



**December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent
Sacrament of Holy Communion**

WELCOME

PRELUDES (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

*Communion in E Minor
Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

*Alexandre Guilmant
Robert J. Powell*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Luke 21:25-28)

One: Christ is coming! We see the signs!

All: Christ is coming! Let us be ready!

One: Christ is coming! Raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near!

All: Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES



*Sue Doughman and
Marilyn Rodenhausen*

CONGREGATION SINGS

*Kindle Advent Candles Cranham, Gustav Holst
(verse 1)*

Kindle Advent Candles. Hope will be renewed. Dreams may fade from vision: purpose unpursued. Though it seems relentless – misery and loss. God will do a new thing: swift and soft.

***OPENING SONG #82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
(verse 1)*

Hyfrydol

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

(verse 2)

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Please stand as you are able.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

A Messianic Apocalypse (from the Dead Sea Scrolls)

... [the hea]vens and the earth will listen to His Messiah, and none therein will stray from the commandments of the holy ones. Seekers of the Lord, strengthen yourselves in His service! All you hopeful in (your) heart, will you not find the Lord in this? For the Lord will consider the pious (hasidim) and call the righteous by name. Over the poor His spirit will hover and will renew the faithful with His power. And He will glorify the pious on the throne of the eternal Kingdom. He who liberates the captives, restores sight to the blind, straightens the b[ent] (Ps. cxlvi, 7-8). And f[or] ever I will clea[ve to the h]opeful and in His mercy ... And the fr[uit ...] will not be delayed for anyone And the Lord will accomplish glorious things which have never been as [He ...] For He will heal the wounded, and revive the dead and bring good news to the poor (Isa. lxi, 1). ... He will lead the uprooted and make the hungry rich ... [the ear]th and all that is on it; and the sea [and all that is in it] and all the ponds of water and rivers who are doing good before the Lor[d] ... like those who curse and are (destined) for death [when] the Life- giver will raise the dead of His people. And we will thank and proclaim to you the righteousness of the Lord.

SERMON

Rev. Brian Saxe

UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39, Book of Common Worship)

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

WITNESS

INVITATION TO OFFERING

We take this time to reflect and recognize all contributions of time, talent, and treasure. A basket is available for making monetary donations.

OFFERTORY

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Robin Dinda

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

One: God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes. Open our eyes to the generosity of your hand and nurture all spiritual gifts that we may share life and love in praise to you. And as we come to this table today, remind us that there is room for everyone and plenty for all.

CHORAL RESPONSE #529

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether
(verse 1)

Union Seminary

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them. Alleluia! Alleluia! Here we touch your garment's hem.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Christ is coming - coming to make all things new. Eternal God, during this season of Advent, help us prepare Christ's way, help us center our hearts, minds, and prayers on your holy presence in our midst. God of our salvation,

All: Hear our prayers.

One: As the days grow short and the nights loom long, we praise you for these seasonal reminders that there is time for work and for rest. For those of us who know warm homes and soft places to sleep, we give thanks for these precious gifts. We pray for those who are unhoused and those whose home is unsafe or financially insecure. May all your children get the rest they need to thrive. God of our salvation,

All: Hear our prayers.

One: As divisiveness and conflict plague us and wars rage across the world, Holy God, we focus on the generosity, kindness, and care that you encourage within us. As we contemplate the vulnerability of Christ, born a fragile infant in a violent world, let us drop our facades and the masks of strength we hide behind. May this season of Advent prepare us to celebrate the strength that can be found in weakness and the power held in humility and love. God of our salvation,

All: Hear our prayers.

One: As your people gather in homes and churches to celebrate this season, let us be reminded of all the reasons we have to rejoice in you. Let us be reminded of your protective presence, of your gentleness and love, of your healing power, of your peace which passes all understanding. Guard our hearts and minds this Advent, Savior God, so we can rejoice over your faithfulness through Jesus Christ our Lord. God of our salvation,

All: Hear our prayers.

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: O Lord, our God, creator, and ruler of the universe, the earth is full of your glory. You made all creatures to live in peace and safety. You established your people to be a light for the nations and called us to walk in your ways. Though we turned from you, you were always faithful, and in the fullness of time you sent a child, your only Son, to lead us. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with angels, prophets, martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, proclaiming:

All: 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.

