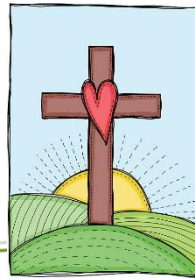




**Salisbury United Church**  
**February 16, 2025**  
**Sixth Sunday After Epiphany**  
**Welcome to Worship!**



**Welcome & Announcements**

**Acknowledgement of Territory**

**Hymn Medley:**

Rise Up, Rise Up; #130MV

Rise up, rise up, rise up, O my soul.  
 Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name.  
 Rise up, rise up, rise up, O my soul.  
 Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name.



Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope; #33MV (hope, peace, love)

Jesus came bringing us hope, (3X)  
 hallelujah forevermore!

Jesus came bringing us peace, (3X)  
 hallelujah forevermore!

Jesus came bringing us love, (3X)  
 hallelujah forevermore!

You Are Holy; #45MV

You are holy, you show us the way.  
 You are holy, you show us the way.  
 You show us, you show us, you show us the way.  
 You show us, you show us, you show us the way.

You are freedom, you show us the way.  
 You are freedom, you show us the way.  
 You show us, you show us, you show us the way.  
 You show us, you show us, you show us the way.

You are justice, you show us the way.  
 You are justice, you show us the way.  
 You show us, you show us, you show us the way.  
 You show us, you show us, you show us the way.

**Call To Prayer:** *(remain standing)*

Open unto me, light for my darkness  
 Open unto me, courage for my fear  
**Open unto me, hope for my despair**  
**Open unto me, peace for my turmoil**  
 Open unto me, joy for my sorrow  
 Open unto me, strength for my weakness  
**Open unto me, wisdom for my confusion**  
**Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins**  
 Open unto me, tenderness for my toughness  
 Open unto me, love for my hates  
**Open unto me, Thy Self for myself.**  
**Lord, Lord, open unto me!**



(Source: Howard Thurman, from "Meditations of the Heart",  
<https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayerindex/prayers-for-black-historymonth1#:~:text=Open%20unto%20me%2C%20light%20for,me%2C%20Thy%20Self%20for%20myself>)

**Welcoming Each Other In:**

*(We greet each other with open hands of hospitality before sitting down)*

**Welcoming the Light of Christ:**

Let us proclaim the welcoming presence  
 of the light of Christ together:  
**The light of Christ is with us,**  
**between us and all around us.**  
**Thanks be to God.**



*(The Christ Candle is lit)*

**A Time to Rest in Peace:** *(A time of silence)*

May the peace of Christ be with you all!  
**And also with you!**



**Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer:** by J.G. St. Clair Drake, 1940

Oh Lord, we come this morning knee bowed and body bent before thy throne of grace.  
**We come this morning Lord, like empty pitchers before a full fountain.**  
 We realize that many who are better by nature than we are by practice have already passed into the great beyond.  
**Yet you have allowed us your humble servants to plod along just a few days longer here in this howling wilderness.**  
 We thank thee Lord that when we arose this morning, our bed was not a cooling board and our sheet was not a winding shroud.

**We are not gathered here for form or fashion, but we come in our humble way to serve thee.**

We will each come down to tread the steep and prickly banks of Jordan.

**At the crossing meet me with thy rod and staff and bear me safely over.**

All these things I ask in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray saying: ...

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever, Amen.**



**Hymn:** Swing Low, Sweet Chariot; #520WR

*Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home;  
swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.*

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see, coming for to carry me home?  
A band of angels coming after me, coming for to carry me home. (R)


If you get there before I do, coming for to carry me home;  
tell all my friends I'm coming too, coming for to carry me home. (R)

I'm sometimes up, I'm sometimes down, coming for to carry me home;  
but still my soul feels heavenly bound, coming for to carry me home. (R)

**Discovery Time:**

**Hymn:** There Is Room for All; #62MV

There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;  
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.  
And I rejoice and sing, "My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."  
There is room for all, there is room for all!

