

John Knox Presbyterian Church

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

*The light will arise
among us!*

*Welcome! Please be seated and prepare your hearts
and minds for worship.*

GATHERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

"Thanksgiving Hymn"

arr. Colin Curtis

Words of Welcome

The Peace of Christ be with you ... and also with you.

Lighting the Advent Candles #

*We shall light the Advent candles
praying that our preparation for Christmas may help us
to look outward in love, and to look forward in hope.*

**Risen Christ, Light of the world,
shine in our lives and shine among us now.**

*Let us pray that waiting for Christmas may show us
how to be patient when things take time,
how to live for Christ day by day,
and how to wait for promises not yet fulfilled.*

**Risen Christ, Light of the world,
shine in our lives and shine among us now.**

*In Isaiah, chapter 2, the prophet declares that in days to come
God will judge between the nations,
and arbitrate for many peoples. (The first candle is lit)
We light this candle because we refuse to let go of Isaiah's hope
that swords can be beaten into plowshares,
and spears into pruning hooks,
and that nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more. (Isa. 2:4)*

**Risen Christ, Light of the world,
shine in our lives and shine among us now.**

Advent Song # "Someone Comes!" see projection

*** Call to Worship #**

drawn from Psalm 122

*I rejoiced when people said to me:
"Let us go to the house of God!"*

**And now, Jerusalem,
we stand within your gates.**

*All the tribes assemble here
giving thanks to the Holy Name.*

**Peace be within your walls
and security within your towers.**

*For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, "Peace be within you!"*

**For the sake of the Holy Name
I will seek your good.**

*** Hymn** "While We Are Waiting, Come" #92

*** Invitation to Confession**

*** Unison Prayer of Confession #**

**Mysterious God, hidden and revealed,
first and last, beginning and end,
we worship and adore you.**

**With effortless ease you name and hold in mind
every life, every life form, and every human being.**

You create us and give us breath.

You delight in the work of your hands.

**You know us and call us by name,
and nothing can separate us from your love.**

**And so we have confidence to admit
that we belong to a race, the human race,
that hides from you, refuses and resists your love, avoids your gaze,
and seeks satisfaction in lesser gods.**

**We confess our own part in denying
that we belong to you,
by hiding or running away, giving ourselves
to other powers, and resisting your love.**

**We are sorry, for wrongdoing that ensnares us
and wrongdoing that we have chosen.**

Forgive us and set us free.

Turn us back to you.

Turn us toward each other in love.

*** Words of Forgiveness**

*** Sung Response** "Rejoice in the Lord Always" See projection

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Psalm 122: 1-9 NRSV

I was glad when they said to me,
 “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

Our feet are standing
 within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem — built as a city
 that is bound firmly together.

To it the tribes go up,
 the tribes of the LORD,
as was decreed for Israel,
 to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
 the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
 “May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls,
 and security within your towers.”

For the sake of my relatives and friends
 I will say, “Peace be within you.”

For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
 I will seek your good.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Time with Our Young and Growing

Second Reading Romans 13: 11-14 NRSV

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Maggie Lewis

Hymn

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” #82

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

Church and Community Life

Minute for Mission

ODHS Gift Cards

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Offertory "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Mark Hayes

*** Sung Response** "Doxology for Humanity" see projection

Praise life that makes us change and grow.

Praise love that makes compassion flow.

Praise peace that ends all strife and fear.

Praise hands that work for justice here. Amen

This song of praise by Kurt Struckmeyer, sung to a traditional tune, offers praise to the Creator of all and at the same time, reminds us how our lives can praise God every day. There are four verses, and we will sing a new verse each week.

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People[#]

Anna's response: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor's response: God of mercy, God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

*** Sending Song** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #88 verse 2

* Charge and Benediction

Please be seated to enjoy the postlude.

Postlude "Waiting for Messiah" Robert W. Thygerson

Liturgist: Doug Anderson

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis

Music Director: Anna Robinson

Pianist: Bethany Cozort

Liturgy items marked with a [#] are from Brian Wren's book *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008) and are reproduced with permission. © 2007 by Brian Wren.

Church and Community Life

This is the first Sunday of Advent, when we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. Our theme this year is the light that shines, not from afar, but rising among us. God breaks into human life not only at Bethlehem, but also here and now. Pastor Maggie will explore where and how we experience that in-breaking light.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS for 2026 will be accepted any time. Place them in the offering basket or give them to Bronwyn. As of the session meeting Wednesday evening, we have received 11 pledges for a total of \$64,780. Our operating

budget/projected expenses for 2025 was \$106,795. 2026 could be the same or more, considering current economic realities. Your financial support is very much appreciated.

KEIZER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK The most efficient way to help food banks at this time is to provide cash donations so they can make bulk food purchases of most-needed items. Designate “KCFB” or “Food Bank” and we will route the money to KCFB. Volunteers are always needed to serve our hungry neighbors. KCFB had to apply a limit of 200 families at each opening (400 families per week) to make the available food last. See the KCFB Facebook page or website at keizercommunityfoodbank.org for more information, or contact Sheila or Teresa.

