



SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

An Open and Affirming Congregation

January 15, 2023

Second Sunday After Epiphany

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship (responsively): Based on Psalm 40
Let us sing and worship together. For God has pulled us from the mire and the struggle to stand firm upon the rock, the steady ground.

We will sing a song of praise, for God is our secure foundation, our place of refuge.

Happy are those who seek to do God's will and to follow God's Word. Their light shall shine with truth and righteousness.

Let us proclaim God's faithfulness and love. Let us worship God!

*Hymn: *Great Is Your Faithfulness* 423

Call to Confession Based on Isaiah 49 and Psalm 40

Prayer of Confession (unison):

Merciful God, We confess that we have been timid and unreliable witnesses of Jesus Christ. Forgive us for the times we have stayed silent in the face of injustice and hate, for the times our actions have not matched our beliefs, for the times we have hoarded our abundance, for the times we have turned away from your children in need. For the many ways we fail to follow Jesus, forgive us. Invite us again to come and see, and to abide in your presence so that we may be transformed and renewed. Empower us to witness, with our words and lives, to the love and grace we've experienced in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of pardon (responsively): Based on Psalm 40
Hear the good news of the gospel: God will not withhold mercy from us. The steadfast love and faithfulness of the Lord is with us, now and forever.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Pastoral Prayer 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.

First Reading: Isaiah 49: 1-7 p. 665

Handbell Anthem: On Eagle's Wings [arr. Michael Ryan]

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9 p. 1040

Sermon: Time to Get to Work Rev. Kathleen Owens

Invitation to the Offering
Offering

Invitation to the Offering Offertory
*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):
Generous God, we offer these gifts in gratitude for all we have received. Use them to strengthen the ministry of your church to meet the needs of your children. May these offerings bear witness to your love made known to us in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn: *God of Grace and God of Glory* 436

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.

The Confession and Offering liturgies were written by Stephanie Sorge.

Guest Preacher

Rev. Kathleen Owens is currently a stay-at-home parent living in Verona with her husband, two children, and two cats. Kathleen previously served as pastor at Westminster Presbyterian in Madison and First Presbyterian in Oregon. Kathleen has also served in a number of capacities in John Knox Presbytery and the Madison region, including Moderator of the Presbytery and serving on the Board of Directors for PresHouse at UW-Madison.

The Work of Christmas

by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

STAFF and SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Director of Music

Dawn Lingard
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Handbell Director

Carrie Coenen

Director of Christian Education & Director of Youth Ministry

Sarah Pundt
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Office Administrator

Cara Bahr
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Scripture Reader

Nathan Bahr

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Monday, January 16

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
7PM - YMT

Wednesday, January 18

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

Thursday, January 19

6:30PM - Men's Fellowship @ George Adams'
7PPM - Koinonia (Women's Fellowship)

Sunday, January 22

9AM - Sunday School
10:15AM - Worship (Lisa Hart)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL CARE

Lisa Hart will be providing emergency pastoral care during this time of transition. If you have a pastoral care emergency or need a hospital visit, etc, she can be reached at 608-438-1571. If she does not answer, please leave a message with a callback number and she will return your call as soon as she is able.



Rev. Kristin Gorton, pastor at Fitchburg Memorial UCC, will be providing coverage for Salem's emergency pastoral care needs from January 10-18 and January 26-31 while Lisa is away (She will be back in town before noon on January 31).

Kristin can be reached via email at: pastorkris@memorialucc.org or on her cell phone at: 608-438-6307.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE WORKSHOP | JANUARY 24, 7PM

This class will be led by Lisa Hart and Sarah Pundt. Pastors generally assist with any emergency pastoral care needs that arise, but there are many ways we can provide care for each other. This workshop will explore the nuts and bolts of supporting each other through any care needs (physical, spiritual, emotional).

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