

<p><b>Salem Presbyterian Church</b>  <b>Sunday, January 14, 2024, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</b></p>
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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

Call to Worship Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 566

\*Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God 18

Prayer of Confession: O God, we confess that so many voices often compete for our attention that Your Word is hard for us to hear. **You have called us to speak on Your behalf as prophetic witnesses.** You have called us to use our gifts to serve You. **We have not heard, or we have been unwilling to respond.** Holy Spirit, You empower us to recognize and respond to the invitation of Jesus to follow Him, even when that means traveling on unknown and unfamiliar paths. **Merciful God, take from us all that hinders our hearing Your voice and fill us anew with the Holy Spirit so that we may joyfully respond to Jesus' call on our lives. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen**

*(Let us now have a moment of silence to offer our 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 John 1:43-51 967  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20 1041

+1 Samuel 3:1-20 244

Special Music Junior Bell Choir  
 Time for Children

Ordination of Elder Johnathon Morris and Session Member Installations

Hymn: Love Divine 2

Sermon: "Hearing 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: How Great Thou Art 37

\*Taking the Light into the World  
 \*Reflection and Benediction  
 \*Congregational Response **Three Fold Amen** Inside Back Cover  
 \*Those who are able are invited to stand.

+Sermon passage.



**Financial Update:**

Needed Weekly:	\$2,298.10	Needed to Date:	\$2,298.10
Rec'd 01-07-2024:	\$1,610.00	Rec'd to Date:	\$1,610.00

**Sunday:** 01-14-2024  
9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Vern & Liz Hobbs).  
Installation of Session Members. Johnathon Morris  
& Bob McCollow  
2023 Financial reports are due this morning  
10:45 AM Session Meeting  
5:00 PM Trustee Meeting

**Tuesday:** 01-16-2024  
7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Van Wert Hospital Cafeteria.  
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

**Sunday:** 01-21-2024  
9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Rex & Lisa Lloyd).

**Announcements:**

The **Women's Bible Study** is this Tuesday at 7 PM.

Please sign up for the new **2024 Flower Calendar**.

Auditors are to get **end-of-year reports** to Liz Hobbs on January 17. The reports will be available to the congregation on January 21.

The **Offering Envelopes** can be found on the white table in the prayer room; please sign your name beside the box number you take for the year 2024.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the February newsletter. Submit them to [secretary@saalemchurch.cc](mailto:secretary@saalemchurch.cc).

**Upcoming Birthdays**

16<sup>th</sup> Liz Hobbs

16<sup>th</sup> Rob Breese

19 Wrettic Breese



**1 Samuel 3:1-20**

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*Salem Presbyterian Church*

January 14, 2024

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

[www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc) | [secretary@saalemchurch.cc](mailto:secretary@saalemchurch.cc)

**Prayer Concerns:**

Josh Archinal (recovering from car accident)  
Cindy (Davis) Barnes (liver transplant)  
Sara Beeks (heart)  
Charles Boroff (heart issue)  
Jason Boyd (terminal cancer)  
Dave Burnett (heart issues)  
Kim Coil (foot surgery)  
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  
David Morris (Zeb)  
Monica Placke  
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)  
Paul & Doris Price  
Ann Rees (in Van Wert Hearth & Home)  
Kristy Ringwald (adenoid cystic carcinoma)  
Evelyn Schwartz  
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)  
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

**Serving Our Country:**

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

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Rev. Thomas Emery  
**“Hearing God” 1 Samuel 3:1-20**  
Salem Presbyterian Church  
January 14, 2024

In our passage, Eli’s blindness mirrors the situation in Israel under his and his son’s leadership. During this period, prophetic visions are rare. By way of contrast, little Samuel is close to the Lord; he even sleeps in the Tabernacle Tent near the Ark, the earthly symbol of God’s presence. This is a contrast between Samuel, who is “lying down” in his usual place near God’s Ark presence, and Eli’s sons, who “slept” with the women serving at the Tabernacle. Israel at this time was in a spiritually dark period with Eli when divine revelation was rare with Eli and his sons’ sin. The Ark Lamp spiritually points to the dawning of a new day when Samuel sleeping nearby will dispel the current darkness by his seeking God’s will.

### TEACHING POINTS

*First. The Lord is willing to revive His broken relationship with His people through those who honor Him.*

*Second. In an era when “everyone does as they saw fit” (Judges 21:25), God will respond appropriately to judge the wicked.*

*Third. Could there be many people, including many adults in church, who have studied about God, but do not know God? Maybe it is because we have not been listening to God’s voice.*

### THIS WEEK’S MEMORY PASSAGE

*And the LORD came and called as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel replied, “Speak, your servant is listening” (1 Samuel 3:10).*

### ACTION POINT

This is a story about honoring God and experiencing spiritual renewal. The Lord praises those who honor Him but rejects those who despise Him. The Lord rejected Eli’s house, but the Lord chose Samuel. Jesus warned the religious officials of His day that honoring God is not mere lip service and adherence to human rules, but rather deep loyalty (Matt. 15:8; Mark 7:6). No one can honor the Father without honoring Jesus (John 5:23). Those who serve, and therefore acknowledge Jesus, will be accepted by the Father (12:26). In this passage, it shows that we honor the Lord by abstaining from sexual immorality (1 Cor. 6:12–20) and by generously sharing our material wealth with those who are in need (2 Cor. 8:19; Gal. 6:10). Why not open your heart to God today? Let us be open to God’s call to do whatever it is that God’s Word asks of us.

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