Salem United Methodist Church

1321 Salem Church Road
Irmo, South Carolina 29063
Established 1873
November 29, 2020

Hope

November 29, 2020
The 1st Sunday of Advent
A Service of Word

The color blue is used to denote the hopefulness of the coming of Christ

PRELUDE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 80 refrain # 1*
I am the vine; you are the branches, rooted in faith and love.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LIGHTING OF ADVENT
Let us come before the Lord our God who has revealed himself in ages past.
We come, remembering that God has done great things that we did not expect.
As we enter into God's presence we are reminded that the Lord is our Holy God.
Yes, we are called to be God's people and we come to prepare ourselves for the coming of God's Son, the Savior of all things, Jesus the Christ, amen.
Let us pray,
Almighty and Everlasting God, we come before you this First Sunday of Advent to prepare ourselves. We want to be ready for the coming of the Christ Child. And yet, we know that it is not you who has hidden from us, but we who have failed to recognize your presence among us. As we look for the Christ Child may we realize anew that you, O God, are indeed Immanuel – God with us. Amen.
We light this one candle to give us light to see what has been, but is yet to be recognized.
Give us eyes to see this thing that God is doing. Our Hope is built on nothing less than Gods promises made and fulfilled in our lives.

ANTHEM *People, Look East*

A TIME OF PRAYER & **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*SCRIPTURE READING Mark 13:28–37
28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch
becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that
summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking
place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell
you, this generation will not pass away until all these things
have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my
words will not pass away.
32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels
in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep
alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a
man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his
doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake—for
you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the
evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36 or else he
may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say
to you I say to all: Keep awake."

PROCLAMATION "What Words 'Say' and What They 'Mean'"

CALL TO CONFESSION
If we are to be truly ready for the coming Christ child, if we are to have any hope in this season we must make a clean breast of life by confessing our hopelessness to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION
Let us pray,
God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem very far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw close to you: instead we lash out – against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE AND DEPARTING

**Indicates that the Congregation stands. If standing is uncomfortable, please remain seated and continue with your participation.*
***Bold Titles** indicate Congregation Participation.*

If you have a prayer request, please fill out the blue prayer card and place it in the offering plate.

8:30 Worship
November 29, 2020

Prelude

Welcome / Announcements

Opening Prayer

***Song 1** *Awesome God X2*
Our God is an awesome God; he reigns from heaven above with wisdom, power, and love. Our God is an awesome God.

***Song 2** *Open My Eyes, That I May See*
1. Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2. Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear; and while the wavenotes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

***Song 3** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*
1. Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all.

2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the babe was born for you.

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God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem very far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw close to you: instead we lash out – against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

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*Benediction

*Postlude
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WORDS OF WELCOME
We bid you a warm welcome this morning. We hope you will join us and will tell others about this service.
Please also consider joining us for Worship Services at 10:30 A.M.
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If you are visiting with us today and would like additional information about Salem United Methodist Church please fill out the following and deposit it in the offering plate.
Name: _____
Address: _____

STEWARDSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

Week of November 22, 2020
Needed each week to fund unified budget $14,088.99
Unified budget received $5,520.00
Needed to meet budget year to date (Incldg. bldg. fund) $662,182.53
Unified budget received year to date (Incldg. bldg. fund) $497,279.38

Attendance
Worship 97
Includes 8:30 and 10:30 service

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER:
Lowman Home — Gwen Parnell
Generations of Irmo — Carolyn Brower, Joyce Cook, Ruth Smith, Anita Weed
Rice Estates — Ed Brower
Springfield Place — Doris Monts
Tyborne UCP — Jessica Gore
White Oak Manor — Emily Manley
Homebound — Mavis George, Ray Keith
Special Prayers — Clarice Gibbons, Leroy Gibson, Johnny Hollis, Ruby Hollis, John Howard, Dale Jenkins, Jessica Mack, Quinton Meetze, Voncille Meetze, Ashley Milbourne, Maren Milbourne, Doris Monts, Bill Oswald, Ralph Payne, Judy Price, Molly Kate Shealy

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY:
Ushers: Randy Hilliard, Charles Cole
Trustee: Mike Haas

Children's Sunday School Schedule:

December 6th December 20th

Our Christian Sympathy
We would like to express our heartfelt sympathy to **Michelle Page** and family upon the death of her mother, **Lynda Faulkenberry**.

