

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Led by Christ, Together in Faith and Love, We Joyfully Think, Question, Grow & Serve!

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025



*for those who wish to stand
Bold print indicates congregational participation

Today's Liturgy written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed/A Sanctified Art LLC/sanctifiedart.org

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor Phil Price

*please sign the act of friendship pad

BREATH PRAYER *Inhale: "The world feels dim."*

Exhale: "But glory grows in the dark."

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy."

All: Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"

One: Mary said, "How can this be?"

All: We often say, "But God, I am afraid."

One: Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

All: So may we trust the Inviter.

One: May we heed God's invitation.

All: May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.

One: Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!

CANDLE LIGHTING

The Rupe Family

*OPENING HYMN

To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

#98 v. 1, 2, 3

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Courageous God, you invite us to live into our call. You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust. Instead of responding with a resounding "yes," we often hide our face. We dig our heels in. We look for someone else to volunteer. Spark courage in us. Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference. Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone. You invite us forward. With baby steps we hope, we pray,

TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: Family of faith, no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day. So, join me in declaring this good news:

All: We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve. May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God's call. Amen.

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

Gloria Patri

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end.
Amen.***

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Page 920 OT

One: The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-39

Page 78 NT

One: This is God's word to us.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

The Nativity Story

See info on next page

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All: We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars. We have seen the longest night, and still we believe. We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow. We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people. So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles, even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news. We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst. We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born. We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love. So still, we believe. Amen.

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION *To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary* #98 v. 4, 5, 6

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

To give online, visit <https://www.fpcsalina.org/give>. To give over the phone, text FPCSalina and your dollar amount to 73256 or download our Realm Connect App.



CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY

#606

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

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

SENT OUT TO BEAR GOD'S WORD IN THE WORLD

*SENDING HYMN

Prepare the Way, O Zion

#106

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Given by Margaret & Bruce Wyatt in honor of Jessica Wyatt



TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS:

Worship Assistant: *Cheri Parr*

Hospitality Host: *Ann Payne*

Ushers: *The Speer Family*

Children's Christmas Pageant

The Nativity Story



Cast: Narrator- Molly Zuccarelli

Mary- Mariana Zuccarelli

Joseph- Ryan Dupy

Angel Gabriel- Anna Dupy

Angel #2- Graham Norris

Angel #3- Sadie Hessman

Shepherds- Kennedy Hill

Edie Rabek

Wisemen- Caleb Dupy

Alice Rabek



Songs: Away In The Manger
On That Very First Christmas



Special Thanks to Richard Koshgarian, Kathy Hanson,
Alice Hermann & Meghan Hessman

Weekly Glance

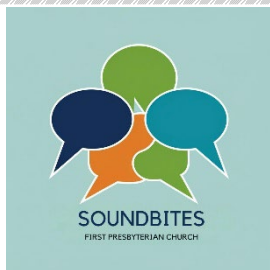
SUNDAY, December 14: 10:00am – Worship, Sanctuary
11:15am – Adult Ed Class
6:00pm – Youth Christmas Party at Prices

MONDAY, December 15: 5:15pm – Session

WEDNESDAY, December 17: Salina Grace meal prep & serve
4:00pm – FBI
6:30pm – God Squad
6:30pm – Choir Practice

SUNDAY, December 21: 9:00am – Adult Ed Class
10:00am – Worship, Sanctuary
11:15am – Adult Ed Class

Looking Forward



Social Justice & Mission is hosting SOUNDBITES, a community conversation series designed to keep Salinans informed and engaged.

SOUNDBITES is open to all community members.

Bring your lunch, Bring a friend!

It is the 2nd Monday of each month at 12pm. Our speakers for the first quarter of 2026 are:

1/12/2026 - Kelly Mobray (Director of Adult Education, Salina Adult Education Center)

2/9/2026 - Chelsey Eberwein (Manager of Adolescent Services & Community Engagement, Central Kansas Foundation)

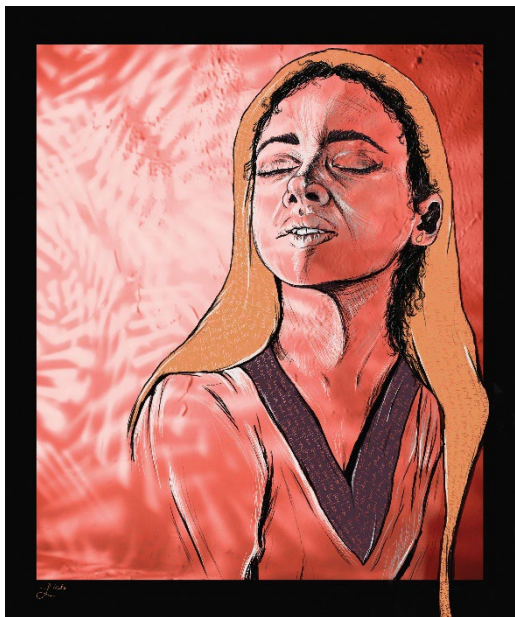
3/9/2026 - Jaclyn Crow (Economic and Workforce Development Director, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce)



Mary's Yes

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Luke 1:26-39



In the *sixth month* of Elizabeth's pregnancy, the angel goes to Nazareth to find Mary. I was six months pregnant with my second daughter when I reread this scripture and began this image, so at first, this detail seemed like a happy coincidence. But as I pondered it, I wondered if Elizabeth's pregnancy might have everything to do with Mary's willingness to say yes to this wild, wonderful—but risky and terrifying—undertaking.

