

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 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent
HOPE

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 – HOPE

Nancy and Mia Kent

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

Today's candle is the candle of hope. When things around us are difficult, we can feel hopeless. We despair because we cannot see the way forward. We wonder if we will be enough, if God is truly aware of our struggles, and the struggles of the world around us. But God has come and continues to come into our darkness and offers us hope for today and hope for our future. God is with us and God's power is in us. God walks beside us and will light our way.

*Call to Worship

L: We come from a world of darkness

P: Into Christ's world of light.

L: We come from a world of weariness

P: Into God's strength and hope.

L: We come expectantly to see God at work.

P: Come, O Lord Jesus. Be with us, Emmanuel.

Prayer of Invocation

All: Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us, we welcome you this morning. We welcome your presence, your wisdom, your guidance, your courage. You are the one in whom we trust and in whom we hope – today and forever. Amen.

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

P: We confess, Gracious God, that we have not always turned to you for guidance. Forgive us for our sins of hurriedness and impatience. Forgive us for becoming fearful. As we call upon your name, hear our prayers and give us life and hope. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Time for Silent Reflection

Kyrie



Words of Hope

M: God forgives our sins in the name of Jesus Christ and gives us all we need to live in love.

Duet

Advent Prayer

Allen Pote

Scripture Lessons

Old Testament Reading: Ruth 2

2 Now Naomi had a relative on her husband’s side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz.

² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor.”

Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter." ³ So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek.

⁴ Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The LORD be with you!"

"The LORD bless you!" they answered.

⁵ Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, "Who does that young woman belong to?"

⁶ The overseer replied, "She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi. ⁷ She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter."

⁸ So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me. ⁹ Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled."

¹⁰ At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?"

¹¹ Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. ¹² May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."

¹³ "May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord," she said. "You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servants."

¹⁴ At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar."

When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over. ¹⁵ As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his

men, "Let her gather among the sheaves and don't reprimand her. ¹⁶ Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her."

¹⁷ So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah. ¹⁸ She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough.

¹⁹ Her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!"

Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. "The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz," she said.

²⁰ "The LORD bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers."

²¹ Then Ruth the Moabite said, "He even said to me, 'Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grain.'"

²² Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with the women who work for him, because in someone else's field you might be harmed."

²³ So Ruth stayed close to the women of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

*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 21:25-31

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

Sermon

Hope for Today, Hope for Tomorrow

Hymn of Response

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

insert



The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo and meter markings are 4/4, 2/4, 4/4, and 2/4. 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...

Silence

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.

Reception of New Members:
Doreen Shoop and Joann Smith

Opening Remarks

Questions to the Candidates

Affirmation by Congregation

L: May all those who are members, rise as they are able. Let us, the members of Salem United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

L: Let us pray: Loving God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this local church, Salem UCC, and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith by the addition of Doreen and Joann. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of this congregation, and serving the world for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. And all God's people said:
Amen

Greeting Joann and Doreen

*Closing Hymn

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Black 403; 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: Janet Kelley

Soloist: Joe Sobel

Lay Reader: Laurie Sisak

Pastor: Rev. Sue Schmidt

Advent Readers: Nancy and Mia Kent

Ushers: Susan and Steve Nelson

The flowers on the altar are given by Bob Charles in honor of his wife Becky's 73rd birthday on December 3.

CALENDAR

- Today 2nd Sunday of Advent.
New Members are welcomed! There will be a reception in the fellowship hall following the service.
- Dec. 6 Deadline to order poinsettias.
- Dec. 12 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poinsettias will be available for \$10 each. The plants will decorate the altar during the Christmas season. The deadline to order is Dec. 6 and sign-up sheets are 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.