

Salem United Methodist Church

December 3, 2023 First Sunday Of Advent

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 24:7, 10)

“Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors! That the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.” We offer our worship to the Lord God Almighty!

OPENING PRAYER (in unison): **O God of promise and redemption, we lift our heads and our hearts to you. You are the One who gives us hope. Help us to prepare the way for our Savior to reign in our lives. We place our trust in you for you are our sure and steadfast anchor. So we celebrate the promises you have already fulfilled, and the fulfillment of promises to come. Help us to bring hope as we offer our thankful praise to you. In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*OPENING MUSIC “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” #211 v. 1,2,6,7

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

SUNG RESPONSE “Emmanuel, Emmanuel” #204
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NRSV)
Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

MESSAGE “Preparing to Bring Hope”

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: **Have mercy on us, O God, according to your loving kindness. According to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins. For we acknowledge our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Create in us clean hearts,**

O God, and renew a right spirit within us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (pp. 15-16)

THE LORD’S PRAYER (in 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” #230
“It Came upon the Midnight Clear” #218

*DOXOLOGY #95
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly hosts; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND COMMITMENT (in unison): **Holy God, we give you thanks for your gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and for the abundant life you offer to us. Thank you for feeding us at your holy table, and for the daily blessings by which you sustain us. We respond to your grace with these gifts, and our faithful service. Bless this offering that it may be used for your glory, and to witness to the hope and salvation Jesus Christ brings. We commit ourselves and our gifts to preparing the way of Christ. Amen.**

*CLOSING MUSIC “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” #213

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD

Our Advent Candle Lighting liturgy, Unison Prayer of Confession and Communion liturgy are taken from The United Methodist Book of Worship and used by permission of The United Methodist Publishing House.

Our Worship Leaders Today:

Lauren Simpson, Liturgist
Mark Hurley, Guest Musician
Rev. Dr. Stacey Nickerson, Pastor (pastor@salemunited.org)

Larry Tackenberg, Tech Team Producer
Bryan Niles, Tech Team Director

Welcome to Salem United Methodist Church! Thank you for joining us today in worship.

Child Care is available for our younger children during the 10:45 a.m. service in the nursery room downstairs. **Junior Church** begins after the Children's Message.

THIS WEEK (see our website for details: salemunited.org)

Monday, 12/4 – Soup Orders Due (forms in narthex & online)

Monday, 12/4 7:00 p.m. - Pastor's Bible Study (Church office & Zoom)

Wednesday, 12/6 10:00 a.m. – Morning Bible Study (Parlor)

Wednesday, 12/6 6:30 p.m. – Vespers (Outdoors, weather permitting)

Thursday, 12/7 6:45 p.m. – Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Upcoming (see our website for details: salemunited.org)

Sunday, 12/10 – Soup Sale pickup for 15 minutes after each service (Kitchen)

Wednesday, 12/13 7:00 p.m. – Service of Healing and Hope (Chapel)

Thursday, 12/21 6:45 p.m. – Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday, 12/24 9:30 a.m. – 4th Sunday of Advent service; choir cantata

Sunday, 12/24 7:00 p.m. – Family Christmas Eve service

Sunday, 12/24 11:00 p.m. – Candlelight Christmas Eve service with communion

Christmas Families: Purchased gifts to support the Christmas Families at Magnolia Elementary should be returned today. If you are still interested in supporting the families and were not able to purchase a gift, you may still donate. Please make sure your donation is marked as "Christmas families." Questions? Please contact Cindy Carter.

Pastor's Advent Study: On December 4, 11, and 18, Pastor Stacey will lead an Advent Bible study in the office and on Zoom based on the book "Light from Afar: An Advent Devotional from Around the World." You do not need to purchase the book or do advance readings to participate. Please contact Pastor Stacey for more information. The Zoom link for the study can be found at salemunited.org/bible-study and scroll to "Bible Study with Pastor Stacey."

December 24th Schedule: Please note that on Christmas Eve morning, we will celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent with a service at 9:30 a.m. including a choir cantata. There will be no Sunday School. Christmas Eve night, worship will be held at 7:00 (family) and 11:00 p.m. (candlelight). All services on Christmas Eve, morning and evening, will be both in-person and online.

Salem United Methodist Church 7901 Bradshaw Road, PO Box 192, Upper Falls, MD 21156
(410) 592-2543 salemunited.org



*Salem United Methodist Church
Upper Falls, Md*

Sunday, December 6, 2023