



SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

An Open and Affirming Congregation

January 7, 2024

Epiphany Sunday

Prelude

Greeting

Chancel Choir Introit: *Sanctuary*

*Call to Worship (responsive):

One: We gather in the Light that was before, is now, and ever will be.

Many: We seek the Light's ancient wisdom.

One: We gather in the Light that is God's continuing gift.

Many: We live into the Light's new wisdom.

One: We gather in the Light given to us, emerging anew each day.

Many: We seek to share this wisdom, nurtured in the Light from Bethlehem's cradle.

*Opening Hymn: *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* 160
(Jesus, the Light of the World)

Time with Children

Chancel Choir Anthem: *Ubi Caritas* [Maurice Duruflé]

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.

Translation:

Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other
with a sincere heart. Amen.

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 Letters: Ephesians 3:1-12 p. 1067

From the Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 p. 879

Sermon: Job Descriptions Rev. Phil Hobson

*Hymn: *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* 495

Commissioning Our Council Members

Introduction

One: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

Many: There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

One: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

Many: The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

One: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

Many: It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

One: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

Many: All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

Gratitude for Those Who Have Served

George Adams

Kathy Shubak

Guy Williams

Presentation of Incoming Council

JoAnn Abley
Cari Bass
John Cashman
Hugh Hauser
Krista Nechvatal
Chad Malueg
Kerry Steinagel
Dave Triplett
Kris Wilbricht

One: (addressing the Council Members) Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Council Members: I am.

One: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Council Member: I do, relying on God's grace.

One: (addressing the congregation) Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

***All: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

Prayer

Declaration

Greeting of Christian Love

Offering

Call to Offering

*Epiphany Doxology

tune: 780

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
to God the Spirit now we raise
our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

*Prayer of Dedication (responsive):

Generous God, we thank you for every good and perfect gift you have given to us and through us. Use our offerings this day for the benefit of creation, the redemption of humanity, and your glory. Amen.

Opportunities to Serve

*Closing Hymn: *Arise, Your Light Is Come*

164

Benediction

Chancel Benediction Response: *The Blessing of Aaron*

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 Prayers for the Festival of Epiphany, written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain, Minister for Worship and Gospel Arts, UCC. The Installation of Council Members is adapted from the Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ.

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.

STAFF and SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Pastor

Rev. Phil Hobson
phobson@salemchurchverona.org

Director of Music

Dawn Lingard
musicdirector@salemchurchverona.org

Director of Handbells

Carrie Coenen

Director of Christian Education & Director of Youth Ministry

Sarah Pundt
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Office Administrator

Cara Bahr
cbahr@salemchurchverona.org

Piano

Julie Sundby

Scripture Reader

Karen Williams

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Today

6:30-7:45PM - Youth Gathering

Monday, January 8

Eve - Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 9

5:30-6:30PM - Boy Scouts

6PM - Finance

7PM - Council

Wednesday, January 10

6PM - BRC

6:30PM - Handbells

6:45PM - Chancel

Sunday, January 14

9AM - Sunday School

10:15AM - Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Giving Envelopes

Giving Envelopes are available on the table behind the pews. A few spare boxes are available to anyone that doesn't have them but would like to take them for 2024.

New Salem Gear

We will be placing one more order at the end of January for newly designed T-shirts, hoodies, and half zips in a variety of colors at reasonable prices. Order forms are in Fellowship Hall or contact Julie Adams (gradamsiii@uwalumni.com) for an electronic order form. All proceeds benefit the Salem Youth Ministry.

Diaper Drive Report

667 Pull-ups, 1,952 diapers and 3,746 wipes were collected during the month of December. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! Now there is work to do to get these items repackaged for distribution at Badger Prairie Needs Network. Join Salem members on Wednesday January 10th at 1pm in the Kasieta Center at BPNN. Regular volunteers Kathy Hauser and Diane Triplett will be there to greet, guide and lead our service opportunity. No experience is needed to join in the fun and fellowship. Park in the front lot and door #3 will be open into the Kasieta Center. This is an opportunity to help make Salem known as a congregation who lives out the love of God in the community.



GIVE ONLINE!

Scan this QR code or use the following web address:

<https://salemchurch.breezechms.com/give/online>

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