Salem Presbyterian Church Sunday, December 9, 2018, 2nd Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery Organist: LaDonna Allenbaugh Flowers are given to the glory of God by Dave & Carla Breese

Prelude & Lighting the Candles

Welcome and Prayer

<u>Call to Worship</u>: A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord!" **Make God's paths straight.** Every valley will be filled, and every mountain will be leveled. **The crooked will be made straight.** The rough and rocky ways will be smoothed. **All will see the salvation of God. See the light from on high.** The dawn is breaking. **The Lord is coming! The Lord is coming!**

* <u>Hymn</u> :	It Came upon the Midnight Clear	90

Lighting of the Peace Advent Purple Candle

Ron Richards

<u>Prayer of Confession:</u> O Lord, darkness surrounds us like a cold stone tomb, until your light bursts into our lives like a clear, bright dawn. We cover our eyes, we're so unprepared for Your coming. Your light blazes forth like a white-hot fire, consuming all that it touches. How can we stand before You, Lord? The road that we thought was straight and wide is now exposed as a twisted, crooked path, blocked by a mountain of sin. Where can we turn? Who will guide us back to the way of peace—the way that leads to You? 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

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 LaDonna Allenbaugh Scripture Readings *Malachi 3:1-4 874 932 Luke 1:68-79 Luke 3:1-6 934 Time for Children Silent Night! Holy Night! 85 *Hvmn: Rev. Thomas Emery Sermon "Creator and Redeemer"

*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 v * <u>Response</u>		r tithes and o raise God	fferings	Insid	e Front Cover		
*Prayer of Dedicat	ion						
* <u>Hymn:</u>	Angels We Ho	ave Heard o	n High		89		
*Taking the Light in	to the World						
*Charge and Bene *Congregational R		Three Fold A	men Ir	nside	Back Cover		
*Those who can are invited to stand. ************************************							
Needed Weekly: Rec'd 12-02-18:	\$1,92 \$2,82		Needed to Da Rec'd to Date		\$92,496.00 \$93,913.25		

Sunday:	<u>12-9-18</u>	
9:30 AM	Worship (nursery with Eric & Jenny Pugh)	
10:45 AM	Sunday School	
4:30 PM	Trustee Meeting	
5:30 PM	Caroling	
7:00 PM	Manse Party	
Tuesday:	<u>12-11-18</u>	
•		
7:00 PM	Women's Bible Study	

Announcements:

The **Women's Bible Study** is this Tuesday, December 11, at 7 PM. We are going through the Book of Matthew. All are welcome.

The Salem Youth Christmas Service Program is on December 16.

Our church is collecting **packets of gravy** for the Salvation Army Christmas baskets. Our goal is 400 to 500 packages. Today is the last day for collecting gravy packets.

The boxes with offering envelopes can be found on the white table in the prayer room. Please sign your name beside the box number you are taking for the year 2019.

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

9th-Jason Lloyd

13th-Marilyn Stockton

17th-Jeremy Morris

Upcoming Anniversaries 16th-Kent & Heather McClure



Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | December 9, 2018 P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142 www.SalemChurch.cc | <u>secretary@salemchurch.cc</u>

Prayer Concerns:

Kylee Ball (surgery) Peggy Burnett Jim Davis (cancer) Mark Davis Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall) Betty Ellis (rapidly failing health) Doris Evans (cancer) Daniel Fisher (rectal cancer) Judy Foust Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer) Bill Harmon (cancer) Jeff Hines (kidney transplant) Bob Hundley (cancer) Tim Hurbert (cancer in lungs & pancreas-friend of Barb Good) Jan Jones (health Issues) Paula Jones (healing from fall) Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer - friend of Evelyn Martz) Barbara Lewis (heart attack, friend of Evelyn Martz) Linda Lissey (cancer) Larry Lloyd Bob Louth Becky Martz (health problems) Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease) Sarah Miller (health issues) Gwen Montez (Vertebrae & internal surgery) Marian Morris Kim Owens Dorothea Plikerd Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure) Jovce Profit Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain) Marjorie Rhodes Julie Sheets (lung cancer) Shelly (vertigo) Bobbie Spyres Natalie Wilkins (failing in health) Noah Wyatt (brain surgery)

*Condolences to the family of Linda Young

Serving our Country:

Phoebe Eutsler (U.S. Army) Micah Linger (U.S. Marine Corps) Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)

Prayer Concerns:

