Salem Presbyterian Church Sunday, January 12, 2025, 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Baptism of the Lord

Welcome and Prayer

Call to Worship:	Psalm 29	494
* <u>Hymn</u> :	Blessed Assurance	255

Prayer of Confession: Our God who Delivers and Redeems, we have failed to live into the promise of new life. We have sought ease and comfort in exchange for ignoring the hungry and sick in our world. Forgive us when we have seen our faith in such narrowness, thinking of only our own salvation. Forgive us when we have not lived for others, and when we have not been willing to risk ourselves for the sake of others. Call us into a new life that is lived in the promise of Your love for the whole world. We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen. (Let us now have a moment of silence to offer our prayers of confession).

Assurance of Pardon <u>Response</u>	Glory Be to the Father	Inside Front Cover
<u>Joys & Concerns of the</u> Prayers of the People <u>Prayer Response</u>	<u>Church</u> The Lord's Prayer	
Installation of Officers		
Scripture Readings	*Isaiah 43:1-7 Luke 3:15-17 Acts 8:14-17	658 935 999

Time for Children

* <u>Hymn:</u>	Aberystwyth	Welsh Hymnal 17
Sermon	"We Are Called and Claime	ed" 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 <i>Prayer</i> * <u>Response</u>	Praise God		Inside	Front Cover
*Prayer of Dedication				
* <u>Hymn:</u>	It is Well with	n My Soul		256
*Taking the Light into the World				
*Charge and Benediction *Congregational Response Three		Amen	Inside	Back Cover
*Those who can are invited to stand.				
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Financial Update:				
	\$2,345.90 \$2,105.00	Needed to Rec'd to Do		\$2,345.90 \$2,105.00

<b>Sunday:</b> 9:30 AM 5:00 PM	<u>2025-01-12</u> Baptism of the Lord Worship ( <i>nursery with Todd &amp; Jayne Morris)</i> Trustee Meeting
Tuesday:	2025-01-14
7:30 AM	Men's Bible Study meets at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets
7:00 PM	The Women's Bible Study meets downstairs
Thursday:	2025-01-16
Noon	The Van Wert County Prayer Group meets at Living Truth Church at 1180 S Washington St., Van Wert.
Sunday:	2025-01-19 2 nd Sunday After Epiphany
9:30 AM	Worship (nursery with Michael & Lindsay Breese) Installation of Officers
10:45 AM	Session Meeting
	A

#### Announcements:

There is a **Sunday School sign-up sheet** at the back of the church. We are asking people to sign up for a month to help with lessons during the church service time.

Salem is collecting **Offerings from the Heart for the Salvation Army**. Each month, we collect different items; the January collection is Hamburger Helper.

The **2025 Flower chart** is in the vestibule. Please sign up.

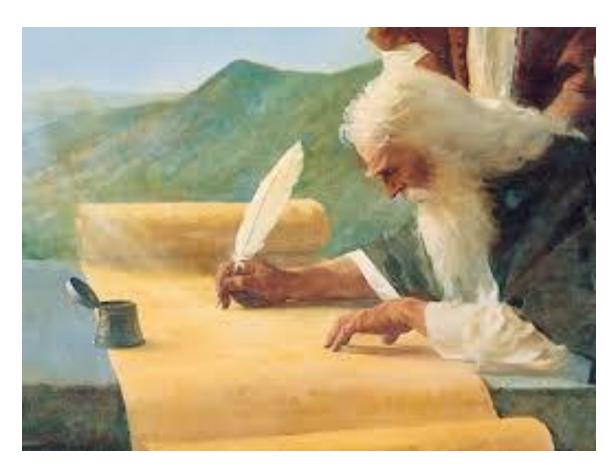
We will not be using the large white envelopes for church giving in 2025. Please use the small white envelopes found in the little brown boxes in the two vestibules.

**Installation & Ordination of officers** will take place on January 19. Auditors to get **end of year reports** to Liz Hobbs on January 15. The reports will be available to the congregation on January 19.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the **February Newsletter.** Submit them to: <u>PastorTomEmery@live.com</u>.

#### Upcoming Birthdays

12th Christina Youngpeter 16th Liz Hobbs 12th Quinn Young 19th Wrettic Breese 16th Rob Breese



The Prophet Isaiah

Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | January 12, 2025 P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142 www.SalemChurch.cc | <u>secretary@salemchurch.cc</u>

#### Prayer Concerns:

LaDonna Allenbaugh (shoulder & elbow surgery) Charles Boroff (heart issue) Dave Burnett (heart issues) Tom Burnett (recovering from an accident) Kim Coil (foot surgery) Pastor Tom Emery (long COVID healing) Marjorie Eutsler Millie Fletcher Ellen Friesner Cecil Foust (heart surgery) Shana Fryer Stephanie Gamble (eye issues) Bob & Jane Harter Sheryl Hefner (cancer) Carla Hillabrand (medical issues) sister to Nancy Breese Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher David Kroeger (pancreatic cancer) Jim Lloyd (at Van Wert Manor for heart & foot issues) Mary Lou Morgan (Eleanor Morgan's daughter) David Morris (Zeb) Tim Morris Steve Muhlenkamp (cancer) Jen Pugh's stepdad Bev Place (cancer) Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer) Paul Price Denise Pugh Ann Rees (in Van Wert Hearth & Home) **Bianca Richards** The area Nursing Homes and their residents

## Serving Our Country:

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

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In this passage, Isaiah reuses all the old memories, stories, and metaphors of Israel's tradition for this new situation. The formulas are those of exodus, deliverance, and covenant: "You are mine,"; "I, Yahweh, am your God,"; "I am with you," and "I have redeemed you." The picture drawn is that of a new departure—once again leaving captivity, surviving the dangers of water and fire to reach home.

## **TEACHING POINTS**

POINT ONE – The Lord has named and claimed us as His adopted children.

POINT TWO – Baptism is a beautiful, tender picture of what election is all about.

POINT THREE – We must learn to draw comfort and strength from our baptism.

## THIS WEEK'S KEY PASSAGE

But now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine (Isaiah 43:1 NLT).

# **ACTION POINT**

The exodus journey of Israel is a paradigm of the Christian's physical and spiritual baptismal journey. It begins in exile, in bondage to sin, in helplessness. Like the Israelites, we live in a foreign land under the rule of foreign powers. Like some Israelites, we have made our home in "Babylon," opened a shop, hung out a shingle, and become a part of the empire. We are deserving of God's wrath. We have become enemies of God. We need to look honestly at our situation. We need to acknowledge our sinfulness. We need to follow Christ's call upon us.

Our whole life, then, is a renewal of our baptism. It is also growing into our baptism. It is becoming what we already are by baptism — our journey out of exile and into the Promised Land. It challenges the principalities, speaking truth to power and living by God's resources alone. It is the way to life and freedom, but it is scary. If we remember our baptism, however, we will have the assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you."

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