

Salem United Church of Christ
German Reformed

231 Chestnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101



Present Building Erected 1821-22, Organized 1787

Welcome to Salem UCC

We're delighted that you have joined us for worship today. If you would like to receive a pastoral call or be put on our mailing list, please fill out a visitor card found in the aisle racks and place in the offering basket.

Parking

In addition to street parking, parking is available at the lot at the bottom of Dewberry Street. As you travel NE on Chestnut, pass 3rd street and take the next right onto Dewberry. The lot is on your left as you go around the bend.

Some Basics

Restrooms are located out the left door at the front of the sanctuary. Take a left and a quick right and you will find both the men's and women's restrooms off the hall to the church office on the left.

For your safety, yellow and red cards are placed at each pew with emergency procedures in case they are necessary. The church doors are closed 10:40. If you will arrive after that, please text your name and the time you will arrive to 717-319-8992 (Susan Nelson) and we will make sure you are welcomed at the door on the east side garden at the corner of Chestnut and 3rd.

Church Tours

Salem (from the Hebrew word for peace) has been a congregation committed to loving God and serving others for more than 200 years. For information on a tour, please contact one of our ushers.

Our information

Website: www.salemuccharrisburg.org

Facebook: Salem United Church of Christ, Harrisburg, PA

Church phone: (717) 232-7145

Church email: salemucc@hotmail.com

Pastor email: pastor.salemuccharrisburg@gmail.com

Salem United Church of Christ
December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent
PEACE

Our Mission

"Historic Salem, in the heart of Harrisburg, seeks the Holy Spirit's guidance in welcoming all people to worship God; by encouraging participation in the ministry of Christ through Christian outreach with the city's heart."

*Please rise as you are able.

Welcome and Pre-liturgy Announcements

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Peace

Doreen Shoop and Joann Smith

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. We are here because Christ has come, and yet we wait for him to come again in new ways to bring his light into our world.

Today's candle is the candle of peace. Like a jewel, peace has many facets. We long for inner peace in the midst of the turmoil around us. We long to have peace in our relationships. We long to see the world turn its swords into plowshares, creating food instead of war. Jesus has come to be our peace and to be our Prince of Peace. May our hearts receive the peace that Christ has to give.

*Call to Worship

L: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!

P: God's mercies are new every morning.

L: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!

P: God is our hope; no one who hopes in God will ever be put to shame.

One: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!

All: The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses them with peace.

*Opening Hymn

Comfort, Comfort O My People

Black 101; 1,3

Prayer of Invocation

L: Jesus, Prince of Peace, you are welcome in our worship. In you all things hold together, in you there is perfect harmony. Bring your spirit of peace today, we ask. Mend our hearts and mend our relationship. Renew our spirits so we may shine brightly in your kingdom.

L: Let us continue together in a spirit of confession:

P: We come before you, Mighty God, asking forgiveness for the ways in which we create discord. Give us your gentle love, your pure peace, and your shining hope. Let our hearts be steadfast and sure as we face the future, knowing that the future is yours and held in your kind and loving hands. Amen

Time for Silent Reflection

Kyrie



Words of Hope (from Isaiah 57)

I have seen their ways, but I will heal them; I will guide them and restore comfort to Israel's mourners, creating praise on their lips. Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the LORD. "And I will heal them."

Solo

All is Well

Michael W. Smith

Scripture Lessons

Old Testament Reading: Ruth 3

3 One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for. ² Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. ³ Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating

and drinking. ⁴When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do.”

⁵“I will do whatever you say,” Ruth answered. ⁶So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.

⁷When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. ⁸In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet!

⁹“Who are you?” he asked.

“I am your servant Ruth,” she said. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family.”

¹⁰“The LORD bless you, my daughter,” he replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. ¹¹And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character. ¹²Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I. ¹³Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.”

¹⁴So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, “No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor.”

¹⁵He also said, “Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out.” When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and placed the bundle on her. Then he went back to town.

¹⁶When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “How did it go, my daughter?”

Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her ¹⁷and added, “He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’”

¹⁸Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.”

*Gloria Patri

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be-
gin-ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men.

The image shows a musical score for the Gloria Patri. It consists of two staves of music in a treble clef, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be-". The second staff contains the lyrics: "gin-ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men." The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, and rests.

