



**SALEM UNITED CHURCH**  
OF CHRIST  
*Living Out God's Love*

An Open and Affirming Congregation

January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Prelude

Introit

\*Welcome and Call to Worship (responsively):

We gather for worship in this holy place;

**Gather us in gracious God.**

We come to seek your presence;

**In song and in silence, in prayer and in praise, we seek to know you.**

We come, just as we are, with all our messy humanness;

**Reveal to us again your all-gracious love.**

That we would hear your word,

**And go forth to live it out.**

\*Hymn: *Enter, Rejoice, and Come In*

73

Prayer of Confession (unison):

**Lord, you have made us in your image, and poured your Holy Spirit out on all flesh. But we have limited ourselves to lesser visions and smaller connections. We keep thinking of faith as something we can use for our own benefit. We lose sight of our place in your creation. We have forgotten that the other is our neighbor. We have settled for that which does not lead us to you. Restore us in your love. Bring us again to the awareness of the love that connects us to you, to one another, to our world of neighbors, and to all of creation. This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (responsively):

Jesus did not come into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Our wholeness is made real in the love of God. Our healing is in the name of Christ Jesus. Our going out and our coming in are kept by the Holy Spirit. This is God's love.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Time With Children

Scripture:

Micah 6:1-8

p. 850

Anthem (Barry Robinson Chorus): *Order My Steps*

[Glen Burleigh]

Prayers of the People, Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer:

*As we share prayer requests and pray for the needs of the world, we will respond to "God of Light" with "Hear our 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.**

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 5:1-12

p. 882

Sermon:

*Liberation*

Rev. Phil Hobson

\*Hymn:

*Called As Partners in Christ's Service*

495

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):

**Receive these our gifts and our offerings, and receive us, O God. By your Holy Spirit use these and use us to do your will, to build up our world of neighbors, for the sake of the faith and hope and love that we know best in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*Hymn:

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

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Announcements

Benediction

Benediction Response

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.

## PASTORAL CARE

**Lisa Hart** will be providing emergency pastoral care during this time of transition. If have a pastoral care emergency or need a hospital visit, etc, she can be reached at 608-438-1571.

**Rev. Kristin Gorton**, pastor at Fitchburg Memorial UCC, will be providing coverage for Salem's emergency pastoral care needs from 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](mailto:pastorkris@memorialucc.org) or on her cell phone at: 608-438-6307.

## STAFF and SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

### Director of Music

Dawn Lingard  
[dawn.Lingard@landsend.com](mailto:dawn.Lingard@landsend.com)

### Director of BRC

Julie Sundby

### Director of Christian Education & Director of Youth Ministry

Sarah Pundt  
[spundt@saalemchurchverona.org](mailto:spundt@saalemchurchverona.org)

### Office Administrator

Cara Bahr  
[cbahr@saalemchurchverona.org](mailto:cbahr@saalemchurchverona.org)

### Scripture Reader

Judy Skupien

### Worship Leaders

Members of Pastor Search Committee

### Fellowship

Pastor Search Committee

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RECYCLE THE WARMTH

Each year families in Dane County turn to St Vincent de Paul for bedding and blankets to keep their children warm and to sleep comfortably. Last year the community donated over 3000 blankets. You can help our neighbors in need by donating new or gently used blankets and bedding to the bin in the fellowship hall.

Purchasing new blankets at the St Vincent de Paul thrift store on Verona Ave or purchase blankets online at [svdpmadison.org/event/rtw/](http://svdpmadison.org/event/rtw/)

### WELCOMING OUR NEIGHBORS

After the distribution for our first round of "Glad You Are Here" welcome bags to our new neighbors in apartments near Salem, we and our partners at Sugar River Methodist are asking for contributions for round two! Needed items: sanitizing wipes, box of tissues, roll of toilet paper, roll of paper towels

A collection bin is located at the rear of the sanctuary through the end of January. You will also find note cards if you'd like to include a personal greeting and/or invitation to visit Salem.

### OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE

Weekly offering envelopes are available on the table behind the pews for those who have requested them. There are some extra boxes that are blank.

### WOMEN'S GUILD SPECIAL MEETING

Salem Women's Guild is calling a special meeting on Thursday, February 2 at 1:30 p.m. to choose and vote on the dispersement of funds for the year 2023. The next regular meeting of the Guild will be held on Thursday, April 6 to discuss plans for a Salad Luncheon or whether we might want to do something different. All are welcome to attend these meetings!

### UPCOMING PULPIT SUPPLY

February 5	Larry Balleine
February 12	Lisa Hart
February 19	Larry Balleine
February 26	Larry Balleine

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 [facebook.com/VeronaSalemUCC](https://facebook.com/VeronaSalemUCC)  [twitter.com/saalemuccverona](https://twitter.com/saalemuccverona)

## THIS WEEK AT SALEM

### Monday, January 30

Eve - Boy Scouts  
7PM - Sunday School Teacher/Assistant Meeting

### Wednesday, February 1

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

### Thursday, February 2

7PM - Parent's Promise

### Sunday, February 5

9AM - Sunday School  
10:15AM - Worship