



SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

An Open and Affirming Congregation

December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Jubilate Deo!* [Gordon Young]

Lighting of the First Advent Candle Kevin & Martha Booth

Come and worship God! Prepare the way for the coming of the Lord.

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Open our eyes to the coming presence of God's kingdom.

Bring your love and justice among us, O God.

Come, believing God's promises to you at your baptism.

Come, committed to the faith we have professed in Jesus Christ.

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Clear a straight path for the Redeemer.

Hymn: *Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn* 107
(verse 1 – please remain seated)

Some Verses of Scripture: Matthew 3: 1-3 p. 880

The Second Advent Candle is Lighted

A Prayer for Advent II: (Unison)

God of Love,

Your world needs you now more than ever.

We need to know that we count,

that you care,

that there is a reason for things that happen.

Christmas time makes us think about important things:

Like giving, and sharing,

and families and friends,

and the poor and the forgotten,

and the left out and the left alone,

and the unfed and the unclothed.

**Christmas makes us think of love that changes lives,
and about whose love makes us feel worthy,
and about those who find it hard to love.**

Help us to give the gift of love,

or help us to be able to receive it.

God of Love,

Your world needs us more than ever,

to show your love.

We know that we count,

because we are instruments of love,

your love, born in Jesus, and shown through us. Amen.

Hymn: *Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn* 107
(remaining verses – please remain seated)

*Prayer of Confession (Responsively): *adapted from Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13*

God is love; the omnipotent and compassionate parent
that holds the world tenderly in a warm embrace.

God desires that we love each other

as a mother loves her child, as a father embraces his own.

All too often we fail in our efforts

to live as God would have us live.

We push away turning cold shoulders to God and each other.

We express anger and resentment

instead of compassion and grace.

We seek revenge instead of reconciliation.

In these moments we ask God

to forgive us and set us upon the right path.

*Silent, Personal Prayers of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon (Responsively):

When we turn to God with faithful hearts, God hears and responds.

Our failings and shortcomings are forgiven.

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace
embrace each other.

**God gives what is good and spreads the path of righteousness
before us.**

Walk in confidence, forgiven and forgiving in Christ's name.

Amen.

Choral Anthem: *Like a Child, I Wait* [Ruth Elaine Schram]

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 11: 1-10 p. 627

Choral Anthem: *The Hands That First Held Mary's Child* [Dan Forrest]

Reading from the Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12 p. 880

Sermon: "What ARE you, some kind of Fanatic or something?"
Dr. Robinson

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

*Hymn: *We Hail You God's Anointed* 104

Benediction

Benediction Response: *Come, Lord Jesus* [Anna Laura Page]

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.

STAFF and SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Interim Minister

Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson
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Director of Music

Dawn Lingard
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Director of Christian Education & Director of Youth Ministry

Sarah Pundt
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Office Administrator

Cara Bahr
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Scripture Reader

Karen Williams

Fellowship

Women's Guild

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Monday, December 5

Eve - Boy Scouts

Tuesday, December 6

Eve - Cub Scouts
7PM - Safe Church Training

Wednesday, December 7

6PM - BRC
6:30PM - Handbells
6:45PM - Chancel Choir
7PM - Parent's Promise
7:15-8:45PM - Girl Scouts

Thursday, December 8

Friday, December 9

Sunday, December 11

4-8PM - Piano Recital
9AM - Sunday School
10:15AM - Worship
Afternoon - Piano Recital

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Nothing to Hide” Family Diversity Projects Photo Exhibit

Dec 12 @ 7pm (planning meeting) Salem will be hosting the "Nothing to Hide" photo exhibit February 19-March 26 to engage the surrounding community in a discussion about mental health issues facing families today. “These compelling accounts (in the exhibit) demonstrate strength, courage, integrity, and accomplishment in the face of adversity and stigma – giving people living with mental illness and their families an opportunity to come out of the shadows and into the public eye.” Please join Sarah Pundt for a planning meeting at church on Dec. 12 @ 7pm. This event offers an exciting opportunity to address an important topic, educate ourselves and others, and engage with the broader community.

Advent Devotionals Available

“What’s Left of the Night?” is the 2022 Advent devotional available from the UCC Writer’s group. Daily reflections in addition to a guide for lighting your Advent candles at home are included. Electronic copies can be emailed to you and limited hard copies are available on the Christian Education table in the back of fellowship hall. Please contact Sarah Pundt to receive an electronic copy or request additional printed copies.

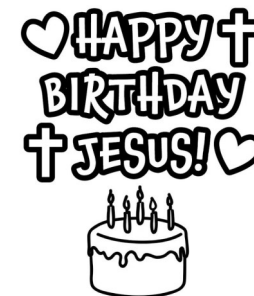
Celebrate Jesus’ Birthday by Making a Child’s Birthday Brighter

Many children in Dane County are in families that struggle with food insecurity. Birthday celebration items are a luxury that these families cannot afford. With your help these children can experience the anticipation and excitement of a birthday cake and party. Salem’s advent mission project will be collecting items for Birthday Party Kits to be distributed to families when they visit Badger Prairie Needs Network.

Each Birthday Party Kit should include the following:

- 1 cake mix
- 1 prepared can frosting
- 1 9 x13 pan
- 1 package of birthday candles
- 10 disposable plates and napkins (age and gender neutral)

Items should be bagged in gift bags or plain paper bags and then placed under the Christmas trees on the altar. For those who choose to donate individual items rather than a complete kit there is a wrapped collection box by the trees.



Help Salem collect 50 bags to be distributed in the month of January. Questions can be directed to the Board of Christian Ed or the Mission Committee.