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 6:17-26, 31 (NIV) *(read responsively)* 

He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and

Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

Looking at his disciples, he said:

**"Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.  
Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be satisfied.  
Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.  
Blessed are you when people hate you,  
when they exclude you and insult you  
and reject your name as evil,  
because of the Son of Man. ...**

**"But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have already received your comfort.  
Woe to you who are well fed now,  
for you will go hungry.  
Woe to you who laugh now,  
for you will mourn and weep.  
Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,  
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets... ."**


All: Acclamation

This is the Word of God.

**Herein lies wisdom. Thanks be to God!**

**Salisbury Singers:** Beatitudes

Let your light shine for all the world to see.  
The brightness of your life within the peace that sets you free.  
Let your light shine to fill your nights and days.  
All will see the deeds you do and give your Father praise.

**Scripture Reading:** Jeremiah 17:5-10 (NIV) *(read responsively)* 

"Doom to the one who builds palaces but bullies people,  
who makes a fine house but destroys lives,  
Who cheats his workers  
and won't pay them for their work,  
Who says, 'I'll build me an elaborate mansion  
with spacious rooms and fancy windows.

I'll bring in rare and expensive woods  
and the latest in interior decor.'  
So, that makes you a king—  
living in a fancy palace?  
Your father got along just fine, didn't he?  
He did what was right and treated people fairly,  
And things went well with him.  
He stuck up for the down-and-out,  
And things went well for Judah.  
Isn't this what it means to know me?"  
God's Decree!  
"But you're blind and without conscience.  
All you think about is yourself,  
Taking advantage of the weak,  
bulldozing your way, bullying victims."

All: Acclamation

Here is God's holy word.

**Let us listen for what the Spirit is saying to the church!  
Amen.**

**Sermon:** The Needed Time

All Sing:

***Now is a needed time,  
Now is a needed time,  
Now is a needed time.***

**Hymn:** Needed Time

Now is a needed time,  
Now is a Needed time,  
Now is a needed time.  
Jesus won't you come by here,  
Jesus won't you come by here,  
Jesus won't you come by here,

I'm down on my knees in prayer,  
Down on my knees in prayer,  
Jesus won't you come by here.  
Right now is a needed,  
Right now is a needed time,  
Now is a needed time.

*(continued...)*

Now is a needed time,  
Now is a needed time,  
Jesus won't you hear my prayer.  
Now is a needed time,  
Now is a needed time.  
Now is a needed time.

*(repeat last three lines as needed)*

*(Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7BakUX6NvQ&t=2s>)*

**Acknowledgement of Offering:**

Holy God, in the strength of your Holy Spirit inspire each of us to work more faithfully for justice and dignity of life everywhere. Lord God, we do remember the hurts of exclusion and prejudice, but we know that you can raise our vision above all barriers and give us wisdom and courage to make this a better world. May it be so, Amen.



**Prayers for the Journey:**

O Lord, come by here,  
**For now is a needed time.**

To God the Creator of people of all hues and origins, who loves each of us for our uniqueness, we offer our prayers of petition:

For an end to discrimination in all its forms. That each person may be respected and valued as a child of God. That the Church may be a witness and a universal sign of unity among all peoples. That each of us may acknowledge our part in mistakes and ongoing sins of the past pertaining to discrimination and racism.

O Lord, come by here,  
**For now is a needed time.**

For a spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation among peoples who share a history of mutual mistrust, hatred or aggression. That the victims of racial prejudice may withstand those who persecute them, and that their persecutors may have a change of heart. That the Church will strive to be an advocate for the true dignity of every human person.

O Lord, come by here,  
**For now is a needed time.**

For those who have struggled in the past and continue to do so today for human rights, economic justice and the elimination of discrimination based on the human-created category of race. For the conversion of the hearts and minds of those who allow another's skin colour or origins to influence their relationships and limit their openness. That we may influence the attitudes of others by expressly rejecting racial stereotypes, slurs and jokes and be affirming of the cultural contributions of every person to our church and our world.

O Lord, come by here,  
**For now is a needed time.**

Almighty God, source of our life, we acknowledge you as Creator of all people of every hue, language and way of life. Help us to see each other as you see us: your original creations loved into being and sustained by your tender care. Keep watch over our hearts so that the evil of racism will find no home with us. Strip away pride, suspicion, and discrimination so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities. Direct our spirits to work for justice and peace so that all barriers to your grace which oppress our brothers and sisters and cousins will be removed.

