

December 8, 2024

10:00 AM

PRAYER TO A LISTENING SAVIOR

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST – MAKING HIM KNOWN



COME WORSHIP THE LORD!

PREPARATION OF OUR MINDS

(Entering worship, let us prepare our hearts, reflecting on this.)

That God's promise comes to pass is sheer grace. But God's desire to involve human beings in the fulfillment of his promise may be an ever-greater gift of grace. God invites his people to join him in joyful preparation. The King is coming! The Kingdom is near! God's people share in the celebration. But more than that, God's people can share in the preparation. That is their mission, at the same time both privilege and duty. It is their God-given role to usher in the movement of God's salvation and hope. – Barry A. Stricker



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CHURCH

December Scripture: (Luke 1:47-48)

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. (NIV)

PRAISE TO AN AWESOME GOD

CHORAL INTROIT (The Sherman Church Choir)

CALL TO WORSHIP – ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

Scripture: Luke 2:13-14, NIV

Leader: The second Sunday of Advent is a time to reflect on the peace that comes through Christ. We light the candle of peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

People: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased" (Luke 2:14).

Leader: May the light of peace guide our hearts as we prepare for the coming of Jesus.

People: We light this candle of peace, trusting in the peace of Christ.

The second candle is lit.

Advent Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

***HYMN:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Hymnal #133 v.1 -2

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***OLD TESTAMENT READING:** Isaiah 26:3-4

***GOSPEL:** John 2:13-14,
John 20:26-27

Bible p. 699

Bible p.1051

Bible p.1075

OFFERING SENTENCE AND PRAYER (1 Corinthians 9:10)

Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest.

OFFERTORY: The Sherman Church Choir

(Children are dismissed for Sunday School)

DOXOLOGY:

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

Hymnal #808

***HYMN:** "Come Come Ye Saints"

Hymnal #595

PREACHING THE WORD

SERMON: "Grace and Peace of God"

PROCLAIMING THE GLORY OF CHRIST

***HYMN:** "It Is Well With My Soul"

Hymnal #519

***BENEDICTION and THREEFOLD AMEN**

POSTLUDE

(*Congregation, please stand if able.)

FOLLOWING OUR WORSHIP SERVICE JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP

NEXT WEEK: As we celebrate the birth of Jesus with our tradition Christmas Pageant sharing the story of this birth, our message will look at the faith of Mary, as we walk through the "Characters of Christmas" series. Scripture is Luke 1:46-55.

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REMEMBER IN PRAYER

- Eliza Capehart, serving in the United States Air Force.
- John Langworthy, back injury.
- Brian Barnier, health.
- Jim Beddows, health.
- Nicole Thorp, health.
- Amos Munch, health.
- Jim and Christine Munch, health.
- Roberta Judd, health.
- Christopher Siebert, healing of foot.
- Jill Finch, health
- Betty Beatty, health
- Rev. Daniel Morton, health
- Mark Gerber, health
- Penny LeMasurier, health
- James L., health
- Betty Freeman, health
- Chris Freeman, Strength in the care of her mother

OUR MISSIONARIES:

Mesa Global: Robert & Nina Bruneau; 4C Church Re-Planting: Green Mountain Church, Chester, VT.; Lion of Judah Academy, Hope Academy of the Bronx.

DEACONS of the church are always available to meet with you, pray with you, and hear your concerns.

PRAYER IS ALWAYS OUR MISSION

Prayer is a vital part of our ministry at The Sherman Church.

You are invited to join in prayer each Thursday to pray for our church on a telephone conference call by **Dialing 667-770-1484; when prompted use access code 357664#.**

You may also make a prayer request anytime by calling the church office. Our Church Administrator will ensure the prayer request is communicated to our Pastor and Deacons. Outside of office hours (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM) or for an emergency prayer or pastoral request contact the Chair of Deacons (deacon@shermanchurch.org or 860-921-1952) or the Pastor (pastor@shermanchurch.org or 860-350-5151). Let us join together in prayer!

FIRE EXITS are located at the rear of the sanctuary through the double doors and at the front through the doors on both sides of the altar.

