John Knox Presbyterian Church
November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent



Being Present with HOPE

Please be seated and prepare your hearts and minds for worship

We Celebrate our Presence Together: Gathering

Prelude "O Come, o Come, Emmanuel " Arr. Dan Forrest

Words of Welcome
The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you.**

Becoming Present – an Advent Ritual

Song "What Can I Give Him" #144 v. 4

The Gift
We unwrap a present on this first Sunday of Advent with great anticipation for the gift that God will reveal.
We open our hearts as the gift is opened!

The Divine Gift we receive this week is the Promise of Hope.
And what will we do with it?
The gift of hope is an essential survival tool because it reminds us that the hard times do not have the last word.
Hope is not simply a wish.
Hope calls us into action based on a belief that things can be different.
We can work to bring about the better world that we hope for.
We light this Candle of Hope as a sign that we will be Present with Hope in the world.

Prayer of Presence

Holy Living Light of God,
you are our Hopeful Presence.
Let this hope grow in our lives each day,
so we can be a Present of Hope to others.
Unwrap and open our hearts.
May it be so.
Amen

*** Opening Hymn** "What Gift Can We Bring" *see projection*

***** *= Standing as able Italics = Leader* ***Bold*** *= People*

Reflection and Assurance
… *In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*
Glory to God, Amen.

*** Sung Response** "Gloria, Gloria" (Latin) #583
One time together, then twice in a round

The Word Present Among Us: Proclaiming

Time with Our Young and Growing

First Reading **Psalm 80: 1-2** The Inclusive Bible

Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned on the cherubim, shine out!
Shine out before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh!
Awaken your power and come to save us!
O God, return to us — let your face smile on us,
and we will be saved!

Epistle Reading **1 Corinthians 1: 4-7** The Inclusive Bible
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music "In the Bleak Midwinter" Christina Rosetti
Anna and Adam Robinson

Gospel Reading Matthew 25: 31-46 The Inclusive Bible
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Rev. Maggie Lewis

*** Hymn** "The Days are Surely Coming" #357

The Word Present Among Us: Responding

Church and Community Life

Minute for Mission ODHS Gift Cards

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory "Gabriel's Message" Trad. Basque carol

*** Sung Response** "To God the Father" tune **#152**

To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One,
May every tongue and nation raise an endless song of thankful praise.

*** Prayer of Dedication**

Fully Present in the Moment: Praying

Prayers of the People
As we offer our prayers, we assure each other of our prayerful presence in these joys and concerns by responding with:
Your prayers are our prayers; your joy is our joy.

The Lord's Prayer

Present to the World: Sending

*** Closing Carol**	"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"	#123

*** Charge and Benediction**

Please remain seated to enjoy the postlude

Postlude	"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"	arr. Dan Forrest

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis — Pianist: Melissa Terrall
Liturgist: Vallory Bunday — Music Director: Anna Robinson

Church and Community Life

KEIZER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Our Fall Food Bank Promotion is **CANNED VEGGIES & CANNED BEANS**. If you leave your donations in the grocery cart, we'll get them to the food bank. If you find bargain prices, please share your discovery with others, perhaps during announcements. Although KCFB is no longer buying paper goods, they will gladly distribute what is donated.

If you can't volunteer (see hours & need below), another way to help food banks is to provide cash donations for bulk purchases of most-needed items. Designate "KCFB" or "Food Bank" and we will route the money to KCFB. The food bank also needs reusable grocery bags and medium-sized boxes. See Sheila, Teresa, the KCFB Facebook page, or email keizercfb@gmail.com for more information.

Keizer Community Food Bank
@Crossroads Fellowship 4505 River Rd N Keizer 503-931-7612
email keizercfb@gmail.com

Food distributions	**Setup and pallet deliveries**
Mondays: 5:00–7:00 p.m.	Mondays: 10:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Thursdays: 9:00–11:00 a.m.	Wednesdays: 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Volunteers are welcome during any of the times listed above.

GIFT CARDS FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE Providing gift cards for youth in foster care is one way we can express our love and care for these teens in challenging situations. We can offer them the gift of hope and assurance that they are seen and cared for. The gift cards allow youth the freedom of choice to buy items they want or need for themselves or for their families. Your generous donations last year provided $3,725 worth of gift cards. **We will receive donations for Bronwyn to purchase gift cards through next Sunday, December 6**.

