

Salem Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 2, 2018, 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery

Organist: LaDonna Allenbaugh



Prelude
Lighting the Candles
Welcome & Prayer

*Hymn: Aberyswyth *Welsh Hymnal*, 17

Call to Worship Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 506

Prayer of Confession: **God of justice and righteousness, Your call beckons to us: to live faithful lives, to turn from wickedness, and to walk in Your ways. Yet it is so easy to turn aside: to speak a thoughtless word, to ignore those in need, to strike out in anger, and to forget Your ways. Forgive us. Implant Your Word in our hearts, and cleanse us from all evil. By the power of Your love, save our souls, that we might faithfully serve You. We ask these things in Jesus' Name.** *(Let us now have a moment of silence to offer our personal prayers of confession).*

Assurance of Pardon
Response **Glory Be to the Father** Inside Front Cover

Joys & Concerns of the Church
Prayers of the People

Prayer Response **The Lord's Prayer**

Scripture Readings *Song of Solomon 2:8-13 612
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 917
James 1:17-27 1100

Time for Children

*Hymn: Huddersfield *Welsh Hymnal*, 19

Sermon "The Song of Solomon" Rev. Thomas Emery

*Apostle's Creed: **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offertory – *ushers will receive our tithes and offerings*

*Response **Praise God** Inside Front Cover

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn: Deemster *Welsh Hymnal*, 29

*Taking the Light into the World

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response **Three Fold Amen** Inside Back Cover

**Those who are able are invited to stand.*



Financial Update:

Needed Weekly: \$1,927.00 Needed to Date: \$65,518.00
Rec'd 08-26-18: \$1,370.82 Rec'd to Date: \$59,960.20

Sunday:

9:30 AM

09-02-18

Worship (nursery with Eric & Jenny Pugh)

Peace Offering

4 to 6 PM

Light meal served prior to Gymanfa Ganu

7:00 PM

Gymanfa Ganu

Sunday:

9:30 AM

09-09-18

Worship (nursery with Rex & Lisa Lloyd)

5:00 PM

Trustee Meeting

7:00 PM

Countywide Prayer Meeting

Announcements:

Today is the **Gymanfa Ganu**. A light meal is served at 4 pm; music begins at 7 pm.

September 9, 7 PM **Countywide Prayer Meeting** at Salem with reception following.

September 16, **Drive Your Tractor to Church, Blessings of the Tractors** with potluck meal following.

The **Senior Luncheon** begins again on Wednesday, September 26th.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the October newsletter. Submit them to secretary@salemchurch.cc.

Upcoming Birthdays

3rd-Pete McCollow

4th-Claudia LeValley

4th-Katie McClure

11th-Landon Price

Upcoming Anniversaries

8th-Paul & Doris Price

11th-Doug & Jan Jones



Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | September 2, 2018

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142

www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@salemchurch.cc

Prayer Concerns:

Peggy Burnett
Mark Davis
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Doris Evans (cancer)
Brenda Foust (serious stomach problems)
Jim Francis
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Bill Harmon (cancer)
Jeff Hines (kidney transplant)
Bob Hundley (cancer)
Tim Hurbert (cancer in lungs & pancreas-friend of Barb Good)
Jan Jones (health issues)
Paula Jones (healing from fall)
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer - friend of Evelyn Martz)
Barbara Lewis (heart attack, friends of Evelyn Martz)
Iris Linton (newborn hospitalized with blocked bowel)
Linda Lissey (cancer)
Bob Louth
Becky Martz (health problems)
Sarah Miller (health issues)
Marian Morris
Kim Owens
Dorothea Plikerd
Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure)
Brent Price (recovering from heart attack)
Joyce Profit
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)
Marjorie Rhodes
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)
Bobbie Spyres
Natalie Wilkins (failing in health)
Noah Wyatt (Shoulder surgery)

***Condolences** to the families of David Hugh Evans and Lori Hunter

Serving our Country:

Phoebe Eutsler (U.S. Army)
Micah Linger (U.S. Marine Corps)
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)

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Rev. Thomas Emery
“The Song of Solomon” Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Salem Presbyterian Church
September 2, 2018

The inclusion of the Song of Solomon in the canon of Scripture caused debate among rabbis in the first century, and modern readers may be startled by its content. Some readers considered it little more than an ordinary drinking song. But, the great teacher and mystic, Rabbi Akiba, settled the issue when he said, "The whole world is not worth the day on which the Song of Songs was given to Israel, for all the Scriptures are holy, but the Song of Songs is the Holy of Holies" (Mishnah Yadayim 3:5). It advises us how to make the conditions right for full intimacy with your mate and with your God. Both Jews and Christians have understood these poems as pointing beyond human eros to a union uniting the human and the divine. The voice in today's passage is that of a woman speaking about her much desired lover. He draws near, full of energy, eager to behold her. He summons her to arise and come away. We are left to wonder will she do so?

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE - Modern scholars are almost unanimous in viewing the Song as a celebration of sexual love between a woman and a man.

POINT TWO - It is worth noting that the Song describes a love marked by fidelity and mutuality.

POINT THREE - For Jewish and Christian interpreters of previous centuries, however, the Song described the mutual love of God and Israel or Christ and the Church.

THIS WEEK'S KEY PASSAGE

¹⁰ *My lover said to me, "Rise up, my darling! Come away with me, my fair one! (Song of Solomon 2:10 NLT).*

ACTION POINT

Each of us is caught up in a passionate relationship like this one. We love God, however incompletely. God loves us in a way that is infinite. And moreover, the great surprise is that the love we have for God is secretly infinite: it is God's love for us returning to its source, for divine love is an outpouring and an incoming tide. "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away." That voice addresses us. It is the music at the foundation of our lives, seeking to realign our desires and to fulfill them if only we will respond. If we create the right conditions in our lives, God will come and dwell in us. God doesn't make the intimacy. We do. But God never fails to reveal Himself intimately to those who make the overtures, those who take the simple steps of preparing for His presence. Build your life in these ways, and you will have a relationship deep as Adam and Eve had in the Garden. Build your life in these ways, and He will come unto you.

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