



SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

An Open and Affirming Congregation

February 20, 2022

Seventh Sunday after Christmas

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (Responsively): (adapted from Psalm 37)

Trust in the Lord, and do good.

Take delight in the Lord, and God will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord, and put your trust in God.

**Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for our God.
Let them thank God for steadfast love.**

Hymn: *Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped* 22

Prayer of Confession (Responsively):

Our God, we admit that the words and life of Jesus seem to stand in judgement against us. He urges us to love our enemies and do good to those who hate us, to bless those who curse us and pray for those who abuse us.

But instead of breaking away from our tendencies toward resentment and hostility, we measure our responses to suit our needs.

If we can gain a measure of stature or martyrdom or pride in our forgiveness, we forgive; but if we gain no advantage, how easy it becomes to bide our time and nurse our resentments, looking forward to vindication, expecting true "justice" to mean that we "win".

Jesus' ways seem too impractical, too unrealistic, simply irrelevant for the daily pressures we face.

Forgive us, O Lord, forgive us for explaining Christ away, for acting like he does not call us to the same radical love that he displayed.

Let us hear his call, and be challenged by its purity and even scandalized by its presence. Amen.

Silent, Personal Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon (Responsively):

Our God, in Christ, has instructed us to give to those in need without counting the cost to ourselves.

May our God continue to move our hearts, challenge our minds, and stir our souls with the example of Christ to lead us.

Reading from the Hebrews Scriptures: Genesis 45: 3-11, 15 p. 41

Gospel Reading: Luke 6: 27-38 p. 941

Communion Meditation: Turning the Other Cheek – an Act of Courage
Dr. Robinson

The Service of Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Responsively):

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift us your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Concludes with The Lord's Prayer in 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.

Words of Institution

The Act of Communing: *The bread is gluten-free, nut-free and casein-free.*

All cups contain grape juice.

Prayer after Communion (Unison)

God of compassion, even after we leave Christ's Table, may it yet remain a symbol of the Grace of Christ in our thoughts and in our hearts. May we still sense the presence of Jesus Christ in our daily lives. May we remember that Jesus prayed even for his enemies, in his words and his deeds, and now helps us to be like him in our words and deeds, in the days before us. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude

An asterisk (*) where those who are able should stand as an act of worship.

STAFF

Interim Minister

Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson
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Director of Music

Dawn Lingard
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**Director of Christian Education
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Sarah Pundt
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Office Administrator

Cara Bahr
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Communion Servers

Kari and Frank Westphal
Kelli and Chad Malueg

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Today	6:30PM - Youth Sunday Planning
Monday, February 21	Eve - Boy Scouts
Wed., February 23	4:45PM - Confirmation
	6PM - BRC
	6:45PM - Chancel Choir
Sunday, February 27	9AM - Sunday School
	10:15AM - Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Hello Salem family!

As you know we have an active Pastoral Search committee working to find the right long-term Pastor for Salem. The first part of this effort is to write a church profile that describes our congregation and community, and we need your help! Between now and Easter (April 17), the Search Committee will offer meetings to make sure that our church profile appropriately captures your inputs regarding where we've been, where we are, and where we think God is calling us to be or to go as a congregation.

We are looking to team up with existing groups (e.g. Council, Fellowship, Choirs) to have these conversations, as well as to offer a few sessions on Sunday after church between March 6 – April 10th. If you want to participate in these, but would rather do that remotely, please contact Jon Pundt so that we can coordinate a Zoom call and agenda. We want to complete this information gathering phase before Easter.

Zooming out to the big picture, we intend to complete the profile with Council approval by the end of May, and then expect a 3-6 month search and interview process once the position is posted. We understand that this feels like a long time, and we really appreciate your trust in us and our use of the UCC formal process to take the time to do this right.

Thanks so much- and be on the lookout for invitations. We can't wait to hear from you!

Search Committee
 Jon Pundt, Chair (communication@salemchurchverona.org)
 Krista Nechvatal
 Angela Quade
 Karen Williams
 Kathy Hauser
 Brad Bergin
 Brian Winterle
 (Pastor Tom Robinson)