Kylee Ball (surgery) Peggy Burnett Jim Davis (cancer) Mark Davis Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall) Betty Ellis (rapidly failing health) Doris Evans (cancer) Daniel Fisher (rectal cancer) Judy Foust Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer) Bill Harmon (cancer) Jeff Hines (kidney transplant) Bob Hundley (cancer) Tim Hurbert (cancer in lungs & pancreas-friend of Barb Good) Jan Jones (health Issues) Paula Jones (healing from fall) Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer - friend of Evelyn Martz) Barbara Lewis (heart attack, friend of Evelyn Martz) Linda Lissey (cancer) Larry Lloyd Bob Louth Becky Martz (health problems) Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease) Sarah Miller (health issues) Gwen Montez (Vertebrae & internal surgery) Marian Morris Kim Owens Dorothea Plikerd Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure) Jovce Profit Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain) Marjorie Rhodes Julie Sheets (lung cancer) Shelly (vertigo) Bobbie Spyres Natalie Wilkins (failing in health) Noah Wyatt (brain surgery)

*Condolences to the family of Linda Young

Serving our Country:

Phoebe Eutsler (U.S. Army) Micah Linger (U.S. Marine Corps) Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard) Rev. Thomas Emery "Creator and Redeemer" Malachi 3:1-4 Salem Presbyterian Church December 9, 2018

Israel heard from the Prophet Malachi that God was purifying Israel by the afflictions that they were suffering. So too, God may be refining us by the fires of His daily judgments. But His aim is always that of love -- to rid us of our sin. Our Lord, by His Spirit at work in our lives and the world, is taking away the sin that will make us unable to endure the coming of the Day of the Lord. By His action as the Refiner of our lives, God in Christ can keep us from falling, and to present us without blemish before the presence of His glory with rejoicing (Jude 24). In our helplessness, we need someone to prepare us, to remind us, and to point us in the right direction out of the wilderness.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – We are lost on our own and self-destructive.

POINT TWO – We just obey, and God honors our obedience by blessing us with gifts

POINT THREE – While on earth, don't waste your time.

THIS WEEK'S KEY PASSAGE

² "But who will be able to endure it when he comes? Who will be able to stand and face him when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes (Malachi 3:2 NLT).

ACTION POINT

People need to be aware of the fact that they were undeserving sinners, but also that they could also be bound to a forgiving God who wants to give them hope. We are not capable of changing ourselves. Because we are sinners, our attempts at self-reform will always come up short of what God requires of us in the Ten Commandments of the Covenant. However, as the Covenant helps us to recognize our inadequacy, the Covenant also helps us to realize that God made the Covenant with the intent of helping us. The Covenant declares that we should have been entirely dependent upon God in the first place. That is what John the Baptist was preaching about when he taught a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins by the Lamb of God. Why not turn to the Jesus who can give us hope and a future by making us right with God?

Rev. Thomas Emery "Creator and Redeemer" Malachi 3:1-4 Salem Presbyterian Church December 9, 2018

Israel heard from the Prophet Malachi that God was purifying Israel by the afflictions that they were suffering. So too, God may be refining us by the fires of His daily judgments. But His aim is always that of love -- to rid us of our sin. Our Lord, by His Spirit at work in our lives and the world, is taking away the sin that will make us unable to endure the coming of the Day of the Lord. By His action as the Refiner of our lives, God in Christ can keep us from falling, and to present us without blemish before the presence of His glory with rejoicing (Jude 24). In our helplessness, we need someone to prepare us, to remind us, and to point us in the right direction out of the wilderness.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – We are lost on our own and self-destructive.

POINT TWO – We just obey, and God honors our obedience by blessing us with gifts

POINT THREE – *While on earth, don't waste your time.*

THIS WEEK'S KEY PASSAGE

² "But who will be able to endure it when he comes? Who will be able to stand and face him when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes (Malachi 3:2 NLT).

ACTION POINT

People need to be aware of the fact that they were undeserving sinners, but also that they could also be bound to a forgiving God who wants to give them hope. We are not capable of changing ourselves. Because we are sinners, our attempts at self-reform will always come up short of what God requires of us in the Ten Commandments of the Covenant. However, as the Covenant helps us to recognize our inadequacy, the Covenant also helps us to realize that God made the Covenant with the intent of helping us. The Covenant declares that we should have been entirely dependent upon God in the first place. That is what John the Baptist was preaching about when he taught a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins by the Lamb of God. Why not turn to the Jesus who can give us hope and a future by making us right with God?