# Salem Presbyterian Church Sunday, January 8, 2017

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery Organist: LaDonna Allenbaugh

Prelude Lighting of the Candles Welcome & Prayer

Call to Worship

**Psalm 29** 494

\*<u>Hymn</u> Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 84

<u>Prayer of Confession</u>: Upside-down God, You announce Your coming with exciting news. The hungry will eat their fill, and the oppressed will dance in newfound freedom. You proclaim Your mission with hard news. The well-fed will go hungry, and the powerful will lose their status. We find ourselves squirming as we acknowledge our participation in not helping the broken and demoralized. Help us accept and proclaim the coming of Your Son as truly Good News. Give us the courage to set aside our privilege, and help bring about this upside-down world, where everyone can sing together for joy. In the Name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

(Take a moment of silent 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 Tamara Mullenhour

Scripture Readings Isaiah 35:1-10 649

**Matthew 3:13-17** 879

Time for Children

\*<u>Hymn</u> **Holy, Holy, Holy** 

Sermon "The Unfinished Christmas Story" 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 our tithes and offerings

\*Response Praise God Inside Front Cover

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*<u>Hymn</u> **Joyful We Adore Thee** 

38

70

\*Congregational Response Three Fold Amen Inside Back Cover

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## Financial Update:

Needed Weekly: \$2,067.00 Needed to Date: \$2,067.00 Rec'd 01-01-17: \$702.25 Rec'd to Date: \$702.25

TODAY: <u>01-08-17</u>

9:30 AM Worship Service (nursery: Todd & Jayne Morris)

10:45 AM Sunday School 12:00 PM Session Meeting

Afternoon Music Committee Meeting

<sup>\*</sup>Taking the Light into the World

<sup>\*</sup>Charge and Benediction

<sup>\*</sup>Those who are able are invited to stand.

Wednesday: <u>01-11-17</u>

6:30 PM Confirmation Class

**Sunday:** <u>01-15-17</u> – INSTALLMENT OF NEW OFFICERS

9:30 AM Worship Service (nursery: Gwenda Blackmore)

6:00 PM Trustee Meeting

### **Announcements:**

Beginning TODAY, a new one-hour Adult Sunday School class will begin based on the book, **Dave Ramsey's Complete Guide to Money.** 

The new **flower chart** for 2017 is up on the bulletin board. This year, flowers will be used for *three* weeks. Please consider signing up and remember to contact the secretary if you have a special request of who you might be giving them in honor of. Thank you!

Please pick up a box of **Offering Envelopes** in the side room for the New Year.

Confirmation Class will meet on Wednesday, January 11 & 25 at 6:30 pm.

We have extra **poinsettias** in the side room, please feel free to take them!

**Mini-March for Life** will be held on Friday, January 27. Walkers, meet at 11:00 am at Fountain Park (VW). A lunch will be served at the K of C at 11:30 am (donations to PLC) and the prayer service will follow at 12:00 pm. Call 419-238-9177 for more info. **Please pray to end abortion.** 

**Annual Reports** are due January 15. These reports will be made available to the congregation January 22 and the approval vote will be taken on Sunday, February 5.

**Teen for Christ** continues to meet each Tuesday at 7:00 pm at Trinity Methodist Church in Spencerville. Youth are invited to take part in the Christ-centered Bible study, skits, games, food and fun. Please contact Pastor for a ride.

**Dear Salem Church Family**, Thank you for allowing me to serve this church for the past two and a half years as secretary. I am grateful for how Salem has provided for my family in this way. But, I regret to say, I must leave my position this month. Thank you for always being encouraging. I have been truly blessed. **Sincerely, Tamara Mullenhour** 



# Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | January 8, 2017 P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142 www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@salemchurch.cc

### **Prayer Concerns:**

Norma Adam (diabetic issues)

Bob Allenbaugh (lung cancer – husband of LaDonna)

Arlene Barrientos (Alzheimer's & foot surgery)

Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)

Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)

Colin Good (diagnosed with emphysema – son of Charlie Good)

Melanie Huddleston (cancer – sister of Kim Coil)

Noell Hunter (Type 1 diabetes)

Betty Lloyd

Elizabeth Markus (depression and salvation)

Marian Morris (stage two cancer)

Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)

Joyce Profit (heart issues)

Chris Reichert (health issues)

Marjorie Rhoades (leg pains)

George Siler (physical therapy)

Thad Summersett (malignant brain tumor – grandson of Warren S.)

Martha Walker (recovering from heart attack)

Natalie Wilkins (90 years old and failing in health)

Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

Ian (brain cancer)

Daniel Cruse (lymphoma cancer)

Simon Ibell (deadly birth condition)

Karen Payne (cancer)

# **Serving our Country:**

Phoebe Eutsler (U.S. Army)

Nick Fuller (U.S. Air Force)

Micah Linger (U.S. Marine Corps)

Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)

Pete McCollow (U.S. Marine Corps)

## Birthdays:

8 Dean Swygart 9 Megan Smith

10 Dominic Adkins 11 Chelsey Lloyd

12 Christina Emery

11 Ashlyn Price12 George Siler

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# Rev. Thomas Emery | "The Unfinished Christmas Story" | Isaiah 35:1-10 Salem Presbyterian Church | January 8, 2016

To the Jews returning from Babylon and Persia, Isaiah prophetically discusses Christ's coming glorious kingdom. All creation will be affected, both for people and for nature in its entirety. Israel and Juda were laid waste as Yahweh's judgment. Here Isaiah says that the despair will give way to the glory similar to Lebanon and the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. In the land, there will be rejoicing, gladness, blossoming, and shouts of delight. The people will see the glory of their God reflected in this renewal of nature. To the Jews, Isaiah assures them that their "salvation" includes a salvation from their enemies and restoration. In Christ's Kingdom, there is no place for fear. Recovery comes to the blind, the deaf, the lame, and the mute (35:5–6). God would give His unmerited favor to those who were once under judgment. They will experience God's glory, His presence, His protection, and leadership just like they were provided in the wilderness.

#### **TEACHING POINTS**

**POINT ONE** – Christ Is Hope for the Hopeless.

**POINT TWO** – Jesus Renews Us.

**POINT THREE** – The Christmas Story Is Yet Unfinished.

#### THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"Those who have been ransomed by the LORD will return. They will enter Jerusalem singing, crowned with everlasting joy. Sorrow and mourning will disappear, and they will be filled with joy and gladness" (Isaiah 35:10 NLT).

#### **ACTION POINT**

Isaiah talks about an upside-down world. Those who are poor, hungry and oppressed now have a defender. He uses the image of a highway to characterize the two qualities: holiness and joy. Its use is limited to those who are holy and who are in right relationship with God. The people who walk in it are described as "the redeemed" (35:9–10) Isaiah is making the offer for those of us in a desert experience that we can find refreshment and renewal in Christ. The redemption of which Isaiah speaks will conclude in that day when Jesus comes to restore the present earth to himself. Take Christ's offer of renewal. Pray for Jesus to fully come into your life, and ask His Holy Spirit to guide you and help you live Christ's commands. Why remain in our personal self-imposed desert? Why not take the offer of renewal to heart and follow Christ!

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