to join the choirs of children in singing of Your joy. Transform us with that tender mercy who is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is our witness. We have spoken of our lives and been forgiven of every mistake we have made, every hurt we have caused.

We are held in God's heart, not only on this day, but all the days of our lives. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Mighty One, who scatters the proud and fills the hungry, by your Holy Spirit let your word leap in us and bring to our yearning the joy that comes with new beginnings and renewed lives. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3:1-4 The Coming Messenger

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former days.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: Follow the Holy Family to Bethlehem

Responsive Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Righteousness and peace

¹LORD, you were favorable to your land;

you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²You forgave the iniquity of your people;

you pardoned all their sin. Selah

⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

⁹Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,

that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

¹¹Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

and righteousness will look down from the sky.

¹²The LORD will give what is good,

and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness will go before him

and will make a path for his steps.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:46-55 Mary's Song

⁴⁶ And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever.'

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: "Follow Mary"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" #129

ES IST EIN' ROS'

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We are called by God to present a harvest of righteousness—not by virtue of our own works, but by the grace of the one who began a good work in us, and is even now bringing it to completion. Let us bring the offerings of our lives to the Lord.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: “All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night” #675 (vs 4)

TALLIS’ CANON

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

See, you come in this holy season with the simple gift of life itself. See, you invite us to share from the abundance of our lives, so others might be filled with life, with hope, with love, and with grace. Bless these gifts we offer to You, so they may be used to share the gospel of wholeness and welcome for all. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout” #100

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

CHARGE

God is sending you to be messengers of this holy season.

We will go to share God’s grace in the shadowed places of our world.

Jesus is sending you to be messengers of his gospel.

We will go to share the good news of justice in every way we treat each person.

The Spirit is sending you to be messengers of peace.

We will go to share the gifts of hope and reconciliation which have been placed in our hearts.

BENEDICTION

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Sue Schurr

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Linda Barry

Greeter(s): Lynn Hyland

Coffee Hour: Nancy Rolando

Volunteers Next Week 12/15/24

Liturgist: Janet Haacker

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Bonnie Zimmer

Greeter(s): Diane & Bob Eshelman

Coffee Hour:

PRAYER CONCERNS

The prayer concerns have recently been updated. If you have a prayer request, please contact **Pastor Rebecca at 315-317-6140 or the church office at 716-692-1319.**

CALENDAR

Sunday, Dec 8

9:30am All Age Faith Formation (Parlor)
10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

Monday, Dec 9

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm Church Stretch
7:00pm CE Team

Tuesday, Dec 10

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
10:00am-11:30am God Loves Me Storytime

Wednesday, Dec 11

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
11:00am or 7:30pm The Pastor's Study: *Everything Happens for a Reason*

Thursday, Dec 12

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm-8:00pm Choirs Practice

Saturday, Dec 14

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, Dec 15

9:30am All Age Faith Formation (Parlor)
10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)



Portions of the liturgy by Thom M. Shuman and Feasting on the Word. Images by Rev. John Stuart, stushieart.com.