Elizabeth's pregnancy provides reassurance that Mary can trust the angel's impossible news. By the sixth month, Mary will be able to see for herself that Elizabeth is truly pregnant. By the sixth month, Mary can place her hands on Elizabeth's belly and giggle as the baby leaps and kicks. By the sixth month, the risk of miscarriage has significantly decreased. By the sixth month, Elizabeth will be emotionally, mentally, and physically preparing for birth. Her miracle is real, even as it is yet to be born. Therefore, Mary can rest her hope in an emerging—not empty—promise.

Mary's willingness to say "yes" is also fortified by the assurance that she is not stepping forward alone. Even as fears surely surround her, Mary will go to Elizabeth for protection and comfort. She won't fulfill her calling without support. Her hope will be strengthened in solidarity.

In this image, we see the angel greeting Mary in the form of dappled light.⁶ Mary's back is turned to the angel, but we see her in the process of pivoting toward the warmth of the cascading light. I imagine this is the moment after the angel responds to her initial question, "How can this be?" After hearing the angel's response, Mary closes her eyes, imagining her cousin Elizabeth and perhaps her many ancestors holding her up as she prepares to step forward. The wrap around her head carries the angel's good news, anointing her with the promise that fear won't stop her. Embroidered along her neckline is Mary's willing response: "Here I am." Her lantern earring is a sign to each of us, to anyone who is fearful. It's as if Mary herself becomes a lantern, emanating courage in the face of a fearful calling, lighting a way forward.

⁶ I captured these textures by photographing the shadows cast by a lantern.



To Build and to Plant

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Jeremiah 1:4-10

32"x20" Paper lace and graphite drawing, backed with cyanotype print

This scripture is Jeremiah's call story. Jeremiah is a prophet just prior to the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon. Once Jerusalem falls,

Judea's ruling class is taken into exile in Babylon. We learn of their story through the book of Ezekiel. Jeremiah stays as a prophet for those left behind in Jerusalem. At that time, the major theological question of the people was whether or not God was present without the temple and the Ark of the Covenant. In Jeremiah chapter 31, the prophet delivers a new covenant from God, written on the hearts of the people. "Fear not; God is with all people always" (Jeremiah 30:10-11).

As I explored the process of cyanotype printing for this piece of art, the visual metaphor of negative and positive space offered a parallel to this major theological question: Is God gone?

First, I painted a photosensitive solution on the paper in a dark room, then it dried in the dark as well. Once dry, I placed leaves, buds, blossoms, and branches on the paper and took it outside. These natural forms created a negative image as the paper was exposed to the sun. Just as Jeremiah will eventually offer the new covenant when the people fear that the absence of the tangible means the absence of the divine, so it is that in this artwork the absent spaces become deep and dark with color. The present spaces, where items were placed, become void of color, creating a negative image.

On top of the cyanotype, I overlaid a paper lace image of leaves, branches, buds, and blossoms weaving around the hand of God reaching out to touch the lips of Jeremiah. There are boxes too, portraying the building up after the tearing down. Do not fear. Like Jeremiah, we are but children ill-equipped for the call, but God reaches out and calls us anyway. So let us prepare ourselves for the planting and the building of God's justice. The temple is gone. Hard work is ahead.



For Your Information:

- FPC's Nursery, located on the second floor, is available for any child under the age of 6. We also have a playground in the parlor – a space for parents and younger children to be close to the sanctuary during worship.
- **Worship bags** for children of all ages are located in the lobby. When you are finished with the bag, please put it in the basket so that it can be replenished and straightened.
- Extra hymnals, including large print, and Bibles are available in the back of the sanctuary.
- The sanctuary is equipped with a Hearing Loop. Please switch your hearing aid to t-coil to use. *Please see your audiologist to activate your t-coil if you haven't done so yet.* Headsets are also available. **Please sit in center section of Sanctuary.**



Faith Formation Programs:

- **FBI-In-Training** is our Faith Formation program for children age 2 through Pre-K.
- **FBI** (Faithful Bible Investigators) is our Faith Formation program for children in grades K-5.
 - FBI & FBI-In-Training meet every Wednesday during the school year at 3:45 pm.
- **God Squad** is our 6th-8th grade Youth Bible Study that meets every other Wednesday during the school year from 6:30-7:45 pm in the Youth Room or a restaurant.
- **HeBrews** is our 9th-12th grade Youth Bible Study that meets every Thursday during the school year at 7:00 am at Mokas on Crawford. The name is derived from *Hebrews 10:25*.

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: *Every Member of Congregation*
Pastor/ Head of Staff: *Rev. Phil Price*
Administrative Coordinator: *Nicole Olson*
Bookkeeper: *Kathleen Pierson*
Building & Grounds Coordinator: *Steve Fowler*
Week Day Custodian: *Dennis Augustine*
Sunday Custodian: *Regina Miller*

Children's Ministry Director: *Heidi Paquin*
CE Assistant: *Meghan Hessman*
Nursery Caregivers: *Kirsten Lilak & Haley Lindenmuth*
Youth Volunteer Leaders: *Makenzi & Trey Cullins*,
Music Director: *Dr. Richard Koshgarian*
Musician: *Parker Freeland*
Worship A/V Tech: *Jesse Smith*

Notice of Filming: Worship services are filmed and recorded to be included on our Church website, Facebook, YouTube, etc. While most footage will feature worship leaders, video of the congregation may also appear. Children during children's sermons may be seen. If you have concerns, please contact the church office.

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