O Lord, come by here,  
**For now is a needed time.**

And now we pray for all those known to us for whom our hearts ache and we have a burden to pray.

*(prayers in silence)*

O Lord, come by here,  
**For now is a needed time.**  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*(Source: <https://stthomasunited.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-06-14-announcements.pdf>)*

### **Saying Goodbye to The Light of Christ:**

The Christ light can never really be put out.  
**Even when we blow it out, it simply changes form.  
And becomes like smoke, drifting as a blessing  
toward all the four directions of the world.**

*(The light is extinguished)*



### **Hymn: We Shall Overcome; #512W&R, 1-3 & 6**

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,  
We shall overcome some day!  
Oh, deep in my heart,  
I do believe we shall overcome some day!

The Lord will see us through, the Lord will see us through,  
The Lord will us through some day!  
Oh, deep in my heart,  
I do believe we shall overcome some day!

We are not afraid, we are not afraid,  
We are not afraid today.  
Oh, deep in my heart,  
I do believe we shall overcome some day!

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,  
We shall live in peace some day!  
Oh, deep in my heart,  
I do believe we shall overcome some day!

### **Blessing:**

God's love has warmed us.  
Now the world of cares calls us.  
God's peace go with you.  
May it sustain you and bring us together  
to praise God again.



### **Sung Blessing: May the Love of the Lord; #218MV**

*May the love of our God, rest upon your soul,  
May God's love dwell in you throughout every day.*

*Amen, Amen, Amen Amen, Amen, Amen.  
Amen, Amen, Amen Amen, Amen, Amen.*

### **Postlude**

#### **Music Copyright Permissions**

*Rise Up, Rise Up; Linnea Good, 2003  
Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope; UCC, 2007  
You Are Holy; South African traditional song, 2007  
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot; African-American spiritual  
There Is Room for All; Bruce Harding, 2004  
We Shall Overcome; Hope Publishing Company, 2011*

## PANCAKE BRUNCH - SUNDAY, MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>

This year's Pancake Brunch will be held Sunday, March 2nd, after worship service. Pancake meal is by free-will donation. All are welcome! So please invite friends, family, and neighbors!



## PURDY'S CHOCOLATE EASTER FUNDRAISER

Returning this year is our Purdy's Easter Fundraiser! Order forms are available in the Narthex along with the Purdy's Spring 2025 Fundraising booklet. **All orders are due Friday, February 28th at noon.** Please bring all completed order forms, along with payment, to the office before the February 28th deadline. Additional details to follow about when orders will be available for pickup. Thank you for your support!



## MEDITATION CIRCLE - WEDNESDAYS @ 10am

Please join us in-person each Wednesday at 10am in the Church's Meditation Room.



## LOOKING FOR HELP SUNDAY MORNINGS

If you're able to help Sundays at 10:00am, to set up a few tables & chairs in the auditorium, it would be greatly appreciated.

## STRATHCONA COUNTY FOOD BANK DONATIONS



Please continue to bring non-perishable items for the Strathcona Food Bank. There is a yellow bin in the Narthex for donations along with a list of most-needed items.



## Finance Corner

Update for January 2025

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income:	\$18,346.00	\$21,595.33
Expense:	\$17,667.76	\$21,927.96
	\$678.24	(\$332.63)

Financial results for the first couple months of 2025 are off to a good start with about \$1,000 higher net income than budgeted. While income is approximately \$3,200 less than planned, expenses are also lower, by about \$4,200.

Remember, if you donate through PAR (pre-authorized remittance), please review your monthly contributions for the new year to ensure we keep ahead of inflation and upcoming Property expenses. Contact the church office with any revisions.

### Thanks for helping our new year get off to a positive start!

If you need any help with giving envelopes – new supply, pick-up, etc. – or other giving options (monthly giving through PAR, e-transfer or donating online through Canada Helps on the Salisbury Website), please contact: Brittany at the Church Office.

Phone: 780-467-7310