One: You are holy, O God of majesty and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. In Christ, we have seen and heard the good news of God: that the sick are healed, strangers are welcomed, the poor have hope, and the dead are raised to new life. Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and cup and, with thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. According to Christ's commandment:

All: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us. Unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world. Give hope and strength to those who call upon your name. Feed us with the bread of life and fill us with the spirit of joy so that we may share your grace and peace with all the world. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert for the glorying coming of Jesus the Christ. And having been fed at this table, let us offer ourselves in service to others. Amen.

***SENDING SONG #372**

*O for a World
(verse 1)*

Azmon

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways, where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

(verse 2)

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved, where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

(verse 3)

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

(verse 5)

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace, where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

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***BENEDICTION**

*Please stand as you are able.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

I Shall Know Him When He Comes

Wagner

POSTLUDE

Postlude on Duke Street

Mark A. Radice

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flowers

The flowers this morning are dedicated by the Gurd family in memory of loved ones.

December Worship Schedule

Sunday, Dec. 1

First Sunday of Advent – Combined worship at Valley
Rev. Brian Saxe preaching

Sunday, Dec. 8

Second Sunday of Advent – Combined worship at Bainbridge UCC
Pastor John preaching

Sunday, Dec. 15

Third Sunday of Advent – Festival Choir Christmas Music Program
“A Simple Christmas”

Sunday, Dec. 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Christmas dinner to follow worship

Tuesday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve – Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols – 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 29

First Sunday of Christmas - Pajama worship and carol sing

Advent Wreath Sign-up



The Advent Wreath sign-up has been posted in the Narthex. Please consider signing up to light a candle as we prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus.

\$5 for Feet, Fingers, and Fares for North Church



Help give the gift of warmth to our North Church partners this winter. Your cash donations will be used to purchase adult gloves, hats, and socks. Also, cash will be provided for the purchase of bus fares. Collection boxes will be located in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.



Please drop off by Sunday, December 15. Thank you for your warm response to our neighbors in need. Thank you, The Mission Commission

Annual Christmas Angel Tree Project



The Angel Tree

Each Christmas season Valley has an Angel Tree project. This year, we will be supporting Geauga County Family Services.

Please select an Angel for either a child or a teen. They are collecting **new toys** for all ages and things for teens. They do not accept any used toys, toy guns, or video games.

Also, they are collecting \$25 gift cards for Amazon, Walmart, Giant Eagle, or Aldi.

Please return the unwrapped gift under the Angel Tree in the Church Narthex. There is a box for gift cards beside the tree. **Please return the gift cards / gifts by Sunday, December 8.**

Thank you,
The Mission Commission

Fellowship Time

JOIN US FOR



for King & Country
DRUMMER BOY
Christmas Live

Sun Dec 8th, 2024

at 3:00pm

Barrington 10

Movie Theater in Aurora

LUNCH PROCEEDING

Christmas Ambiance

12:30pm (to 2:30pm)

at The Cabin Restaurant

For further details,
ask Sena or Brenda.

Must RSVP for either or both
to Sena by 12/5

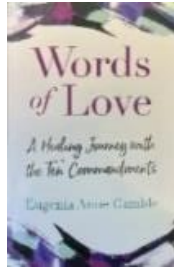
Mid-week Lunch Group – December 10



All are welcome to gather for lunch together at Buckeye Café (located across from the church in Tanglewood Square) at noon on the second Tuesday of each month (December 10, January 14, etc.) for a time of good food, great coffee, and even better conversations.

Sarah Circle – Tuesday, December 10

Sarah Circle 2024-2025 meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month, September through May, at 10:30 a.m. in the church library.



This year's study is: "Words of Love" by Eugenia Gamble

All are welcome for membership or just a visit.
Contact Glenna Pool with any questions.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items to help stock the shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center for the holidays:



Ham or turkey, cake mix / brownie mix, frosting, butter, brown sugar, oranges, apples, green beans, corn, eggs, yams / sweet potatoes, flour, oil, turkey gravy, or anything you would like to donate.

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations.

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345

17560 Chillicothe Road
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
Phone: (440) 543-1071
Email: valleypc@netlink.net

Rev. Dr. John Wahl, Pastor
Cell Phone: (216) 287-2405
Email: revjohnwahl@netlink.net

Heart of Valley Preschool
Heidi Cregar, Director
Phone: (440) 708-2572
Email: hovcp@netlink.net

Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Lynn Fagerholm

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Jane Hall-Nemeth