Attention all Children & Parents of Children

This year our Christmas Production is going to look a bit different. We will be having a **"live nativity" during our December 20th 10:30 worship service**. Essentially, we will dress our children in costume and they will process to the front of the church. There will be no speaking parts or singing. If your child is interested in participating, please let Ashley Anderson know by December 2nd. We will want to make sure we assign roles and get costumes in order. We will have one dress rehearsal at a date TBD just to make sure everyone has what they need and knows where to go.

Christmas Mission Project

This year we will once again collect items for the Child Life team at **Prisma Health Children's Hospital**. Since March, all playrooms have been closed down at the Children's Hospital, so this year it may be even more important to flood the Child Life closets with toys and gifts for the patients. Let's do our part and help those families receiving treatment during the holidays. An itemized list is available in the newsletter, the Welcome Center and the office. Deadline is December 16th.

Sharing God's Love

Our current needs: jelly, peanut butter, pork 'n beans, oatmeal, grits, 2 lb. packages of flour & sugar, tea, cereal, men's & women's underwear, king comforters & sheets.

Boxes are located in each Sunday School Room, Church Office lobby and a basket is in the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall entrance.

171 items were delivered to Sharing God's Love on November 24th.

Polar Plunge Fundraiser

Benefiting Prisma Children's Hospital Christmas Store

Youth vs Church Staff. We are seeking people to donate money to one of these two teams. The team that has the most money given in their name HAS to take the Polar Plunge at the Youth Christmas Party on **Sunday, December 13**.

The staff team consists of Jim Magann, Gary Phillips, Sarah Bridges and Tina Overton. So if you want them to have to jump into icy cold water on a chilly December evening, give to their team. If you want the youth to jump in, give to their team. ALL money will go towards the Prisma Children's Hospital Christmas Store. This will be video recorded and posted on Facebook later in the week and shown before the next Church Service. We hope you will join in on the fun and help a good cause for the holidays.

Caroling, Cocoa, and Cookies

Join us for church wide festivities on **Sunday, December 20th from 4 - 5pm.** We will sing our favorite carols, eat cookies and drink hot cocoa, social distancing style!

We will gather in the main parking lot. Bring a chair and your favorite blanket so you can be comfortable singing, answering Christmas trivia, and hearing "Twas the Night Before Christmas".

Anyone who wants to bake cookies to share at the event, please bring to the church no later than the morning of December 20th. We will be wrapping individually for easy grabbing. Please note if your cookies contain peanuts. Email your cookie recipe to autumnesmith452@gmail.com as she will be creating a cookie book to share.

We are inviting all friends and family of Salem to join us in spreading Christmas cheer this year!

Attention Guests and Salem Members

Please ensure your family is signed in as you enter or depart the sanctuary today. Having a record of your attendance enables us to contact you in the unfortunate event someone is diagnosed with COVID-19. Thank you in advance for your adherence to this request.

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Sunday, November 29
- 8:30 A.M. . . . . Outside Worship
- 9:30 A.M. . . . . Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. . . . . Morning Worship
- 4:00 P.M. . . . . Salem Ringers
- 5:00 P.M. . . . . **No** Youth Group

Monday, November 30
- 6:30 P.M. . . . . Missions Meeting

Tuesday, December 1
- 7:00 P.M. . . . . AA Meeting

Wednesday, December 2
- 7:00 P.M. . . . . **No** Choir Practice

Thursday, December 3
- 7:00 P.M. . . . . AA Meeting

Saturday, December 5
- 7:00 P.M. . . . . AA Meeting

Sunday, December 6
- 8:30 A.M. . . . . Outside Worship
- 9:30 A.M. . . . . Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. . . . . Morning Worship
- 3:30 P.M. . . . . Confirmation Class
- 4:00 P.M. . . . . Salem Ringers
- 5:00 P.M. . . . . Youth Group

E-Giving

Please prayerfully consider giving to Salem United Methodist Church through our e-Giving program. Scan the QR code below to be taken to Salem's donation page to present your offering.

You can also visit the link:
https://giving.ncsservices.org/App/Giving/ncs-2365

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
1321 Salem Church Road, Irmo, SC 29063
Website: salemumcsc.com
E-mail: smethodist@aol.com

Phone 803-781-1626

In case of an emergency,
call 843-209-9273 or 803-422-9400

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Gary Phillips — Pastor
Bill Childs — Pastor of Visitation
Ashley Anderson — Children's Ministries
Sarah Bridges — Director of Music
Stephanie Knott — Pianist
Angie Lain — Business/Finance Manager
Miriam Y. Lovett — Organist
Jim Magann — Youth/Outreach Ministries
Tina Overton — Director of Creative Ministries
Marie Wicker — Administrative Assistant