THE SHERMAN CHURCH

Gathered In 1744

Continuing to invite all to know the love of Jesus

A MEMBER CHURCH OF THE CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

6 Church Road | Sherman, CT 06784

860-354-6114

info@shermanchurch.org | Shermanchurch.org

HOPE

PEACE

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

JOY
LOVE

DECEMBER 8, 2024

Gathered In 1744

Continuing to invite all to know the love of Jesus

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT will be Sunday, Dec 15, during our 10:00 AM worship. Join us as we share the Christmas story.

PICKED UP YOUR ADVENT DEVOTIONAL YET?

It is a wonderful way to bring the light of Christ into your Christmas holidays. Copies are on the Narthex and Fellowship Hall tables.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

Dec 8, 10:00 AM – Worship on the Second Sunday of Advent

Dec 15, 10:00 AM – Worship on the Third Sunday of Advent

Children's Christmas Pageant

Dec 22, 10:00 AM – Worship on Christmas Sunday

Dec 24, 7:30 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

WHAT IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

WHAT IS BELIEVER'S BAPTISM?

These and many other questions about what it means to follow Jesus Christ are addressed in an Introduction to Discipleship and Church Membership that will begin in January. Look for dates and times in the January Emphasis. Speak with the pastor of membership or baptism is something you would like to consider.

CONFIRMATION: TAKING A STEP OF FAITH IN JESUS

In January a group of youth will begin learning about what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. This "Confirmation Group" will help them answer questions that they might have about Christ, the Church and how God can be part of their life. Meeting weekly, details on the dates are forthcoming. Check the January Emphasis.

GROWTH GROUPS CONTINUE IN JANUARY

Look for details on the next Growth Group. One session will meet at the same time as the Confirmation Group. At least one will meet online. More information is coming in the January Emphasis.

OUR CHURCH:

Pastor:	Rev. John Loring Carpenter, Interim Pastor
Ministers:	The Congregation
Minister of Music:	Carolyn Kopsick
Moderator:	Edna Coons
Chair of Deacons:	Charles Mastroni
Co-Chair of Trustees:	Don Coons and Lynn Paulovicks
Flowers:	Christmas Committee
Announcements:	Aimée Suhie
Prayers of the People:	Charles Mastroni
Reader:	Suzanne Baxter
Coffee Hour Host:	David and Victoria McClintock
Nursery:	Kristin Stephens
Usher:	Don Coons

CALENDAR

December 8th - December 14th, 2024

(Links for online meetings may be found at shermanchurch.org)

SUNDAY:

WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:00 A.M. (Also Live Streamed)

MONDAY:

HEARTS & CRAFTS at 9:00 A.M - Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY:

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY at 10:00 AM - Fellowship Hall

CHURCH COUNCIL at 6:00 P.M. - Office

AA at 7:00 P.M - Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY:

PRAYER IN THE PARLOR at 6:45 P.M

Dial-in Number: 667-770-1484; when prompted access code 357664#.

AA at 7:00 P.M - Fellowship Hall



SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

You can still donate online, you may choose what items you want Samaritan's Purse to put in your shoebox or you may just ask them to choose items. You may also follow your shoebox online to its destination. If you donate online, please do so through the Sherman Church website so we can track how many boxes were filled online.

<https://sampur.se/4fMDHZH>

Thank you for supporting this popular mission once again.



HANDMADE CARDS AND BOOKMARKS

Charlene Leichter, a Sherman watercolor artist who regularly attends our church, will sell her handmade cards and bookmarks Sunday after church in Fellowship Hall. She has graciously offered to donate all proceeds to the church, so please see her after church Sunday, Dec. 8!



Thank You

Thank you for helping us decorate our tree.
A joyous time was had by all.

The Book of Remembrance Committee
and
The Board of Trustees.

HELPING HANDS



Helping Hands will be a support team available to assist with preparations for upcoming events, programs, and various church outreach activities. When a committee or church event requires additional help—such as setting up, stuffing envelopes, and more—a request will be sent out to check your availability to lend a hand.

If you're interested in joining this team, please find the sign-up sheet on the table in Fellowship Hall or notify Jess in the office.

ANGEL TREE GIFTS

Jericho Partnership of Danbury.

