



SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

An Open and Affirming Congregation

January 8, 2023

First Sunday After Epiphany

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship (responsively):

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**The brightness of God's light
Shines upon all the nations.**

All are welcomed to the brightness of God's dawn.

God gathers us from far away and carries us.
With radiant eyes, with rejoicing hearts,
we receive the abundance God gives.

We respond in praise.

**With our gifts, with our very selves,
we worship God.**

*Hymn: *Arise, Your Light Is Come* 164

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison):

**God of justice, we confess that our actions are evil whenever we remain passive while others are oppressed; whenever we guard our own prosperity at the expense of those who are poor; or when we ignore the cries of those in need of help.
Forgive us, we pray, for hiding in the darkness of this world more than loving the light of your righteousness made known to us in Jesus Christ. Judge us with mercy, we pray, and extend your grace to us. Strengthen our faithfulness to you and to all who are precious in your sight.
We pray in the name of Christ, our Light. Amen.**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon (responsively):

Friends, God is for us and not against us.
For that very reason God sent the Son into the world—
not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.
We declare the good news of the Gospel:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven
And set free to live a new life in him.**

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 "Lord in your mercy" 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.

First Reading: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Common English Bible

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 Common English Bible

Sermon Lisa Hart

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):

Though we are least among the saints, O God, still you have given us the gift of your grace that we might share with others the boundless riches of Christ, and also the resources we hold in trust. Receive now, we ask, what we have given today. Use these offerings and use us for your plans and purposes. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Hymn: *As We Gather at Your Table* 332

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer (responsively):

God is with you.

And also with you.

Let us open our hearts.

We open them up to our God.

Let us give thanks to the God of Light.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

... And we praise you,

joining our voices with all life on earth and the company of heaven,
who forever sing their hymns to proclaim the glory of your name.

Holy, holy, holy God

of love and majesty,

the whole universe speaks of your glory,

O God Most High.

The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Wine: *The elements will be served to you in the pews.*

*The bread is gluten-free, nut-free and casein-free. The inner rows of
cups contain grape juice, while the outer row contains wine.*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

**We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your
table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our
faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the
world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*Hymn: *As With Gladness Those of Old*

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Benediction

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.

Guest Preacher: *Lisa Hart, a commissioned minister in the United Church of Christ, serves as the Associate Conference Minister for Faith Formation and Justice Ministries for the Wisconsin Conference UCC. She also holds a Master of Arts in Counseling from Lakeland University. Her ministry focuses on faith formation for all ages and a wide variety of justice issues...racial, immigration, environmental, domestic and sexual violence, LGBTQ+, and mental health. Lisa is passionate about helping people connect issues of justice with living out their faith.*

STAFF and SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

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George Adams, Cara Bahr,

Dave & Diane Triplett

Fellowship

Rose and Paul Wieland

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Monday, January 9

Eve - Boy Scouts

7PM - YMT

Tuesday, January 10

6PM - Finance

7PM - Council

Wednesday, January 11

6PM - BRC

6:30PM - Handbells

6:45PM - Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 12

7PM - Weekly Worship Workshop

Sunday, January 15

9AM - Sunday School

10:15AM - Worship (Rev. Kathleen Owens)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. If she does not answer, please leave a message with a callback number and she will return your call as soon as she is able.

Rev. Kristin Gorton, pastor at Fitchburg Memorial UCC, will be providing coverage for Salem's emergency pastoral care needs from January 10-18 and 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 or on her cell phone at: 608-438-6307.

WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE FOR COMING WEEKS



January 15: Kathleen Owens (she worshiped with us in Nov)

January 22: Lisa Hart

WEEKLY WORSHIP WORKSHOP | JANUARY 12, 7PM

This workshop will explore how we deepen our personal experience and understanding of weekly worship, while also contributing meaningfully to the congregation.

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