*Gospel: Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸ "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.
⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David
⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
⁷¹ salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us—
⁷² to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,
⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace."

The musical score is written on three staves in G minor (three flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "The stead-fast love of the Lord ne-ver ceas - es; God's mer-cies nev - er... come to an end. They are new ev-'ry morn-ing, - new ev-'ry morn-ing, - great is your faith - ful - ness, O Lord, great is your faith - ful - ness."

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (debts and debtors)

M: Father, in hope we pray for the church and the world;

P: That we may live in the truth that Jesus has shown to us.

M: We pray for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for their faith

P: That you would make them strong, and that their lives would be a shining light.

M: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world

P: That they would seek to lead wisely, seeking the good of their own people as well as the good of our earth.

M: We pray for our church and for the churches in Harrisburg

P: That we would have wisdom as we seek to bless our community.

M: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

P: That we may not become discouraged in our good deeds.

M: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

P: Be their hope, be their strength, be their comfort, be their healing.

M: We pray for those who have passed into your presence.

P: May you grant them peace, and their families, comfort in their grief.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, especially...

M: We offer these prayers in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying...**Our Father which 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, forever and ever. Amen.**

Offering

Offertory

Dona Nobis Pacem

arr. D. W. Moore

*Doxology

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.

*Prayer of Dedication

M: Generous God, we give you thanks for all you have given to us. May our hope continue to be in your faithfulness, so that we can be generous and joyful in our giving. Bless these gifts so that your kingdom may come in and through Salem. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

insert v 1, 3, 4

I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day

Henry W. Longfellow

John Calkin

I heard the bells on Christ - mas day Their
I thought how, as the day had come, The
And in des - pair I bowed my head: "There
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God
Till, ring - ing, sing - ing on its way, The

3

old fa - mil - iar car - ols play, And wild and sweet the
bel - fries of all Chris - ten - dom Had rolled a - long th'un -
is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong, and
is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The wrong shall fail, the
world re - volved from night to day A voice, a chime, a

6

words re - peat Of peace on earth, good will to men.
bro - ken song Of peace on earth, good will to men.
mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men."
right pre - vail, With peace on earth, good will to men."
chant sub - lime, Of peace on earth, good will to men.

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*Benediction (Romans 15:13)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Extinguishing of Candles

Postlude (please stay seated until the postlude has concluded.)

THOSE SERVING THE CHURCH TODAY

Organist: Caleb Sisak

Worship Leader & Lay Reader: Linda Farr

Soloist: Joe Sobel

Guest Musician: Richard Dent

Advent Readers: Doreen Shoop & Joann Smith

Pastor: Rev. Sue Schmidt

Ushers: Gidge Geegee & Sandy Sgrignoli

The flowers on the altar are given by Donna Royal in loving memory of Margaret & Donald Royal and Donald K. Royal Jr.

The special bulletins are sponsored by Christine Lawson, "May the Peace that only comes from the Love of God be so full in our hearts that it overflows out to others."

CALENDAR

Today 3rd Sunday of Advent.

Annual Congregational Meeting after the morning service.

Dec. 19 4th Sunday of Advent. Communion will be served.

Dec 24 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. Pre-service music begins at 5:45 p.m.
Reception in the parlor following the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food items, both sweet and savory, are needed for the reception after Christmas Eve service. If you would like to bring something to share, please sign up on the sheets at the back of the church.

Copies of "Joy to the Burg," a compilation of Christmas songs by Harrisburg artists are on sale at the back of the church. The cost is \$20 for one, and \$15 for two or more. All proceeds go to help with Christian Churches United outreach programs.

There are still opportunities to sponsor special bulletins for \$10 and altar flowers for \$33 this year. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board.

Wellspring Pastoral Counseling: Did you know there is pastoral counseling at Salem church? Pastoral counseling services are available for individuals, families, and couples with concerns, such as: anxiety, depression, feelings of shame and guilt, spirituality, or grief and loss. Appointments are available Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (evening hours are also available.) For more information, contact: Scott M. Watts, MS, LPC, NCC, call 717-443-7426 or email: wellspringpc@outlook.com.