

*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, our gifts are small next to all that you have given us. Take our gifts, LORD, and make them holy, so that they may bring Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love to all whose lives that they touch. Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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.

*Closing Hymn

20 Presbyterian Hymnal

Watchmen Tell Us of the Night

*Benediction

*Song of Sending

9 Presbyterian Hymnal
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind.
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Pastor: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

*The Postlude

The People of God Gathered to Worship As THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WEST SALEM

December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Welcome

Prayer Requests

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: People of God, our LORD is coming!

PEOPLE: We Greet our God with Joy!

LEADER: Our LORD dances to meet us, God makes a music for all to celebrate!

PEOPLE: No Pain is too deep for our God, no shadow too dark.

LEADER: What can come between us and the Love of the LORD?

PEOPLE: Nothing in heaven or on Earth can separate us from God's love!

LEADER: So let us the worship our God who brings us joy!

PEOPLE: Yes! Let us Worship the LORD!

*Opening Hymn

11 Presbyterian Hymnal

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we come before you as people in desperate need of a Savior. We are surrounded by sin, both in the world around us and in ourselves.

We often fail to love you with all of our being, and in the same way, fail to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We overcomplicate our morality and focus on warm feelings rather than your true joy.

Come, Lord Jesus, and bring the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that we all need in our lives, and listen to us, as we confess our sins silently before you.

Moment of Silent Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son

And to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

World without end. Amen, Amen.

Passing of the Peace *(please remain in your seats)*

Let us greet one another as forgiven sinners

With the peace of Christ:

"The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also, with you."

A Moment with the Children- Joy is Fun!

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"

¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."

¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

¹³ He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you."

¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon

The Grumpy Prophet

Pastor Dan McCurdy

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there He will come to judge the living 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.

Presentation of Tithes, Offerings, and Gifts

People of God, in a season of giving, we are reminded that all that we have received from God were given as gifts, freely, and in love. Therefore, when WE give, let us do so not in an attempt to earn what we have been given, but instead in worshipful imitation of what our God has given us.

Offertory

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Updated protocols for Covid-19

Session has considered guidance from the CDC on the wearing of masks by vaccinated individuals.

The CDC does leave it up to local jurisdictions, businesses, and venues to set their own rules for COVID protections.

The following guidelines will be followed to ensure a safe experience for in-person worship:

- **Due to the rise in COVID cases, masks are required for all worshipers, regardless of vaccination status.**
- Seating has returned to normal, pre-Covid capacity.
- There are live song leaders and special music. Worshipers are invited to sing along.
- Children are invited to the front of the sanctuary during the Children's Message. There are seating marks to maintain social distance.
- The offering will be collected by the ushers.
- **Nursery services are not currently available.**
The church nursery is available for use by parents.

December 12, 2021 Worship Team:

Acolytes	Emmitt Lambertson Cameron Lambertson
Liturgist	Jane Foner
Musicians	Julie Baker Greg Meeuwsen Sara Oldenburg
Sound Room	Dane Bohnsack
Usher	Kristjan Sells

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Tithes and Offerings

Donations can be mailed to:

Presbyterian Church of West Salem
PO Box 861
West Salem, WI 54669

Outdoor Church Sign

Our outdoor church sign will be refurbished in December.

The sign will be taken to the shop for a couple weeks for repainting and new acrylic covers.

The plan is to have it back in place before Christmas.

Christmas Joy Offering

As we make our way to the manger celebrating the wondrous birth of the Christ child, please consider a gift to this worthwhile offering once again this year. Thank You!!

This offering will be collected through December 19th.

Gloves, Socks, and Fidget Spinners needed!

The West Salem School District is in need of warm winter gloves (those that can withstand snow and wet conditions), socks for all ages, and fidget spinners/poppits (which are proven to help children young and old increase concentration and control anxiety).

Donations can be placed in the box in the back of the sanctuary or dropped off with Nick at Le Coulee Cheese Castle.

Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 24th

7:00 pm

Tabitha Circle

Bring your crafts and join us!

The first and third Monday each month at 1:00 p.m.

Community Dinner

Wednesday, December 22nd

Please drive up and meals will be placed in your vehicle.

Sunday School Teachers and Helpers Needed!

See Becca Bohnsack or Sara Oldenburg if you can help.