

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 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent
JOY

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 – Joy

Tom and Linda Farr

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

Today's candle is the candle of joy. We remember that the Christmas story is full of joy – Elizabeth and Mary's joyful welcome of each other, the angels' joyful pronouncement of peace on earth, good will toward men. But joy can be elusive – in the darkness we often must choose to light the candle of joy – to enjoy the beauty around us, to take joy in what is good, to rejoice in the promises of God. When we choose joy, it brings us comfort, warming and cheering of our spirits and the spirits of those around us.

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 103)

L: Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

P: Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits -

L: God forgives all our sins and heals all our diseases.

P: God redeems our life from the pit and crowns us with love and compassion.

L: God satisfies our desires with good things so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.

P: The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

Verses

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let noth - ing you dis - may;
 2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther A bless - ed an - gel came,
 3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
 4. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, All you with - in this place,

1. Re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior Was born on Christ - mas Day
 2. And un - to cer - tain shep - herds Brought tid - ings of the same,
 3. This day is born a Sav - ior Of Vir - gin pure and bright,
 4. And with true love and char - i - ty Each oth - er now em - brace;

1. To save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r When we were gone a - stray.
 2. How that in Beth - le - hem was born The Son of God by name.
 3. To free all those who trust in him From Sa - tan's pow'r and might."
 4. This ho - ly tide of Christ - mas Is filled with heav'n - ly grace.

Refrain

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy;

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

Prayer of Invocation

L: All-loving God, you are the source of our joy. In this Advent season we celebrate the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ who is the hope of the world. With Mary we rejoice in your salvation, the peace we may find in you, and the power of love which is at work in the world for all who are in need.

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

P: All-loving God, before whom all hearts are open, and desires known. Open our eyes so that we may see you at work in the world around us. Forgive us for our doubts and grant us faith and courage so we may live in the fullness of your joy.

Time for Silent Reflection

Kyrie



Words of Hope

When we confess our sins, the Lord promises to forgive us. God fills us with hope and joy and strength to follow the path of love.

Solo

Magnificat

Jim Cohick

Scripture Lessons

Old Testament Reading: Ruth 3

4 Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down.

² Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. ³ Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. ⁴ I thought I should bring the

matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line.”

“I will redeem it,” he said.

⁵ Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man’s widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property.”

⁶ At this, the guardian-redeemer said, “Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.”

⁷ (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.)

⁸ So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it yourself.” And he removed his sandal.

⁹ Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, “Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. ¹⁰ I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon’s widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!”

¹¹ Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, “We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. ¹² Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.”

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. ¹⁴ The women said to Naomi: “Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! ¹⁵ He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth.”

¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. ¹⁷ The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

¹⁸ This, then, is the family line of Perez:

Perez was the father of Hezron,

¹⁹ Hezron the father of Ram,

Ram the father of Amminadab,

²⁰ Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon.

²¹ Salmon the father of Boaz,

Boaz the father of Obed,

²² Obed the father of Jesse,

and Jesse the father of David.

*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.

*Gospel: Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”

Sermon

A Joyful Heart

Hymn of Response

O Thou Joyful

Red 117

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

M: Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

M: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good...Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

M: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory...Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

M: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we love one another as Christ loves us...Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

M: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation We especially remember... and those we now lift up silently in our own prayers... Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

M: We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom...Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

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

*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.

Duet

Panis Angelicus

César Franck

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

M: We come today to the Lord's table, a sacred tradition that Jesus created for his friends so we could remember him and his faithful love. We come with mixed emotions to this table – there is sadness when we remember that Jesus, the most loving person who ever lived, died a painful and shameful death; there is gratefulness in understanding his death as gift of love, the sign of forgiveness and

hope; and there is joy in the reality that although Christ has died, Christ has also risen, conquering death.

To all who are weary and heavy-laden Jesus says: "Come. Come and find love, find hope, find peace, find joy in me. Come and taste of my spirit, fill yourself with my strength, become one with me as you eat and drink this bread and wine."

P: We come with open hearts. Come to us, Emmanuel.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

M: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

M: Let us pray: Faithful God, you have sent us your word made flesh so that we may know your joy. How grateful we are for the life of Jesus, who showed us how to live as one with you. How grateful we are that, for the joy set before him, Jesus endured the cross. How grateful we are for the hope that is set before us – eternal life now and through the ages. With joy we worship and adore you, Father, Son and Spirit, and join the saints and angels as they say:

ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

M: On the night on which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat: This is my body." Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to the disciples and said: "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith.

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

M: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Fill us with joy as you fill this bread and wine with your presence. Bless us in our eating and drinking at this table that our hearts may be opened, and we may know again the power of Christ's love. **Amen.**

Breaking the Bread / Pouring the Cup

M: Through the broken bread, we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Communion of the People

M: The body of Christ, given for you. Take and eat.

P: Amen.

M: The blood of Christ shed for you. Take and drink.

P: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

ALL: Loving God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son. May the love of Jesus fill us anew, so we may rejoice in your goodness, and live in hope and peace, Amen.

The Communion table is covered during Closing Carol.

*Closing Hymn: *Joy to the World* Black 132, v 1,3,4

*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: Susan Nelson

Soloist: Joe Sobel

Guest Musician: Cathy Morgan

Advent Readers: Tom & Linda Farr

Pastor: Rev. Sue Schmidt

Ushers: Rick Moore & Buffy Buffington

The poinsettias on the altar are given by Bob Deibler in loving memory of his brothers, Dave and Bill.

The special bulletins are sponsored by Christine Lawson, "May we experience such heartfelt Joy that those around us know that we are lights that point the way to Jesus Christ!"

CALENDAR

Today 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.
Masks recommended – goodies to go!

Dec 25 Christmas Day

Dec 26 Christmas Carol Service; No Sunday School

Jan 2 Epiphany Sunday; No Sunday School

Jan 3-9 Pastor Sue on vacation

Jan 9 Bob Deibler preaching; No Sunday School

Jan 16 Sunday School resumes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

The cost of altar flowers is increasing to \$35 for 2022. Flowers may be used two consecutive weeks and the sponsor may take them after the service. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board. Special bulletin covers may be sponsored for \$10 and sign-up sheets are also on the bulletin.

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.

The poinsettias are sponsored by the following:

Tom & Linda Farr, in memory of Mom Mom & Pappy

Gidge Geegee, in memory of my mother, Goldie Geegee, and my father, Tony Geegee

Darlene Hillegas, in memory of George P. Hillegas Jr., Phyllis Walker, Lester & Evelyn Wirt, and L. Mark Treece

Janet Kelley, in memory of Joseph & Eleanor Kelley, and Heather Ann Kelley

Jan Lang & Sherrie Veet, in memory of Pearl & John Zellers

Chris Lawson, "May the Love, Light, Peace and Joy of Jesus Christ be with you all and may you take some time to be grateful for all the blessings that He sends your way each and every day. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"

Salem Church, in memory of Col. John C. Whisler, Connie Kugler Whisler & Isabel Whisler.

Pastor Sue Schmidt, in thanks for the love of God.

Doreen Shoop, in memory of my husband, Kevin Shoop

Joann Smith, in memory of John Pressley, Kay Pressley, John Keith Pressley and Lynn Pressley Zerbe

The Taylor family, in memory of Robert, Janet H. and Janet L. Taylor

Sherrie & Richard Veet, in memory of Alice & Frank Foltz

Please note: the poinsettias may be taken home by those who paid for them, after the service on Dec. 24 or Dec. 26.