



**Salisbury United Church**  
**Fourth Sunday After Epiphany**  
**January 28, 2024**  
**Welcome to Worship!**



**Welcome & Announcements**

**Treaty Six Acknowledgement:**

We live on this generous and abundant land, which supports us and which has supported the lives of Indigenous and Metis peoples from long before there was ever a nation called Canada. This is Treaty Six Territory and we offer our respect and commitment to living into right relationship with all our relations on this land.

**Hymn Medley:**

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People: #272VU

Open your ears, O faithful people,  
open your ears and hear God's word.  
Open your hearts, O faithful people,  
God now speaks to you.

*God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!*  
*And those words are words of wisdom,*  
*hallelujah! Hallelujah!*



They who have ears to hear the message,  
they who have ears, now let them hear.  
They who would learn the way of wisdom,  
let them hear God's word. (R)

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.



In Loving Partnership We Come: #603VU, v. 1 & 2

In loving partnership we come,  
seeking, O God, your will to do.  
Our prayers and actions now receive;  
we freely offer them to you.

We are the hands and feet of Christ,  
serving by grace each other's need.  
We dare to risk and sacrifice  
with truthful word and faithful deed.



**Call To Prayer:**

God is calling us; let us listen.  
God is calling us; let us respond.  
God is calling us, let us call back to God, saying "We are here".  
**Let us gather now into community to share our compassion,**  
**our gifts and our hopes; open to God's call.**

**Lighting the Christ Candle:**

Let us proclaim the presence of the Light of Christ.

*(Christ Candle is lit.)*



**The Light of Christ is with us, between us and all around us.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Passing of the Peace:** *(Placing a hand over the heart.)*

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

**Opening Prayer:**

**Holy God you touch our lives in ways we**  
**cannot even begin to imagine.**  
**Where we are confused you bring us calm.**  
**Where we are anxious you bring us peace.**  
**Where we are curious you invite our questions,**  
**and where we are sorrowful, you bring us hope.**  
**Help us this day and every day join with you...do our part**  
**however we are able, and help us know that though our efforts**  
**will sometimes fall short, you will always be with us, guiding and**  
**encouraging. For your faithfulness, we give thanks. Amen.**



**Hymn: We Are One; #402VU**

We are one as we come, as we come, joyful to be here,  
in the praise on our lips there's a sense that God is near.  
We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found;  
and we come needful of God's grace as we meet, together in this place.

We are one as we share, as we share brokenness and fear,  
in the touch of a hand there's a sense that God is here.  
We are one as we care, as we heal, we are healed;  
and we share warmth in God's embrace as we pray together in this place.

We are one as we feast, as we feast, peace becomes the sign;  
in the bread and the wine there's a sense of love divine.  
We are one as we come, as we feed, we are fed;  
and we feel God's refreshing grace as we meet at table in this place.

We are one as we hear, as we hear, heart and hand unite;  
in the word we receive there's a sense that God is light.  
We are one as we leave, as we love, we are loved;  
and we seek justice in God's ways as we move together from this place.

**Discovery Time:**

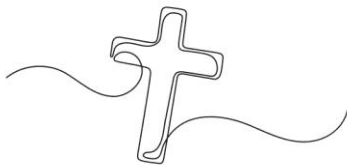
**Hymn: Breathe on Me, Breath of God; #382VU**

Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
until my will is one with thine, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God, till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God: so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.



**First Scripture Reading: Psalm 113, Praise to the Lord; #835VU**



♪ Praise to the Lord, all of you God's Servants.  
Blessed be the name of our God, now and ever.  
From the rising up of the sun may the Lord be praised,  
praise to the name of the Lord!

♪ There is none like our God, in the heavens, or on earth,  
who lifts the poor from the dust,  
seating them with the mighty,  
who stoops to raise the weak and low,  
may the Lord be praised, praise to the name of the Lord.



**Salisbury Singers: Jesus Christ Is Waiting; #117VU**

Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;  
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.  
Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,  
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.  
In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;  
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.  
Let my care be active, healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,  
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.  
On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,  
"Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet."  
Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.  
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

**Second Scripture Reading: Mark 1: 21-28 (NIV)**



"Jesus Teaches in the Synagogue"

**Reflection:** Rev. Heather Koots

**Hymn: Blest Be the Tie That Binds; #602VU**  
(A Heritage Hymn from our deep tradition)

Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the unity of heart and mind  
is like to that above.

Before our Maker's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes,  
each other's burdens bear;  
and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.

This glorious hope revives  
our courage on the way;  
that we shall live in perfect love  
in God's eternal day.

**Recognition of Offering:**

**Accept these, our gifts Gracious God.  
May they be offered with hearts that are open  
and hands that reach for community. Amen**



**Prayers for the Journey:**

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**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.**



**Saying Goodbye to the Christ Light:**

Let us go now,  
knowing that the light of Christ can never really be put out.  
The light goes with us into the world as a blessing,  
and drifts like smoke into all the four directions.



**Hymn: River Running in You and Me; #163MV**

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.

I stand on the edge, lookin' down,  
too scared to swim, a fraid I'll drown –  
give me the courage to journey on,  
River run deep, River run free.

Journey on far from my home,  
River – break this heart of stone;  
teach me to love, make me your own,  
River run deep, River run free.

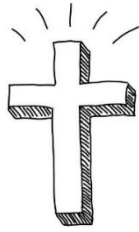
Hold me close on the day I die,  
bear me up when my soul is tired,  
carry me home on the rising tide,  
River run deep, River run free.

River singin' in you and me,  
Spirit of life – deep mystery –  
catch us up in your melody  
River run deep, River run free.



## Spoken Blessing:

May the blessing of God who created us in love,  
who transforms us in Jesus,  
and who sustains us by the power of the Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you now and forevermore.



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## REV. BRITT RETURNS JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup>!

January 28<sup>th</sup> is Rev. Heather Koots' last service as our guest worship leader this month. Rev. Britt returns January 31<sup>st</sup> and will be back leading the service for Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>!



## SAVE THE DATE - SUNDAY, FEB. 11<sup>TH</sup>

Please save the date for our annual Pancake Brunch. This year's Pancake Brunch will be held Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, after church. More information to follow next week...



## LOOKING FOR HELP WITH SET-UP SUNDAY MORNINGS



If you are able to help any Sunday at 10:00am, for a few minutes, to set up a few tables and chairs in the auditorium, it would be greatly appreciated.

## STRATHCONA COUNTY FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Please bring non-perishable items to donate to 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 2023

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income:	\$261,726.19	\$213,180.00
Expense:	\$262,277.13	\$232,574.65
	(\$550.94)	(\$19,394.65)

As recently as the end of November, Salisbury faced the prospect of finishing 2023 with a deficit of -\$27,500 or more. The congregation rallied in December, however, and closed the gap.

Our preliminary income statement for 2023 indicates we came within about \$1,000 of breaking even – a dramatic and much appreciated turnaround. Congratulations!

We finished the year well ahead of budget, with income higher by +\$44,600 while expenses were +\$29,700 above plan. Net income was +\$18,800 more than budgeted.

Compared to the prior year, income was the same at \$262,000 while expenses increased by \$8,300 to \$262,300. Net income of -\$600 in 2023 compared to +\$7,900 in 2022.

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

**As we begin a new year in the life of Salisbury United Church, thank you for your continuing 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**