DEDICATION TODAY

We are once again participating in the Christmas Angel Tag gift program for low-income families served by Jericho Partnership of Danbury. Each year, Jericho provides us with first names and gift requests for 15 people, from families who either participate in the Jericho food pantry/clothing bank or are involved with programs in some other way. Requests are from children, moms, dads, and even grandmas. Dotsy Torres, Jericho's Director of Education, explained, "For all of them, what we give them is probably their only Christmas gift."

This year will be different, however. Dotsy explained: "It became more noticeable each year that while some children were receiving a normal amount of Christmas gifts, others were receiving MANY gifts. When families would come to pick up their gifts, we would feel badly when one family would receive two sweater boxes and the family in front of them received two shopping bags full of gifts. We want to make things more equitable for the children.

With our growing programs, every inch of space at both of our facilities is full, and there is literally no place to store and organize 400 gifts for the few weeks it takes to run this initiative.

"While donors may have done their best to shop for what the child requested on the Angel Tag, there was still no assurance that the child received what they really wanted. (i.e., a blue shirt when their favorite color was purple)."

And finally, "Our staff is running a full program AND an extension/growth program this year and simply can't allocate the sort of time it takes for this project using the tag system."

So if you would like to participate, please email Aimée Suhie at suhieaimee@gmail.com so you can choose a name and plan to spend \$50 on a specific gift card for that person. Please be sure to put your gift card in a gift bag so it will not be lost. The gifts will be dedicated Dec. 8 during the worship service, and all are due back by that Sunday at the latest. They will be delivered to Jericho the following week. If you cannot be in church that Sunday, please bring your gift to the church office before Dec. 8. Thank you to everyone who will participate again this year.

The Missions Committee



Christmas

FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

The flower committee is making plans to decorate the church sanctuary and the outside of the church for the Christmas season.

Memorials will again be done by free-will donations to the Flower Fund in place of individual plant ordering. Flower donation envelopes are available in each pew as of **December 8th**. Simply place your donation in an envelope, with "In Memorial or In Honor of..." and place it in the offering plate.

The amount of your donation will only be known to the Financial Secretary of the church. If you do not live in the local area and wish to make a donation to the Flower Fund, please mail it, clearly marked, to the church office and your gift will be entered into the memorial folder. To be included in the memorial folder your donation should be **received by December 20th**. Donations to the Flower Fund will go to all decorations unless otherwise noted.

If you have any questions, please call the church office or speak with Penny LeMasurier, Edna Coons or Anna Galasso on Sunday morning! Keep an eye out for the next Flower Committee meeting. Anyone interested in this ministry is welcome to join us.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKERS NEEDED

DROP OFF DEADLINE

DECEMBER 22 10:00PM

We are calling all bakers to drop off cookies (clearly labeled for cookie plates). You may drop off non-perishable cookies starting the week of **Dec.8th**, no later than, Sunday morning, **Dec.22nd**. There will be a cooler left in front of the Fellowship Hall entrance, or you can leave them with Jess in the office.

We hope you will be able to help deliver a plate to someone who may not be able to come to church that day. We make them for our church staff, for those who are shut in, for anyone who has suffered a loss this past year, and for those who may be struggling with illness.

Thank you to everyone for helping us in this annual ministry.

Come

Spend

The
Christmas
Season
at

THE SHERMAN CHURCH

Characters of Christmas

Dec. 1st, 10:00 AM

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Candlelight Ceremony ~ Zachariah

Dec. 6th, 6:00 PM

FIRST FRIDAY

Christmas Carol Sing A-Long

Dec. 7th, 7:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC AND OPEN MIC NIGHT

Featured Indie Rock Artists Astronauts

Dec. 8th, 10:00 AM

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Candlelight Ceremony ~ Elizabeth

Dec. 15th, 10:00 AM

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Candlelight Ceremony ~ Mary

Children's Christmas Pageant

Dec. 22nd, 10:00 AM

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY

Candlelight Ceremony ~ Joseph

Dec. 24th, 7:30 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight Service

shermanchurch.org

Info@shermanchurch.org

860.354.6114

THE SHERMAN CHURCH

6 Church Road
Sherman, CT 06784