



SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

An Open and Affirming Congregation

February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship (responsively):

God of love, we are not alone.

We are one with all Creation, and we thank you.

You come to us in our neighbors, with love and blessing.

We are one in Christ, and we praise you.

You live in us, and your love binds us together.

**In your Spirit we are one, and we serve you with gladness;
we worship you with joy. Alleluia!**

*Hymn:

Love Only

insert

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison):

Holy God, your law shows the way of righteousness, but we forsake your commandments. We have not provided for the poor or aided the disabled. We have not been truthful in our daily business; we have been unjust in our judgment of others. We have sought vengeance against our enemies; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us our sins and rouse us to sincere repentance. By the power of your Holy Spirit, free us to live as your holy people with Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Moment of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Time with Children

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

First Reading: Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18 Common English Bible

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5: 38-48 Common English Bible

Sermon Lisa Hart

Offering

Offertory and sharing of gifts

*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):

Almighty God, by your grace, accept our offering. Make us joyful in giving that we may grow in likeness to your supreme gift, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation: *Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread* 342

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation (responsively):

The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. Come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more;

You who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time;

You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have fallen short.

Come, all who seek to follow Christ's way. It is Christ who offers to encounter us here.

Jesus was always the guest... Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

Communion Prayer (responsively):

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right... As we join our voices in your everlasting hymn of praise.

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty,

the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!

Hosanna in the highest!

The Words of Institution

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.

Sharing the Meal

The elements will be served to you in the pews.

The bread is gluten-free, nut-free and casein-free. The inner rows of cups contain grape juice, while the outer row contains wine.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving* (unison)

**Holy Vine, thank you for gathering us around your table.
Thank you for transforming this simple bread
into that gift of life which, broken,
can make us whole once again.
Thank you for sanctifying this simple cup
that it might become the grace
for which we thirst in this and every moment.
Perhaps most of all, thank you for nourishing us and commissioning us
that we may go forth into the world,
pushing aside the doors locked tight
by the forces of prejudice and oppression,
that all might receive your hope,
that everyone might feel your abiding presence
connecting them to your abundant life. Amen.**

*Hymn: *For the Healing of the Nations* 576

Benediction

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.

Resources for today's worship:

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Communion Liturgy from the Iona Community

Love Only

God, may your deep love shine bright in my heart,
may it be always your love I impart.
In ease or conflict, your love be my stay,
as your Beloved, your love to convey.

When people scare me so I feel alone,
help me see they, too, have wounds of their own.
Help me surrender my sword and my shield,
love and love only by your grace to yield.

God, by your Spirit, fill me with your grace, to
love and to heal in each moment and place.
Love and love only, through conflict or strife,
sets us all free and gives healing and life.

Words: Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Tune: *Be Thou My Vision* #451 *New Century Hymnal*

Used with permission; Steve Garnaas-Holmes, unfoldinglight.net.

Guest Preacher: *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

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Joan and Gary Aebly

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Monday, February 13

Eve - Boy Scouts

Tuesday, February 14

6PM - Finance

7PM - Council

Wednesday, February 15

6PM - BRC

6:30PM - Handbells

6:45PM - Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 16

6:30PM - Men's Fellowship (Quivey's Grove)

7PM - Koinonia (Women's Fellowship)

Sunday, February 19

9AM - Sunday School

10:15AM - Worship

5-6:30PM - "Nothing to Hide" (Opening Reception)

6:30PM - Speaker from NAMI Dane County

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL CARE

Lisa Hart will be providing emergency pastoral care during this time of transition. If have a pastoral care emergency or need a hospital visit, etc, she can be reached at 608-438-1571.

WORSHIP SAFETY MEETING

The Verona Police Department has reached out to Salem to participate in a group of people from other places of worship in the community as we approach the topic of "Safety and Security in Our Places of Worship". The goal is to provide knowledge and training for safety and security situations that could affect our places of worship. The first meeting is on Tuesday, February 28 at 9am at St. James Lutheran Church in Verona. We are still in need of someone to represent Salem at these meetings. Anyone interested in the topic should contact the church office.

RECYCLE THE WARMTH

Each year families in Dane County turn to St Vincent de Paul for bedding and blankets to keep their children warm and to sleep comfortably. Last year the community donated over 3000 blankets. You can help our neighbors in need by donating new or gently used blankets and bedding to the bin in the fellowship hall.

Purchase new blankets at the St Vincent de Paul thrift store on Verona Ave or purchase blankets online at svdpmadison.org/event/rtw/

WOMEN'S GUILD DONATIONS

At a special meeting of the Guild on February 2, 2023, it was unanimously voted to make the following donations: Lakeland University Scholarship Fund, \$400; New Glarus Home Auxiliary, \$250, Prison Ministry Project, \$600; Save the Children Fund, \$200, Church World Service-Blanket Fund, \$300, BPNN Food Pantry, \$350; and Our Daily Bread Devotional, \$100.

The Guild is also researching the cost and styles of lighter weight tables for the Fellowship Hall to replace the heavier ones that are still in use. Our goal is to have all lightweight tables with white tops that will provide easier setup (and take down) for larger groups in the fellowship hall.

UPCOMING PULPIT SUPPLY

February 19	Larry Balleine
February 26	Larry Balleine
March 5	Youth Sunday