

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

January 7, 2024
Communion Sunday
Baptism of the Lord

Prelude

Welcome

Prayer Requests

Call to Worship

LEADER: A Star in the Sky Marked the Birth of a King!

PEOPLE: **Three Foreigners Traveled to find the new babe.**

LEADER: A king of the Land heard the message with fear,

PEOPLE: **The Prophets of the King read the signs and they traveled.**

LEADER: The Foreigners worshiped the Child that was born,

PEOPLE: **While the Child's own people feared him.**

LEADER: So let us worship the God who speaks to all people!

PEOPLE: **Let us worship the LORD!**

Opening Hymn

We Three Kings of Orient Are
v. 1, 3, 5 #66 Presbyterian Hymnal

Prayer of Confession

Most Holy and Merciful God, have mercy upon us, a sinful people. We were made to be a light to the world, but often we walk in darkness. We fail to heed the commands you give, and often we do the things you urge us not to do. We ignore the signs of you all around us, and worry about worldly things, rather than your will in the World. Forgive us our sins, and hear the confessions that we lift up 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.**

Passing of the Peace

Let us greet one another as forgiven sinners with the peace of Christ:

*"May the Peace of our LORD Jesus Christ be with you!"
And also, with you."*

Hymn of Illumination

Lord Speak to Me that I May Speak
v. 1 #426 Presbyterian Hymnal

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-6

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the

Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

A Moment With Children – *The Wise Men*

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 2: 7-12

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon - The Unlikely Worshippers

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

Everything we have, we received from God. When we give back to God, it is not to earn our way or to repay a debt, as what we have was given. Instead, we give in imitation of the Lord, to be generous as God is generous, and so to worship the LORD with our giving. So, people of God, let us bring our gifts before the LORD in worship.

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.

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 help to feed the hungry, grow the church, and share your Light with a world lost in darkness. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's prayer (Debts/Debtors)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your Hearts.

We lift them up to the LORD!

Let us give thanks to the LORD our God!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Most holy and gracious God, we praise you who has gathered us around this table... and who forever sing to the glory of your name;

Holy, holy, holy LORD, God of Power and Might,

Heaven and Earth are full of your glory,

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD,

Hosanna in the highest!

Forgiving God, we call upon you in our times of fear and doubt... for great is the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is Risen,

Christ will come again!

And while we wait on that day when we will share this meal in heaven with you, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray, saying...

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.

Receiving the Elements

Closing Hymn

We Gather Together

#559 Presbyterian Hymnal

Benediction

Song of Sending

Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing

v. 1 #538 Presbyterian Hymnal

Pastor: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The Postlude

Sunday School

9:00 am – Grades 2-5, Youth Group

During Church – Grades K-2nd

Kids will be dismissed to Sunday School following the Children’s Message

**Nursery Available – 4k and under only
Not staffed**

Coffee and Cookies

**Fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall
9:30-10:00 am**

Exercise Group

Tuesdays and Fridays

9:00 to 10:00 am

Fellowship Hall

Taking Down of the Greens

Today after service

Handbell Ringer Rehearsals – 6:30 pm

Choir Rehearsals – 7:45 pm

**Practices start up again on
Thursday, January 11th**

Game Night

January 27th

6 – 8 pm

Fellowship Hall

Ordination and Installation

New Session members and Deacons

January 14, 2024

Annual Meeting

February 4, 2024

After Service

Blood Drive

January 18th

12:30 – 5:30 pm

January 7, 2024 Worship Team	
Liturgist	Gideon Wolbrink
Musicians	Julie Baker Greg Meeuwesen
Sound Room	Kelly Crusan
Choir Director	Vicki Arndt
Usher	Ron Seeger

Tithes and Offerings

Donations can be mailed to:

Presbyterian Church of West Salem

PO Box 861

West Salem, WI 54669

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Tabitha Circle

Bring your crafts, sack lunch and join us!

The first and third Monday of each month

11:30-2:30 pm.

Would you like a visit from the Pastor?

You are important to the Presbyterian Church of West Salem. Please contact the church office if you would like a pastoral visit or to set up an appointment with the pastor.

Call 608-786-0910

Or preschurchws@gmail.com