

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

January 4, 2026
Communion Sunday
2nd Sunday of Christmas

Prelude – *The Christmas Spirit*

Welcome

Prayer Requests

Call To Worship

Leader: Our God Sees Us Wherever We go, Whatever We do.

People: Our God Knows us, because our God MADE us.

Leader: We cannot hide from God, or Run from God,

People: God always sees us, is always watching over us.

Leader: So Let us Celebrate the the Love we cannot escape.

People: Let all God's people praise the LORD!

Opening Hymn

Hark, The Herald Angels Sing
v. 1,2,3 #31 Presbyterian Hymnal

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

Open Our Eyes, LORD
v. 1 #633 Celebration Hymnal

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all

things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

A MOMENT WITH CHILDREN – In the Beginning

SPECIAL MUSIC – Nothing But A Child – Greg Meeuwsen

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Sermon - The REAL first Christmas

Pastor Dan McCurdy

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we are sinful people living in a sinful world. All around us, everyday we see more and more signs of how the world requires your love, your power, and your beauty. We have not done all that you call us to do, and we do many things you tell us not to do. We have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, and might, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We focus on the newborn baby, forgetting that you have always been with us. Forgive us, LORD, hear our cry for you to come and set all that is wrong right, and listen to the silent confessions of our hearts.

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.**

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

The Gifts of God are all around us, our lives and our homes, our talents and our joys, our family and friends, and the greatest gift of all was the Salvation promised, the life of Christ seeking to end our division from God and each other. When we give, we do not do so to purchase anything... for the gifts of God were already given. Instead, we give in imitation of our LORD, offering what we have to support others, and to be ourselves the gift that God gives the World, so let us worship God with our Giving.

Offertory – *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

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

***Angels We Have Heard on High
#23 Presbyterian Hymnal***

Benediction

Song of Sending

***To God Be The Glory
v.1 #485 Presbyterian Hymnal***

Pastor: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The Postlude

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

January 4, 2026 Worship Team	
Liturgist	Barbara Hopkins
Musicians	Caroline Sells Greg Meeuwsen
Music Director	Lisa Jones
Accompanist	Julie Baker
Sound Room	Josiah Wolbrink
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

1st and 3rd Mondays

11:30am – 2:30pm

Bring a lunch

***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***

**The ongoing mission of The Presbyterian Women is to
support the Salvation Army and WINN (What I Need
Now) by collecting needed items (lists are on tables and
Lampighter. All items can be placed in the purple tote
at the back of the sanctuary. Money donations are
accepted as well.**

**Exercise Group
9:00 to 10:00 am
Fellowship Hall**

**Support the West Salem Food Pantry
Please bring food and home donations
and place them in the shopping carts
between the entryway doors.**

**Installation of
Elders and Deacons
Today**

**Community Dinner
January 28th
5-6 pm**

**New Membership Class
January 11 & 18, 2026 at 9 a.m. in the Chapel
Interested? Contact Pastor Dan, (608) 786-0910
Or Vickie Bain, (608) 769-3041**

**Blood Drive
Fellowship Hall
January 29th
11:30am – 4:30 pm**

***Congregational Meeting
January 25th
After service***