

Salem Presbyterian Church

Sunday, Dec 6th, 2020, 2nd Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery Organist: Becky Reichard

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



Prelude
Lighting of the traditional Candles
Welcome, Prayer, and the Advent Peace Candle

Call to Worship Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 532

*Hymn: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear 90

Prayer of Confession: God of pure love and kindness, You have promised to renew our lives, to be with us in a new heaven and new earth - a realm where Your steadfast love and faithfulness are embraced forever. **We are afraid of Your promised coming. We cling to rules we understand: the rules of privilege and power.** We are afraid of a world of true justice and peace, afraid that You will change the way things have always been. **As we wait for You to live among us, we confess our unwillingness to see that You have always been here. Forgive us. We pray in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.** (Let us now have a moment of silence to offer our personal 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**

New Member Induction Lindsay Richards

Scripture Readings *Isaiah 40:1-11 653
Mark 1:1-8 910
2 Peter 3:8-15a 1109

Time for Children

Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High 89

Sermon: "Prepare, the Messiah is Coming" 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

*Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful 100

*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:	\$1,988.78	Needed to Date:	\$95,461.37
Rec'd 11-29-20:	1,264.30	Rec'd to Date:	\$102,737.00

Sunday: 12-6-20
9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Jeff & Kelly Lloyd)
10:45 AM Sunday School
5:00 PM Trustee meeting

Tuesday: 12-8-20
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

Sunday: 12-13-20
9:30 AM Worship Christmas Program
(nursery with Bill & Ruth Evans)
10:30 AM Christmas Reception
10:45 AM Session short meeting

Announcements:

The **Women's Bible Study** is on Tuesdays at 7 PM during December.

The **Manse Party and Caroling** is cancelled this year because of the Governor's orders.

The **Youth Christmas Program** is on December 13th; there will be a Christmas reception with treats in the Prayer Room. There will also be a Christmas craft exchange for homemade crafts during the reception; see Carol Emery about ideas. A short session meeting will follow the reception.

The **Christmas Eve** and **Communion Service** is at 9 PM on the 24th.

If you would like to donate \$5 to decorate the church with **poinsettias**, please give your money to Carla Breese or Lisa Lloyd. We are targeting 40 poinsettias.

Today is the last day for **gravy packet** collections. We have collected 599 packets to date toward a goal of 650.

The 2021 Offering Envelop Boxes are in the Prayer Room.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the next **newsletter**. Submit them to secretary@saalemchurch.cc.

Upcoming Birthdays

8th-Paige Thatcher 9th-Jason Lloyd 13th-Marilyn Stockton 17th-Jeremy Morris

Upcoming Anniversaries

16th-Kent & Heather McClure 28th-Doug & Marilyn Stickler



“Prepare, the Messiah Is Coming” Isaiah 40:1-11

Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | December 6, 2020

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142

www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@saalemchurch.cc

Prayer Concerns:

Connie Bassett (breast cancer)
Barry Coil (stroke)
Kathy Comer
Rosemary Cooper
Cathy Donnal (health issues)
Asher Eberle
Catie Emery (nightmares)
Melissa Fallis (Warren Summersett's granddaughter)
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Jerry Holscher
Dale Kiesza (leg operation)
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
LuAnn (family issues)
John Lloyd
Donald Martin
David & Becky Martz
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Byron Mohr
David Morris (Zeb)
Marian Morris
Judy Jones Muhn (health issues)
lone Owens
John & Joe Pavel
Marjorie Rhodes
Daune & Denise Schreiber
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Doug Smith (Jen Pugh's father)
Mary Strayer (cancer)
Betty Tennant
Curt Whetstone
Raymond Young
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)
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)

Condolences to the families of

Karen Lentz, Art Eversole, Carol Ringwald, Dean Mollenkopf, and Corky Hammons

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Rev. Thomas Emery
“Prepare, the Messiah Is Coming” Isaiah 40:1-11
Salem Presbyterian Church
December 6, 2020

The people had transgressed God's law; they had ignored the warnings of the prophets whom God had sent one after the other to warn the people and help them to return to the proper path. However, their failure to heed the numerous warnings resulted in their Babylonian exile because of their sins, but Isaiah affirms that the exile will end. The exile is an expression of God's judgment. Judah not only had abandoned Yahweh but also had detracted from Yahweh's glory by giving it to idols. The exile was a time in which God's people could reflect on what they had done; this period of reflection was a way of paying the damages in order to be restored to fellowship with Yahweh. The statement “she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins” (40:2) is an allusion to the Old Testament laws of restitution (Exod. 22:4, 7, 9).

Despite the situation, however, God would never abandon His chosen people and, thus, Isaiah was sent to proclaim the message of peace and new life. We hear, "*Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins*" (Isaiah 40:1-2). It will be a new day for Israel; God has forgiven the transgressions of the people. Their term of exile will soon end.

TEACHING POINTS

First. Jesus, of course, is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies.

Second. Still, the Lord gives us free will and will never enter where he is not welcome.

Third. This Advent season we wait for Jesus to return to our world.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY PASSAGE

³ Listen! It's the voice of someone shouting, “Clear the way through the wilderness for the LORD! Make a straight highway through the wasteland for our God (Isaiah 40:3 NLT)!”

ACTION POINT

Having told the people that God would give them a new day, the prophet then begins to explain about the journey home. He predicts the voice of one speaking from the wilderness of the need to prepare the way for the Lord. At the same time, he speaks of what is necessary for the Hebrew people to return home. They are to build a highway that is straight and level. All valleys must be filled in and all mountains made low; the uneven ground is to be made level and the rough places smooth. From our twenty-first-century perspective, Isaiah is telling the people to build a superhighway that will allow them to return home quickly and safely. This, of course, is not a real road but an especially important thoroughfare of the mind. The physical movement cannot be accomplished until the people understand and can create a straight path between themselves and God. In the past, many hurdles, obstacles, and detours, all of which were human generated, were placed between the people and God. Now, during Advent, perhaps you can prayerfully deal with your obstacles so that the relationship between God and you, His chosen one, will once again be whole.

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