



SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

An Open and Affirming Congregation

February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Greeting

Handbell Introit: *Bell Peal* [arr. Larry Sue]

*Opening Hymn: *O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns* 212

Call to Worship (responsive):

One: The voice of God proclaims of Jesus, "You are my beloved, and I love you."

Many: We, too, are God's beloved children, loved and embraced.

One: With all the voices reminding us that we are not enough or don't belong, it is tempting to forget our place in God's Kingdom.

Many: With the waters of baptism and the voice of God's promises, we can face the temptations of any wilderness or desert that would draw us away from the Source of our hope.

One: Embrace your belovedness.

Many: We rejoice in God's unending love for us!

Prayer of Transformation and New Life (unison):

O God of love, as Jesus was driven out to be tempted in the wilderness, we too, face wildernesses of our own. We are tempted to forget your promises, to rely upon our own strength, and to listen to the destructive voices of power and oppression. Free us from our own hubris. Help us to reclaim our spiritual center as rooted in your love. Open our being to hearing your voice proclaim us as your child who is welcomed, held, and whole. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Words of Grace (responsive):

One: God's glory shines forth, and God judges with grace and with mercy. God gives us renewed life and our spirits rise.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

*Passing the Peace

Time with Children

Handbell Anthem: *I Surrender All* [Sandra Eithun]

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 Gospel: *Mark 1:9-15* p. 912

Sermon: *You Are the Beloved* Rev. Phil Hobson

*Hymn: *There Is a Name I Love to Hear (O How I Love Jesus)* 52

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):

Abundant God, receive these gifts of love from your servants and use them for the breaking in of your Kingdom of love and light. In the name of Jesus, whose way calls us forth in service, we pray. Amen.

Opportunities to Serve

*Closing Hymn: *Let Every Christian Pray* 261

Benediction

Handbell Benediction Response: *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*
[arr. Cathy Moglebust]

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
LARGE PRINT bulletins and hymns are available.

Parts of today's worship were adapted from *Temptation: Service Prayers* for the First Sunday in Lent Year B, written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbot, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.

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.



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502 Mark Drive, P.O. Box 930125, Verona, Wisconsin 53593
608-845-7315 • saalemchurchverona.org

 facebook.com/VeronaSalemUCC  twitter.com/saalemuccverona

STAFF and SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Pastor

Rev. Phil Hobson
phobson@saalemchurchverona.org

Director of Music

Dawn Lingard
musicdirector@saalemchurchverona.org

Director of Handbells

Carrie Coenen

Director of Christian Education & Director of Youth Ministry

Sarah Pundt
spundt@saalemchurchverona.org

Office Administrator

Cara Bahr
cbahr@saalemchurchverona.org

Piano

Jeffrey Phoumyvong

Scripture Reader

Hugh Hauser

Fellowship

Barb & Doug Smith

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Today

Monday, February 19

6:30-7:45PM - Youth Gathering

Eve - Boy Scouts

6PM - Quilting Group

Tuesday, February 20

Wednesday, February 21

5:30-6:30PM - Boy Scouts

6PM - BRC

6:30PM - Handbells

6:45PM - Chancel

Sunday, February 25

9AM - Sunday School

10:15AM - Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scholarship Application

Salem is pleased to make available scholarships for current church members for expenses during the first year of college, trade school, or technical college. To receive one of these scholarships, interested persons must complete an application form by April 1, 2024. Contact the church office to receive an application form should you wish one.

Please note this is not limited to high school seniors. Older adults who are planning to attend college, trade school, or technical college are likewise encouraged to apply.