



**SALEM UNITED CHURCH**  
OF CHRIST  
*Living Out God's Love*

An Open and Affirming Congregation

January 14, 2024

Second Sunday After Epiphany

Prelude

Greeting

BRC Introit: *Be Still* [Jonathan Pundt]

\*Call to Worship (responsive): Inspired by Psalm 139

One: We praise you, O God, for you are our God, and we are your people.

**Many: Wonderful are your works, O God, we know them very well!**

One: Search us and know us, Creator, remove us from shadows into your presence.

**Many: Wonderful are your works, O God, we know them very well!**

One: Place your hand upon us, Gracious One, as we worship you and minister in your name.

**Many: Wonderful are your works, O God, we know them very well!**

\*Opening Hymn: *Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling* 67

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (responsive):

One: Holy God, scripture reminds us that "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything.

**Many: You have created us in your holy and divine image. We pray to reflect your goodness in the world. We confess that we have engaged in actions and attitudes contrary to your way, and we ask for wisdom, guidance, and fortitude to be the people you have called us to be. Amen.**

Silence for Reflection

Words of Grace (responsive):

One: Beloved creation of God, the Holy One knows you fully, completely, and affirmative from the secret places of your innermost parts.

**Many: Receive the knowing as a gift of assurance that God's grace is sufficient for new life. God will abide with us as we strive to follow the way of Jesus Christ.**

Passing the Peace

Time with Children

BRC Anthem: *Steal Away* [arr. Howard Helvey]

The Church at Prayer

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison):

**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, for ever. Amen.**

From the Prophets: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 p. 244

From the Gospel: John 1:43-51 p. 969

Sermon: Listening for God Rev. Phil Hobson

Offering

Call to Offering

\*Doxology tune: 780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

\*Prayer of Dedication (unison):

**Loving God, may these gifts reveal to us and to others the Light that is Jesus. And may this Light lead us on into new and challenging ways of living and serving.**

## Celebration of Holy Communion

One: Our God, who is love, be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Raise your hearts.

**Many: We raise them to our God.**

One: Give thanks to God!

**Many: We thank you and praise you, O God.**

One:

...Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and cup, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.

**Many: In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.**

Breaking Bread and Pouring the Cup

Receiving Our Communion

*The elements will be served to you in the pews. The bread is free from gluten, nuts and casein, though it is made in a kitchen where these ingredients are used. The inner rows of cups contain grape juice, while the outer row contains wine.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

**We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Opportunities to Serve

\*Closing Hymn: *I Come with Joy* 349

Benediction

BRC Benediction Response: *Go in Peace*

Postlude

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An asterisk (\*) where those who are able should stand as an act of worship.  
Hearing-assistance devices are available in the entrance near the canopy  
LARGE PRINT bulletins and hymns are available.

Parts of today's worship were adapted from The Knowing: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

### Library Flex Space During Worship

Children are always welcome in the sanctuary and Sunday morning worship is intended to be a family experience. However, we appreciate that some parents might need support during worship with wiggly little ones. Therefore, we have created a relaxed space in the first-floor library for use during worship. This space is outfitted with toys, crayons/paper, books, puzzles, and more. The worship service is live streamed in the library so you will not miss any part of the service. This space is open to anyone who finds they would be more comfortable using this alternate room.



**GIVE ONLINE!**

Scan this QR code or use the following web address:  
<https://saalemchurch.breezechms.com/give/online>

## STAFF and SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

### Pastor

Rev. Phil Hobson  
phobson@salemchurchverona.org

### Director of Music

Dawn Lingard  
musicdirector@salemchurchverona.org

### Director of Handbells

Carrie Coenen

### Director of Christian Education & Director of Youth Ministry

Sarah Pundt  
spundt@salemchurchverona.org

### Office Administrator

Cara Bahr  
cbahr@salemchurchverona.org

### Piano

Julie Sundby

### Scripture Reader

Krista Nechvatal

### Communion Servers

Kerry and Stefanie Steinagel,  
Frank and Kari Westphal

## THIS WEEK AT SALEM

### Monday, January 15

6-8PM - Quilt Group  
Eve - Boy Scouts

### Tuesday, January 16

5:30-6:30PM - Boy Scouts

### Wednesday, January 17

6PM - BRC  
6:30PM - Handbells  
6:45PM - Chancel

### Thursday, January 18

6:30PM - Men's Fellowship

### Friday, January 19

5:30PM-9am (Sat) - Youth Lock-in

### Sunday, January 21

9AM - Sunday School  
10:15AM - Worship

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Giving Envelopes

Giving Envelopes are available on the table behind the pews. A few spare boxes are available to anyone that doesn't have them but would like to take them for 2024.

### New Salem Gear

We will be placing one more order at the end of January for newly designed T-shirts, hoodies, and half zips in a variety of colors at reasonable prices. Order forms are in Fellowship Hall or contact Julie Adams (gradamsiii@uwalumni.com) for an electronic order form. All proceeds benefit the Salem Youth Ministry.

### ONA Workshop



Special Guest, Jeff Rabe (Hosted by Sarah Pundt)

### Jan 25 @6:30-8pm

The singular THEY...Understanding Gender Identity in Today's World Using the UCC-commissioned Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education Curriculum for Sr Adults, this program explores biological sex, gender identity, gender expression, pronouns, and sexual orientation. The program explains terms such as: cis / trans / non-binary; introduces participants to the history of the fluidity of sexuality; explores Pride Flags; and so much more! The gathering offers a safe space to ask questions, and provides tools and information to better understand, and advocate, for all of God's people.

Jeff Rabe, Director of Christian Education at First Congregational UCC in Madison, shares his 30+ years of experience in Children & Youth Ministry, and nearly 20 years as an OWL Facilitator, to share the Mission of OWL, and how it is used, for all ages, as a holistic curriculum to better understand the broad spectrum of sexuality.

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