

**SALEM WALMER'S
Lutheran and United Church of Christ**

Robert Sim

Pastor

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

Divine Worship

TIME FOR REFLECTION

*INVOCATION

*CALL TO WORSHIP 2 Samuel 7

P. Welcome, dear people, God has blessed our gathering.

C. We come again on this journey, following the light.

P. God's light shines for us today, bringing peace and comfort.

**C. May we, like Mary, respond to God's presence and love,
with confident joy.**

ALL. AMEN.

*ADVENT PRAYER AND LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE

P: The first week of Advent we were told to "pay attention". The next week we remembered the "forgotten" We heard it said that "Christmas is for children", In the rush of preparation for holiday celebration, we come to this place to be fed by God. We need the peace, hope, love and joy that this season represents. We need to listen again with wonder at the magnificent words of Mary as she proclaims her faithful participation in God's most miraculous gift. AMEN. Rejoice!

[lights the first & second candle, the third pink candle, and the fourth candle]

**ALL: Help us to pay attention, remember the forgotten, receive
Christmas fully, and empathize with Mary in order to experience the
many ways in which you enrich our lives, O God. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

It's getting harder and harder to focus on the true meaning of Christmas, the incarnation of God's love in the birth of God's Son Jesus Christ. We are caught in the web of festivities, travel, gifts, and glitter. And we have to admit that we really do enjoy all the holiday opportunities. But as we get closer to the big family celebrations and the actual celebration of Christmas, we begin to wonder how we are going to "survive" it all. We say to ourselves, "We won't let all this stress happen to us next year." But we know better. We allow ourselves to be continually drawn in to the demands of others, leaving little or no time for ourselves, our families, and especially for You, gracious God. Forgive us. You are all too familiar with our reasons and excuses for what is happening. Help us to make some changes in our lives and our focus, so that this time of celebration may have the deepest sense of joy and purpose, not just be the rush and clamor of yet another holiday season that disappears all too quickly. Keep us focused on the eternal "yes" response to your call to us, to live our lives as those who would joyfully serve You. Heal and comfort us, Lord, this day and always. For we ask this in the name of Jesus, our Savior. AMEN.

The Kyrie

♫. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Ṙ. Lord, have mer - cy up - on . . . us.

♫. Christ, have mercy upon us. ♫. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Ṙ. Christ, have mer-cy up-on . . . us. Ṙ. Lord, have mer-cy up-on . . . us.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

P. Hear the Good News!.....Your sins are forgiven.

C. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE - Romans 16: 25-27 ; Luke 1: 26-38

***APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth:

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into Hades; 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 Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON - "I Am Your Servant"

PASTORAL PRAYER 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***SILENT MEDITATION**

Please send Merry Christmas or Peace Be With You videos ASAP.
Best way to submit is to our church email: salemwalmers@hotmail.com

Christmas Eve service will be virtual.
People should have bread, grape juice or wine, and a candle for their
virtual Christmas Eve.

Services are posted on Facebook, Church website www.salemwalmers.com,
and links sent out by request. DVD copies can also be requested.
This will be in effect for Christmas Eve too.

Sunday School lessons will continue to be provided online until further notice.

*CCLI#3273986 Walmer's Church follows Safe Church Practices.
Visit our website: www.salemwalmers.com ; Follow our Facebook Group Page*