



**SALEM UNITED CHURCH**  
OF CHRIST  
*Living Out God's Love*

An Open and Affirming Congregation

September 19, 2021

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Stewardship Moment

Scot Cullen

\*Call to Worship (Responsively):

Jesus challenges us in today's gospel:

**Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.**

Then Jesus took a little child and put it among them;  
and taking it in his arms, he said to them:

**Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.**

And whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.

**We are still learning today what Jesus came to teach us two thousand years ago.**

**To change the world we must change the way we love and welcome all children!**

**May we learn to love and nurture all children as if they were our own!**

Hymn (recording): *For the Beauty of the Earth*

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For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.

Refrain:

God of all, to you we raise  
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light, [Refrain ]

*(verse 3 & refrain: spoken by congregation)*

**For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild, [Refrain]**

\*Prayer of Confession (Responsively):

Let us think about all the children in our own lives, our community's life,  
and in our world. What are their needs; where do we fail as individuals  
and community in welcome, nurture and care for them? *(Silence)*

Now let us pray together:

**Dear God,**

**We often have not welcomed the children as Jesus has commanded.**

**Too many children in our community and world suffer from violence, abuse, neglect and poverty.**

**We know that if we were to join together to welcome and care, to celebrate and honor our children we would save ourselves and our world.**

**We need forgiveness. We want to make amends. We want to change.**

**We want to learn to welcome all children, for in loving and caring for them, we welcome your reign of justice and peace.**

\*Assurance of Pardon (Responsively):

We give thanks for our savior and teacher Jesus Christ,  
who was born among us as a child needing nurture and care,  
and grew to reveal your power to make all things new.

**We give thanks and rejoice that in Christ we are forgiven and given strength to grow in discipleship. Thanks be to God!**

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

Handbell Anthem: *How Firm a Foundation*

[Sandra Eithun]

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:30-37

Sermon: "Welcoming Jesus as a Child"

Dr. Robinson

Sunday School Teacher Commissioning

Sarah Pundt

Hymn (music only): *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

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O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
Remain forever near me, my Savior and my Friend:  
I shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you  
That where you are in glory your servant shall be, too;  
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
O give me grace to follow my Savior and my Friend!

\*Benediction

Postlude

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An asterisk (\*) where those who are able should stand as an act of worship.

### Scripture Reading: Mark 9:30-37

<sup>30</sup>They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

502 Mark Drive, P.O. Box 930125, Verona, Wisconsin 53593  
608-845-7315 • salemchurchverona.org

 facebook.com/VeronaSalemUCC  twitter.com/salemuccverona

## STAFF

### Interim Minister

Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson  
trobinson@salemchurchverona.org

### Director of Music

Dawn Lingard  
dawn.lingard@landsend.com

### Director of Vocal Choirs

Janet Dahl  
jdahl@salemchurchverona.org

### Director of Handbells

Carrie Coenen

### Director of Christian Education & Interim Director of Youth Ministry

Sarah Pundt  
spundt@salemchurchverona.org

### Office Administrator

Cara Bahr  
cbahr@salemchurchverona.org

## THIS WEEK AT SALEM

### Monday, September 20

6PM - Quilting Group

### Wednesday, September 22

6PM - BRC

6:50PM - Chancel and Choir gathering

6:30PM - Bells

### Thursday, September 23

7PM - Parent's Promise

### Friday, September 24

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

### Sunday, September 26

9AM - Sunday School

10:15AM - Worship

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MADISON AREA CROP WALK FOR HUNGER

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. The Salem Youth have been fighting hunger locally by growing and donating produce to BPNN. The youth have now formed a team to participate in the Madison Area Crop Walk on October 17. The Salem congregation is invited to join the youth team to have an even greater impact on hunger locally and around the world. Please consider walking with the Salem Youth on October 17 @ 1pm. The walk begins and ends at First Congregational UCC, 1609 University Ave, Madison. You can also choose to make a monetary pledge to support the youth in their Crop Walk for Hunger. Registration and donation information will be available Sunday morning after the worship service.

### BRC AND CHANCEL CHOIR GATHERING

The BRC and Chancel Choirs will be gathering on "The Patio" Wednesday, September 22nd at 6:50 to discuss singing for the fall season. Current members should look for an email regarding discussion points and agenda. Any questions may be directed to Janet, [jdahl@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:jdahl@salemchurchverona.org). BRC will rehearse 6:00-6:30 pm and Chancel Choir rehearsal 6:50-7:20 pm on "The Patio."