



Salisbury United Church
January 12, 2025
Baptism Renewal Sunday
Welcome to Worship!



Welcome & Announcements

Acknowledgement of Territory

Hymn Medley:

Shall We Gather at the River; #710VU, vv. 1 & 2

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
 with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
 gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
 grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. (R)

River Running in You and Me; #163MV, vv. 1-3

River running in you and me,
 Spirit of life, deep mystery,
 dancing down to the holy sea,
 River run deep, River run free.

River laughed on my birthing day,
 Wind and water joined in play
 soaked my soul in a shining spray,
 River run deep, River run free.

River, cry my name to me,
 lend me hope and memory,
 sing me the story of the holy sea,
 River run deep, River run free.



Dance With the Spirit; #156MV (walk, sing, pray)

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
 walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
 Work and hope for the new life a bornin',
 listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
 sing with the Spirit throughout the long day.
 Work and hope for the new life a bornin',
 listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
 pray with the Spirit throughout the long day.
 Work and hope for the new life a bornin',
 listen to the Spirit to show you the way.



Call To Prayer: *(remain standing)*

Let us come with the Spirit to the water—
Yes, everyone who thirsts! Come to the waters:
 the waters of new birth,
the waters of justice rolling down,
 the waters of righteousness flowing like an everflowing stream;
the river of God for the healing of the world.

(Water is poured into the baptismal font)

Let us gather this day around the gift of the sacrament of baptism.
Amen.

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 Pause 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: pg. #914VU

Gracious and all loving God,
 you call to us across deep waters and swelling tides.
 Yours is the light which guides us to shore,
 yours is the voice which we follow.

By the light of your presence,
may those without hope be encouraged;
those who are sad, cheered;
those who are seeking, find you;
and may all things be according to your will.
In the name of your beloved Son we 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: Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New; #115MV

Behold, behold, I make all things new,
beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, behold, I make all things new,
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

Introduction: *(Small coins of glass are handed out)*

You have just received the gift of a blue piece of glass. I invite you to hold it in your hand. I invite you to imagine that it is a small drop of water.

(pause)

As you hold that small drop of water, I invite you to participate responsively in the scripture reading on the screen.

Scripture Reading: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 *(Read Responsively)*

John the Baptist was in the wilderness, preaching a baptism for forgiveness of sins.

The people gathered around him with anticipation, wondering in their hearts if John was the long-awaited Messiah.

John answered them by saying, "I am not the Messiah. I am only here to baptize you with water. But the One who is coming next will be able to baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire!"

John also said, "The One who is coming will sort the wheat from the chaff."

The wheat he will gather into the granary, while the chaff will be burned off."

After that, Jesus then came into the wilderness to be baptized.

While he was in the water praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in the form of a dove.

A voice from heaven declared, "You are my very own, my Beloved, and on you my favour rests."



Salisbury Singers: Crashing Waters at Creation; #449VU

Scripture Reading: Acts 8:4-25 *(Read Responsively)*



A man named Simon was practicing magic in the town of Samaria.

The Samaritans were amazed, saying, "He must be a great power from God."

Philip arrived in the town of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them, liberating many people from bondage to unholy spirits.

Many men and women were baptized. Even Simon the magician became a believer.

The rejoicing of the town swelled and rose to a fever pitch.

Peter and John, apostles of the Lord, heard what was happening in Samaria and travelled from Jerusalem to personally pray that the Samaritans might receive the Holy Spirit.

By the laying on of hands many of the Samaritans who had been baptized did indeed receive the Holy Spirit.

Simon the magician saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of hands and approached the disciples with an offer of money.

"Give me this power," he said, "so that I too may lay hands on people and grant them the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Peter replied, "Who are you to think that you can buy what God has given for nothing!"

Peter went on to say, "Your heart is obviously not right with God. I can see you are caught up in the love of gain and grasping after power. Pray for forgiveness."

Simon said, "Please help me to understand. Pray for me to your God that I may be forgiven and gain wisdom!"

