

Salem United Church of Christ, Wayne

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Covenant Sunday/Holy Communion

September 11, 2022

Order of Worship

To join us for Zoom worship on Sunday call the phone number: **1 (312) 626-6799**. When prompted, enter the Meeting ID: **755 543 942**. On a computer, tablet or smart phone, join Zoom worship at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/755543942>. If you have trouble, please call Pastor Ruth at (262) 271-7085.

Prelude, Ringing of the Bell and Welcome

Welcome to Salem United Church of Christ, where no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here, because this is Christ's church. Today we are celebrating Holy Communion. In the United Church of Christ, all who seek Christian community and a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ are welcome to the table. If you are at home, please prepare the elements before worship.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

While remaining in your pew, please greet your neighbors with the peace of Christ.

Introit

“Send the Light”

Chas. H. Gabriel

Call to Worship

I will sing of your steadfast love, O God, forever.

I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,

And your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.

Psalms 89:1-2, 5, alt.

Hymn #1

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Smith/Welsh ballad

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might,
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. Your life is life-giving – to both great and small;
In all life you're living, the true life of all;

We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
Then wither and perish – but naught dims your powers.

4. So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
Your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
All praise we now render as your angels do;
In awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

Opening Prayer

Chalice Worship, page 281 #197

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:14-16

Pew Bible p. 958

¹⁴“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Epistle Reading

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Pew Bible page 1174

¹²I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him, ¹³even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus.

¹⁵This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all. ¹⁶But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen.

Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

“I Come With Joy”

Wren/Webb

Message

Pastor Ruth Hansen

A New Creed

United Church of Canada

We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God’s presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to
proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Renewal of Our Covenant

Now there are varieties of gifts,
but the same Spirit;

and there are varieties of services,

but the same Lord;

and there are varieties of activities,

but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

We share ministry as we share the manifestation of the Spirit.

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom,

We share ministry serving in leadership and accepting new responsibilities.

and to another, the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,

We share ministry as preachers and teachers.

to another, faith by the same Spirit,

We share ministry as choir members and with musical instruments.

to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

We share ministry by visiting, writing, and calling on others.

to another, the working of miracles,

We share ministry with casseroles, garden hoes and hammers,

to another, prophecy,

We share ministry holding babies and working for justice.

to another, the discernment of spirits,

We share ministry by taking time to understand ourselves.

to another, various kinds of tongues,

We share ministry in small groups and in prayer.

to another, the interpretation of tongues.

We share ministry as students and learners.

All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who gives to us as the Spirit chooses.

We share ministry as volunteers & staff, children & elders, members & friends.

For just as the body is one and has many members,

and all the members of the body, though many, are one body,

so it is with Christ. **Amen.**

Hymn #584

“I Am the Light of the World”

Jim Strathdee

Refrain: “I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!”

If you follow and love, you’ll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

1. When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
When the sages and the shepherds have found their way home,
The work of Christmas is begun: *Refrain*
2. To find the lost and lonely one, to heal the broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below, the sky above! *Refrain*
3. To free the prisoner from all chains, to make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
To see all God’s children everywhere! *Refrain*
4. To bring hope to every task you do, to dance at a baby’s new birth,
To make music in an old person’s heart,

And sing to the colors of the earth! *Refrain*

Joys and Concerns

Concerns: We pray for all those in our world who need healing, hope, joy, and new life. We pray for those impacted by the continuing gun violence. We pray for the people of Ukraine. We pray for all who: are impacted by natural and human-made disasters... have been traumatized by violence, and/or suffering from hunger, lack of clean water, discrimination, poverty, injury or illness... are impacted by COVID-19... who serve the public... for healing & a compassionate, cooperative spirit in our nation.

For our church family: Sophie Stoltz, Ella Gauthier & Hunter Sabish (all learning to drive); Wendy & Dan Coulter; Dan Kudek; Smokey Rauch; Jeffrey Prost; Todd & Scarlet Goggins; Kermit Coulter; Eleanor Norskog; Roger Menger, Bob K., Teresa V., Carol B., Josh, Brian, Bonnie, Dawn.

Birthdays: September 11 Amy Gauthier 14 Leann Eimmermann

Anniversaries: September 12 Todd & Scarlet Goggins 17 Nate & Lauren Caspary

Prayers of the People *Rev. Ian McLean; posted on the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website.*
http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/18473/12_January_2014.pdf

Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves *Levon Bayler, Gathered by Love, Year C, p. 138-139*
Thank you for supporting the ministry of Salem; it is greatly appreciated!