WARMING SEASON is underway, and volunteers for Salem and Dallas Warming Centers are urgently needed. From November 1 through March 31, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action's ARCHES Project provides a warm, welcoming place for neighbors experiencing homelessness when temperatures reach 32°F or below. Volunteers are essential to this work, and faith communities have long been valued partners in caring for our neighbors.
For more information and to apply: Visit https://mwvcaa.org/give/ and choose the Salem or Dallas Warming Center opportunity.
Questions? Contact **Jennifer Gross-Statler,** Volunteer Program Manager, at 503-585-6232 or email: jennifer.gross-statler@mwvcaa.org

HOPE

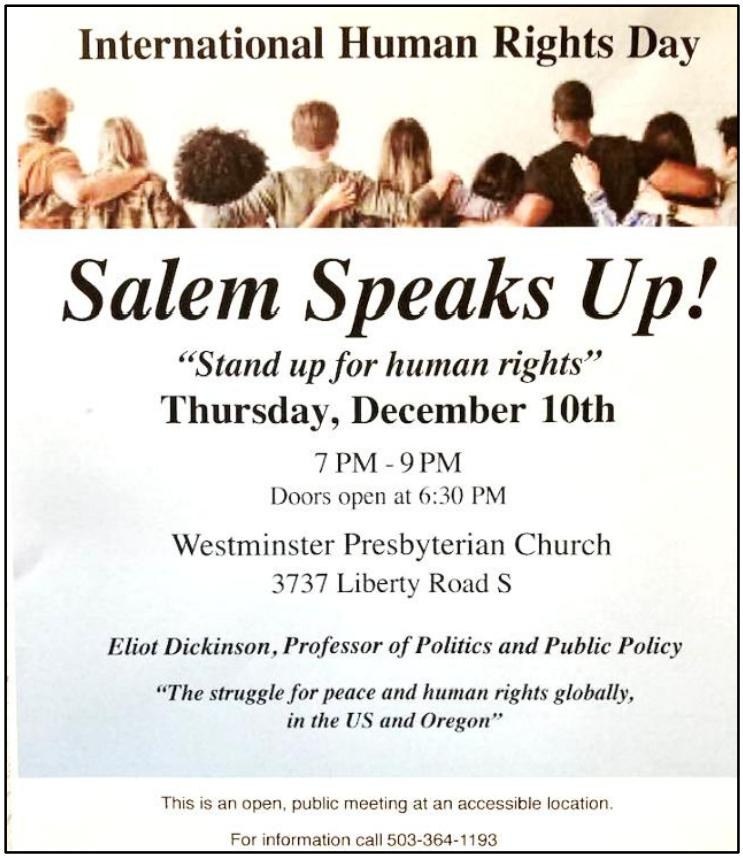
calls us into action based on
a belief that things can be different.

SCRIPTURE READINGS are from The Inclusive Bible, A Sheed & Ward Book published by Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., © 2007 by Priests for Equality.

This inclusive-language translation is also a re-imagining of the scriptures and our relationship to them. Not merely replacing male pronouns, the translators have rethought what kind of language has built barriers between the text and its readers. Seeking to be faithful to the original languages, they have sought new and non-sexist ways to express the same ancient truths. The Inclusive Bible is a fresh, dynamic translation into modern English, carefully crafted to let the power and poetry of the language shine forth—particularly when read aloud—giving it an immediacy and intimacy rarely found in traditional translations of the Bible. We have used this translation occasionally for many years at JKPC and we will be using it as the primary translation during Advent. If you have questions or want more information about this translation, please see Maggie or Eileen. The information at https://eewc.com/the-inclusive-bible/ provides helpful background.

We are using shortened versions of some of the Revised Common Lectionary selections during worship. The complete passages for today are: Isaiah 64: 1-9; Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19; 1 Cor. 1:3-9, and Mark 13:24-37.





Looking Ahead

Nov. 30 **6:30** Salem Community Chorus
Wish Upon a Star at St. Mark Lutheran Church downtown
Dec. 5 **11:00** Piano recital in sanctuary by Melissa's students
Dec. 5 **12 noon** Salem Community Chorus at the Capitol Rotunda
Dec. 6 **10:30** Worship with Holy Communion
Second Sunday of Advent
ODHS Gift Card deadline
Dec. 7 **6:30** Salem Community Chorus **@** St. Mark Lutheran Church
Dec. 13 **10:30** Worship – Third Sunday of Advent
3:30 Salem Community Chorus
Christ's Church United – Monmouth
Dec. 19 **12-4pm** All Church Christmas Party – true potluck
with a small gift exchange, memories, and carols
Dec. 20 **10:30** Worship – Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christ Jar Offering, Birthday celebration
Dec. 24 **7:00** Christmas Eve service with Communion
Dec. 27 **10:30** Worship – First Sunday of Christmas

JKPC Celebrations

November Birthdays
5 Maggie L.
22 Joan A.

November Anniversary
25 Glen & Bronwyn C.

December Birthdays
10 Dixie S.
13 Tim B.
30 Micah R.

December Anniversaries
23 Lee & Mary Jo E.
26 Doug & Janet A.

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Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis
Pastor's email: pastormaggie18@gmail.com
Pastor's phone: 510-435-7836

This gathering of JKPC is occurring in the traditional land of the Kalapuya people. We offer our gratitude to the elders, past and present, who have stewarded it through the generations.

We are recording this service and it will be available on our website for two weeks.