



SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

An Open and Affirming Congregation

August 21, 2022

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship (Rev. Amy Petré Hill)

One: We gather in the presence of the One who abandons no one.

All: Come Holy Spirit, our advocate and comforter.

One: All are welcome in this sacred place, made holy through your presence with us.

All: Open our hearts and minds this day, guide us into a loving relationship with all your children.

One: We gather as God's beloved people, leaving no one outside.

All: Spark us with a word of life and radical belonging—a message that we share with others as we seek to live out Christ's love.

One: We call on the name of God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us.

All: Amen.

*Hymn: *O My Soul, Bless Your Creator* 13

Prayer of Confession (Unison): Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe, based on Ezekiel 3

God of promise and possibility, we come before you broken and breathless, thinking we are trudging through a valley of lifeless bones. We look for life amidst the bones and dust and fail to notice your breath flowing in and around us. We think we need to be perfect before we can enter the new life you have for us. We become fearful when illness in body, mind, or spirit enters into our lives or the lives of those around us. We worry that sickness of body, that mental illness, is a judgement from you. We would rather walk in a valley of bones than believe that your Love, your Spirit, claims us all—in our brokenness and our wholeness.

Open us to the power of your Spirit, a power that makes us all whole: bone, sinew, and flesh filled with your breath. Let us remember that you do not leave us alone in a valley filled with dusty, dry bones; You call us into new life, again and again. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear the Good News: No valley is too despairing, broken, or dusty for God to enter in. No fear, no chaos, no hopelessness is beyond the reach of the One whose breath gives us life.

All: Through Christ, God sees only our wholeness. Through Christ, forgiveness, love, and new life are always possible.

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Make all things new.

All: We are reclaimed and remade by the Spirit of life. In our brokenness, and in our wholeness we are God's beloved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23 Common English Bible

Prayers of the People and 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, for ever. Amen.

Hymn: *God is My Shepherd* 479

Gospel Reading: John 13:31-35 Common English Bible

Sermon: *Becoming WISE* Lisa Hart

Invitation to Generosity and Love

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.**

*Blessing the Gifts

May these gifts help to build the community of care and compassion that we hope to create. May they be a legacy of justice, hope, faith and most importantly love. Amen

(Invitation and blessing prayers by Rev. Dr. Alydia Smith)

*Hymn: *Healer of Our Ev'ry Ill* insert

*Benediction (Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe)

One: The One who created all that is calls us by name and invites us into a life of abundant Love.

All: We go out into the world as God's beloved people, bringing Holy Love to all whom we meet.

One: Jesus taught us to love one another as fiercely and freely as God loves each of us, with the power that binds us together as the Body of Christ.

All: We will embody Christ by shattering stigma and welcoming all, leaving no one outside.

One: The Spirit fills us with the Breath of Life and urges us to imagine anew how to be Church in the world today.

All: We will breathe deeply and move beyond what has been and what is. We will follow the Spirit and bring hope and healing to all who live in despair and brokenness. We will be the Church! Amen.

Postlude

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.

Liturgy Resources for this service from:

Mental Health and Wellness: Worship Resources for All, United Church of Christ Mental Health Network, the United Church of Christ, and the United Church of Canada

Healer of Our Ev'ry Ill is from the Chalice Hymnal.

Guest Preacher: Welcome to Lisa Hart, from our own congregation

Lisa Hart, a commissioned minister in the United Church of Christ, serves as the Associate Conference Minister for Faith Formation and Justice Ministries for the Wisconsin Conference UCC. She also holds a Master of Arts in Counseling from Lakeland University. Her ministry focuses on faith formation for all ages and a wide variety of justice issues...racial, immigration, environmental, domestic and sexual violence, LGBTQ+, and mental health. Lisa is passionate about helping people connect issues of justice with living out their faith.

STAFF and SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Interim Minister

Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson
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Scripture Reader

Judy Skupien

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Sign up to teach or assist in a Sunday school classroom or the church nursery. No experience necessary and training is provided. We need you! If we want to offer Sunday school every week, we need more teachers than we currently have.

BPNN OPEN HOUSE TODAY

Badger Prairie Needs Network is hosting a Public Open House for the new Kasieta Center this *Sunday, August 21 from 12-3pm*. The event will feature tours of the entire building and light refreshments. Donation of a non-perishable food item(s) is encouraged. Salem members are encouraged to take a look at the BPNN's history posted in the Kasieta Center and see that Salem is recognized.

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Sunday, August 21

9AM - Worship
6:30PM - Youth Mini Golf

Sunday, August 28

9AM - Worship (Guest Preacher: Rev. Paul Melrose)

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