

Salem Presbyterian Church

Sunday, Nov 12th, 2023, 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery Pianist: Cindy Bowsher

The flowers are given to the glory of God by Mark & Missy Zielke



Prelude
Lighting of the Candles

Welcome & Prayer

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Christian Flag

I pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands. One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with Life and liberty to all who believe.

Call to Worship Psalm 78:1-7 526

*Hymn: America the Beautiful 531

Prayer of Confession: **God of Mystery, we want to stay awake and to be ready for Your surprises, but we are tired and overcome with our usual routine.** We want to wait patiently for the fulfillment of Your kingdom, but we are frustrated by our need for immediate gratification. **We want to believe Your promises from ancient days, but we are overwhelmed with postmodern doubts.** Come to us again, O God. **Awaken us with Your unexpected grace.** Shock us with Your daring mercy. **Lift us up from weariness and set our feet on Your path once more. We pray in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.** *(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**

"Celebration of Our Veterans"

*Hymn: My Country, 'Tis of Thee 529

Time for Children

Scripture Readings Matthew 25:1-13 903
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 1077

Special Music

Scripture Readings *Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 213

Sermon: "Full Commitment to God" 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 Prayer
*Response **Praise God** Inside Front Cover

*Hymn: God of Our Fathers [women v. 2, men v. 3] 532

*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: \$2,179.63 Needed to Date: \$98,083.38
Rec'd 2023-11-05: \$2,525.00 Rec'd to Date: \$110,555.90

Sunday: 2023-11-12
 9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Toby & Elizabeth Adkins*)
 Budget and nomination information available

Tuesday: 2023-11-14
 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Van Wert Hospital Cafeteria
 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

Thursday: 2023-11-16
 Noon Van Wert County prayer meeting is at the Pentecostal Way Church on 1213 Leeson Street.

Sunday: 2023-11-19
 9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Tyler & Morgan McConnell*)
 10:30 AM Congregational meeting for officers and budget

Announcements:

The **Van Wert Community Thanksgiving Service** is at 6 PM, November 19th, at the Trinity Friends Church located at 605 N. Franklin Street.

If you would like to **donate \$5 to decorate the church with poinsettias**, please give your money to Carla Breese or Lisa Lloyd by December 5.

The next **Senior Luncheon** will be held on December 6, at noon. All are welcome.

Salem is collecting offerings from the heart to be given to the **Salvation Army**. There is a monthly need, and your generosity is greatly needed. The November item is gravy packets and noodles.

The **Shoebox Project** – Today is the last day to turn in shoeboxes

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the **December Newsletter**. Submit them to secretary@saalemchurch.cc.

Upcoming Birthdays

12 th Catie Emery	18 th Bone Finn
29 th Kathy McColow	30 th Mike Breese



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Venedocia, Ohio | November 12, 2023

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

www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@saalemchurch.cc

Prayer Concerns:

Josh Archinal (recovering from car accident)
Cindy (Davis) Barnes (liver transplant)
Charles Boroff (heart issue)
Jason Boyd (terminal cancer)
Dave Burnett (heart issues)
Lynn Collins (cancer)
Pastor Tom Emery (long Covid healing)
Marjorie Eutsler
Ellen Friesner
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Diana Glass (cancer)
Jane Harter
Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher
Pat Hunt (breast cancer)
Mandolin Jones (cancer)
Barb Kimmet
John Lloyd
Steve Martz
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
David Morris (Zeb)
Monica Placke
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)
Paul & Doris Price
Ann Rees (in Van Wert Vancrest)
Kristy Ringwald (adenoid cystic carcinoma)
Evelyn Schwartz
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Doug Smith (Jen Pugh's father)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

Serving Our Country:

Dillon Ellerbrock (U.S. Marines)
Butch Eutsler (U.S. Army)
Corbin Evans
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)
Madison Pugh (U.S. Coast Guard)

Condolences:

To the family of Wayne McMichael

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Rev. Thomas Emery
"Full Commitment to God" Joshua 24:1-3a., 14-25
Salem Presbyterian Church
November 12, 2023

After delivering a quick historical summary of God's love and the vast blessings the Lord had done for Israel (vv.2-13), Joshua tasks these leaders to "*choose this day whom you will serve* (v. 15)." In ancient Near Eastern covenantal treaties, the allegiance sworn between the ruler and his people was characterized by single-minded service. Joshua made them aware that: "*You cannot serve the Lord for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions or your sins*" (19). God does not meet your needs as a Santa. God is the only Creator God, and that is why He should be served. Furthermore, Joshua adds, that He is a jealous God. Faced with disobedience and their serving other gods, this True God will "*turn and do you harm*" (v.20), regardless of the good He has done before. It is not out of selfish well-being that the people confess their service to the Lord this time (v.21). Joshua's sobering words also remind them of the consequences that lie behind the words of their commitment to God.

TEACHING POINTS

First. What do you want your legacy to be?

Second. We need to remind ourselves of our forgiveness in our Covenant with God.

Third. We need to seriously return to God.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY PASSAGE

"But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15d NLT).

ACTION POINT

In verse 23, Joshua finally indicates what might have been the whole reason behind this dialogue with the Hebrews. After the people readily agree that "*we are witnesses*," Joshua makes his point: "*Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.*" Despite all their confessions, both the Hebrews and Joshua know that lurking in their hidden places, in the backs of their tents, and lying underneath their pillows, there are stone idols, which they worshiped in secret. Perhaps, Joshua realized that while he can be a leader and a spiritual example for his people, he cannot be their conscience or their nursemaid. In the end, both the people's ability to serve only the Lord and Joshua's ability to trust their words are matters of faith. Why not avoid their error of faith and fully put God first in your life?

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