



SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

An Open and Affirming Congregation

May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

REBUILDING LIFE IN AND WITH JESUS CHRIST

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship:

Let us lift our eyes to the Lord.

And let us turn our hearts toward God.

This is the day our God has made.

We will trust in the Lord and be unafraid.

Call upon the name of God.

And God will answer even your faintest cry.

Opening Hymn (Responsively): Phrases from *Abide with Me*
Organ (first 8 measures)

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Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The earth's shadows deepen, Lord, with me abide.

Organ (second 8 measures)

**When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

Organ (first 8 measures)

Women: **I need your presence every passing hour;**
Men: **I need your grace to foil the tempter's power.**

Organ (second 8 measures)

Right side: **Change and decay in all around I see;**
Left side: **O Christ who changes not, abide with me.**

All: **In life, in death, O Christ, abide with me.**

Organ

*Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Lord God Almighty, whose character is majestic and beyond our poor capacity to understand, we have prayed earnestly that you abide with us, for we need your presence every passing hour, as the hymn says. But we acknowledge that we are not worthy to be in your presence or to have you in ours. Forgive all our subtle and open rebellion against you, and forgive especially our pridefulness that bristled just now at the suggestion of our unworthiness and which balked at the idea of our rebellion. Speak the word of pardon that welcomes and sets us free; then open our lips and our mouths shall declare your praise. We make this appeal through Jesus, the one and only Redeemer. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon with *Gloria* (Responsively):

Almighty God has forgiven you all your sins and has promised to bring you to everlasting life.

Almighty God has forgiven you all your sins and has promised to bring you to everlasting life.

Amen.

And Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Handbell Anthem: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* [Eithun]

Ceremony of Infant Dedication *Ephraam Wesley Bahr*

Pastoral Prayer and 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 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.

Recorded Hymn: *Be Still, My Soul* Chancel Choir

*Dedication of Gifts (Unison):

Your faithfulness sustains us, O God, and makes us strong for every moment of every day, whether it be a moment of triumph or one of trouble. We cannot get by – we simply *cannot* get by without you – and we bring you these gifts in token of the gratitude your gifts instill within our hearts and lives. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 21:1-5a

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them as their God;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

Sermon: God's Ministry of Change

And the one who is seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Rev. 21:5a

*Hymn of Benediction (Responsively): *God Be with You* (v. 3)

God be with you till we meet again;

When life's perils thick confound you,

Put unfailing arms around you:

God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude

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

STAFF

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THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Today, May 2

1PM - Youth Zoom Meeting (Garden)

7PM - Adult Sunday School

Monday, May 3

6:30PM - YMT

Tuesday, May 4

7PM - Gifts of Joy Journaling Group

Wednesday, May 5

6:30PM - Confirmation

Sunday, May 9

Mother's Day

No Sunday School (Pre-K - HS)

10:30-11:15AM - In-Person Worship

7PM - Adult Sunday School (Zoom)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AT YOUR SERVICE

Do you need assistance with lawn mowing, yardwork, outdoor painting, or dog walking? The youth of Salem would like to serve you and they are looking for opportunities to help their Salem community by providing any work that can be done outdoors, or in an otherwise Covid- safe environment. Please contact Sarah Pundt (spundt@saalemchurchverona.org) for more information or to schedule a service.

ANNUAL MEETING, SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION

The Annual Meeting of the Southwest Wisconsin Association will take place over Zoom on May 8 from 9 until noon. If you would like to be a delegate or a visitor to this meeting, let Mark know and he will send in your registration.

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