Salem Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 21, 2024, 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery

Pianist: Lexi Greer

The flowers are given to the glory of God by Mark & Missy Zielke

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles Welcome & Prayer

Call to Worship Psalm 29 494

*Hymn: In the Garden 264

Prayer of Confession: Holy and merciful God, in perfection You created the earth, fixed the course of the sun and seasons, and populated the earth with plants, fish, birds, animals, and humankind to live in an intricate, balanced web of life. You created us in Your image and gave us the responsibility to care for the world. We confess that we have failed to live up to our responsibilities. Our lust for comfort and money has polluted the water. We choke the air with poisonous gases. We live for ourselves instead of others. Now, we pray for Your forgiveness and beg that You would create a right heart and mind within us... that we may live according to Your good and perfect commands... We pray in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (Let us now have a moment of silence to offer our personal prayers of confession).

Assurance of Pardon

Response Glory Be to the Father Inside Front Cover

Joys & Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

<u>Prayer Response</u> The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Readings	Mark 1:4-11	910
	Acts 19:1-7	1012

Time for Children

<u>Hymn</u>: This Is My Father's World 39

Sermon Passage *Genesis 1:1-5

Sermon: "Evolution vs 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

<u>Financial Update</u>

Needed Weekly: \$2,298.10 Needed to Date: \$4,596.20 Rec'd 01-14-2024: \$1,323.25 Rec'd to Date: \$2,933.25

^{*}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.

Sunday: <u>01-21-2024</u>

9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Rex & Lisa Lloyd).

Tuesday: <u>01-23-2024</u>

7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Van Wert Hospital Cafeteria.

7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

Thursday: <u>01-25-2024</u>

Noon Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at First Baptist

Church

Sunday: 01-28-2024

9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Todd & Jayne Morris).

Congregational Meeting

Announcements:

Please sign up for the new 2024 Flower Calendar.

The **end-of-year reports** are available to the congregation today. The Congregational Meeting will be next Sunday to vote on its acceptance.

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.

Salem is collecting offerings from the heart to be given to the **Salvation Army.** There is a monthly need, and your generosity is greatly needed. The January item is boxed meals (ex. Hamburger helper).

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the **February newsletter**. Submit them to secretary@salemchurch.cc.

Upcoming Birthdays

30th Doris Price 30th John Smith 31st Carrie Jone



Genesis 1:1-5

Salem Presbyterian Church

January 21, 2024

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

www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@salemchurch.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 Frver

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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Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard) Madison Pugh (U.S. Coast Guard) Rev. Thomas Emery "Evolution or God" Genesis 1:1-5 Salem Presbyterian Church January 21, 2024

We all ask two questions – "Where did the universe come from?" and "Why does it exist?" Genesis 1:1 simply states, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (NLT). God's Word to man, says humankind had a divine supernatural beginning. God's hand is behind the entire created order. No natural forces exist on their own. Nothing comes from any other source. God's Word is not only the place where the laws of nature come, but God's Word also tells us how we ought to live.

TEACHING POINTS

First. Belief in evolution is parallel to belief in creationism. Both are beliefs that their followers hold to be true, but neither belief has been capable of proof.

Second. If evolution is such a deficient theory, if, in fact, it not only didn't happen but really couldn't have happened, why do scientists so vigorously defend it? It is because otherwise, we would have to acknowledge that there is a God to whom we are accountable.

Third. Only when you understand how you got here, will you ever know why you are here. Only God can answer the fundamental questions of human existence.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY PASSAGE

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1 NLT).

ACTION POINT

This debate provides answers to whether we were created for a purpose, or whether we have no purpose and plan for our life. Finally, it answers whether some things are right, and some things are wrong (and God's Word tells us which is which) With evolution, right and wrong are merely up to a majority vote or might makes right determined by the strongest. Then, we look at the world we live in today with weeds, pests, bacteria, viruses, murder, rape, war, hatred, and violence, and we have to ask, "So what happened?"

The lesson is this - there is a hole in our souls that can only be filled by the God who created us. The reason the Creator God came to earth and lived and died as a man and was raised from the dead was to fill that hole with grace, forgiveness, and love. Understand not only that we were created, but also understand that the God of Creation wants to personally relate to us, both now and forever. With that awareness, life will begin to be lived with a purpose and meaning. Why not speak to God now, and let Him know that you also want a deep loving relationship with Him?

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