GIFT CARDS FOR YOUTH Donations toward the purchase of gift cards for youth in foster care can be made any time between now and December 14. Indicate “ODHS Gift Cards” on your donation. The cards will be delivered that week. Providing these gift cards for youth in foster care is one way we can express our love and care for those in challenging situations. These gift cards allow them the freedom of choice to buy items they want and need for themselves or for their families. Your generous donations last year provided over \$3,000 in gift cards for these youth.

CHURCH DIRECTORY Please check your personal church directory information. If your email, address, or phone has changed since February of 2025, please let Eileen know the new information. Thank you!

JKPC October 2025 Financial Report

INCOME	Actual	Budget	Year to Date Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Pledges	\$5,000	\$4,952	\$652,032	\$65,707	\$83,910
Offerings	252	583	4,311	5,833	7,,000
Misc.	390	542	6,686	5,417	6,500
Christ Jar/ CHP	132	90	1,280	900	1,080
Building Use	145	100	1,083	1000	1,200
Per Capita			900	600	600
Food Bank Donations	125	150	1,625	1,500	1,800
Backpack B Donations	120	100	2,390	1,000	1,200
INC. TOTAL	\$6,164	\$6,517	\$80,307	\$81,957	\$103,290
EXPENSES TOTAL	\$7,846	\$7,752	\$91,543	\$84,556	\$106,795
PROFIT/ <LOSS>	<\$1,682>	<\$1,235>	<\$11,236>	<\$2,599>	<\$3,505>
<i>Including Investment Income, unrealized loss/gain and fees</i>					
	\$2,628	<\$1,235>	\$41,953	<\$2,599>	<\$3,505>

From Bronwyn: This month shows a loss of \$1,682. Our last quarterly insurance payment took us over the annual line-item budget; all other expenses are in line with the budget. We are still waiting for two annual pledges for 2025 to be received.

SESSION NOTES – November 19, 2025

After opening with prayer, we acknowledged with joy this Advent marks the unofficial two year mark for Maggie's service here at JKPC, as she began serving as pulpit supply during Advent in 2023.

Bronwyn reported as of this meeting, we have received 11 pledges with a total of \$64,780, and are still waiting to hear from a few more people who have pledged in the past. Pledges from last year to this year are down approximately \$27,000. Bronwyn presented a draft budget that included a few small reductions but also included known increases in expenses. Our budget does not include a lot of "extras." We will see what pledges come in before the next meeting to determine what other resources we may need to access to balance the 2026 budget.

Joan relayed a request she received that we sing Happy Birthday during announcements on Birthday Sunday to include those who don't go into the social hall. After discussion, which considered that perhaps not all would appreciate the attention, along with and the potential disruption to worship flow, it was the will of session to not include the singing in worship but to celebrate more intentionally in the social hall after worship.

We accepted a quote from Action Drain to repair our sewer drain (roots had infested the cast iron sewer pipe) and install a cleanout in the repair area for \$1,981. The funds will come from our Capital Improvement and Maintenance fund (current balance \$26,697.45). The work was finished Nov. 20. Lee and Blair, with assistance from Mary Jo, replaced the women's ADA toilet and made necessary adjustments to the grab bar and plumbing hookup. Blair also replaced burned out lights in the sanctuary chandeliers. Thanks to all who helped get us together again!

We passed a motion approving Pastor Maggie's 2026 half-time (20 hrs/week) stated supply covenant, which included the presbytery-recommended 2.8% COLA increase and medical and dental coverage through Board of Pensions.

We calendared ordination and installation of officers (Jan. 11), annual congregation meeting (Feb. 15), and Officers Retreat (Feb 16). Annual reports are due by mid-January so the report can be available at the congregation meeting.

We closed with prayers for many and a sense of gratitude for this congregation, our fellowship, and the ways we share God's love in the community and beyond.

Eileen Sheelar, clerk



THE WIZARD OF OZ will be presented at South Salem High School Dec. 4 through Dec. 7. Micah will be the Scarecrow on Thursday (7 pm) and Saturday. See saxondrama.ludus.com for ticket information.

Salem Capitol Rotunda	Saturday Dec. 6	11:00 am
St. Mark Lutheran Church	Monday, Dec 8	6:30 pm
790 Marion St. NE, Salem		
Christ's Church United	Sunday, Dec 14	3:30 pm
412 W Clay St, Monmouth		

10	Dixie S.	30	Micah R.
13	Tim B.	31	Marlene B.
29	Jim C.		
December Anniversaries			
23	Lee & Mary Jo E.	26	Doug & Janet A.



INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



Salem Speaks Up!

"Stand up for human rights"

Wednesday, December 10th

7 PM - 9 PM

Doors open at 6:30 PM

Westminster Presbyterian Church

3737 Liberty Road S

Senator Deb Patterson

Human Rights at Home and Beyond

Public Comment and Open Mic

Help us to understand, care, and do more to bring everyone together in a community of peace

John Knox Presbyterian Church (USA)

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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.

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