Response *Bless Thou the Gifts Longfellow/Schumann*
Bless Thou the gifts our hands have brought; bless Thou the work our hearts have planned;
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought; the rest, O God, is in Thy hands.

Confession and Pardon *Romans 5:8; alt.*
Chalice Worship #296

Most merciful God, we humbly admit that we need your help. We confess that we have wandered from your way. We have done wrong, and we have failed to do what is right. You alone can save us. Have mercy on us: Wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others. Bring forth in us the fruit of the Spirit, that we may live as disciples of Christ. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Savior.

Moment of silent prayer

...in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation *Chalice Worship #596*

Communion Prayer — *Copyright © 2003 Nathan Nettleton <http://www.laughingbird.net/>*

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

... Therefore with all the saints and angels we sing your unending hymn of praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory; Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!

Words of Institution of the Sacrament

Invoking God's Spirit

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Strals

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. (repeat)

Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us; forgive us our trespasses. Our Father...

Our Lord lead us not into temptation, but save us from evil,

and the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever will be yours. Our Father...

Call to the Supper and Sharing the Elements

Please hold the bread and cup; we will eat and drink together.

Wine is in the cups on the outer edge of the tray;

grape juice is in the center for those who prefer.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Chalice Worship #647

Most gracious God, we praise you for what you have given and for what you have promised us here. You have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

You have fed us with the bread of life, and renewed us for your service. Now we give ourselves to you; and we ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your realm, and that our love may be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn #252

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Thrupp/Bradbury

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need your tender care;
in your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are.
2. We are yours, in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.
3. Let us always seek your favor; let us always do your will;
Jesus Christ our only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.

Announcements

Thank you to Ruth Betts and the choir for today's music, and to John Henry Coulter-Vorpahl, Jr. for providing bottled water and sponsoring Zoom in loving memory of his grandparents: Geraldine (Byrne) and Ervin J. Coulter, Sr.

Food Pantry – This month we are collecting pudding cups, saltines & snack crackers, juices, Knorr sides, and snack bars. As always, toilet paper is really appreciated. Thanks so much!

Salem’s Clothes Closet is next open September 12 from 9:30 – 11 AM and September 15 from 3:30 – 5 PM. If someone is unable to come during these times, please call the church office and leave a message to make other arrangements. The next sorting day is planned also for September 12 at 9:30 AM. If you can help out, please contact Wendy Coulter at 262-305-7974. **Our “Open House” is Saturday, September 17, from 9 AM to 1 PM.** Please let Wendy know if you could help out with the clothes, or with cookies and juice.

Donate Your Old, Clean T-Shirts – A friend of Clothes Closet volunteer Sally Bertram tears up t-shirts, any color or size, and braids them into jump ropes for Christmas boxes given to needy children. Samples are on the Food Pantry table at church. What a great way to recycle!

Soles for Jesus, Inc. – We are collecting gently used comfortable shoes/dress shoes for this organization to distribute shoes to the underserved in sub-Saharan Africa.

Neighbors In Need UCC Special Offering September 25 – One third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Justice & Witness Ministries use two thirds to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations and to support justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and service projects. With inflation impacting all of our households, this year the *Neighbors in Need* offering focuses on economic justice. Checks can be made payable to Salem UCC with “NIN” in the memo, or use the special offering envelopes in the pew racks. Thank you for your generous spirits in supporting our *Neighbors in Need*!

165th Anniversary Celebration October 2 – It will be held here at Salem. Worship will start at 10 AM instead of our usual time. At 11 AM there will be a dedication of our new altar Bible in memory of Dawn Coulter, and brief words from several previous pastors. A catered meal will begin at noon. ***Please contact a Consistory member by Wednesday, September 15 to let them know how many are coming*** so we can inform the caterer. All members and their families are invited!!

Commission and Blessing

Based on 1 Thessalonians 5:13-22

Go into the world in peace, dedicated to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hold on to what is good, do not return evil for evil, encourage the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the needy and the afflicted, and honor all people. Love and serve the Lord always, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit be with you, each one, now and forever. And let the people say: **Amen.**

Response

“God Be With You”

Tankin/Tomer

God be with you till we meet again, by His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

Ringling of the Bell and Postlude