Peter, John and Philip then went on to give further testimony, proclaiming the Word of Christ in many Samaritan villages, after which they returned to Jerusalem.

Sermon: By Water and the Spirit

Hymn: Like a Healing Stream; #144MV

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth.
God is trickling through our lives
as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth...
like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need... like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war...like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow,
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

Prayers of Concern & Acknowledgement of Offering: *(All together)*

Loving God, we present now our prayers of concern for
neighbors, loved ones and strangers.

(Prayers in silence)

Loving God, we also present now what has been given
and received this week. There are coins and paper and
electronic transactions which express in a clear and
visible way our participation in the ministry of this church.

**There is the water we have poured which represents the ever
flowing relationship we have with you.**

We also bring as an offering the fragile dreams and hopes that we
have which sustain our lives and our relationships.

**Receive all that we have given and received in love, O God, and
renew our ongoing relationship with you.**

**In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen**



Remembering Our Baptism

Before conscious thought or action on our part,
we are born into the brokenness of this world.

**Before conscious thought or action on our part,
we are surrounded by God's redeeming love.**

Baptism signifies something unconditional
which God has already done in our lives.

**Baptism showers us with
the nurturing, sustaining,
and transforming power of God's love.**

In Baptism, we pour out our grateful acceptance of God's love.

**Through baptism, God gives us new birth by water *and* the Spirit,
and seals our belonging to the community of faith.**

With the community of faith,
we affirm the faith of our baptism whenever we
join together in making a statement of faith together.



The Statement of Faith: A New Creed, *said by all*

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.



The Laying On of Hands: "Lead Us to the Water"

♪ *Lead us, lead us to the water.
Wash us, wash us in the Spirit.
Thanks be to God*

Prayer:

In God's wisdom, may we move from this place of worship,
renewed in heart, mind and spirit.

**Through the power of the Holy Spirit stored up in our hearts,
may we re-examine the way we greet the world around us.**

May the inspiration of the Holy Spirit flow in and around us in all our
interactions through the week.

**In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.**

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: There's a Spirit in the Air; #582VU, vv. 1, 2, & 4-6

There's a spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere:
"Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world."

Lose your shyness, find your tongue, tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today!

Still the Spirit gives us light, seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today!

When a stranger's not alone, where the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world.
May the Spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways.
God in Christ has come to stay, live tomorrow's life today.

Blessing for the Journey:

Be the great God between your shoulders,
to protect you in your going out and your coming in,
be the Son of Mary near your heart;
and be the perfect Spirit upon you pouring.
Amen.



(Source: Iona Abbey Worship Book, pg. 148)

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

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There's A Spirit in The Air; Hope Publishing Co., 1979
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ADVENT FUNDRAISER - "SOCKS FROM SALISBURY"

This year's Advent Giving Project at Salisbury involves the collection of new socks, to be donated to the Inner City Pastoral Ministry (Bissell Centre). This fundraiser project will continue until mid-January and aims to collect and donate NEW socks in sizes for children and adults, helping to supply families and individuals in need of a basic clothing item. Please bring in **new** socks and hang them in the Sanctuary.



MEDITATION CIRCLE - WEDNESDAYS @ 10am

Meditation Circle resumes Wednesday, January 15th. 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 December 2024

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income:	\$ 305,006.51	\$ 217,396.00
Expense:	\$ 259,071.53	\$ 248,687.66
	<u>\$ 45,934.98</u>	<u>(\$31,291.66)</u>

We finished the year strong and well ahead of budget, with income higher by \$87,610, even with expenses \$10,383 more than budgeted.

Net income was \$45,934 better than planned, a difference of +\$77,226.

Compared to income of \$281,646 in 2023– we saw an increase of \$23,359 this past year, thanks in part to an increase in special donations. Meanwhile, expenses decreased from \$261,330 in 2023 to \$259,071 in 2024, a difference of about \$2,260. Net income increased from \$20,315 in 2023 to \$45,934 in 2024, a difference of +\$25,619.

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.

As we begin a new year in the life of Salisbury United Church, thank you for your continued financial support.

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