



SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

An Open and Affirming Congregation

October 11, 2020

Consecration Sunday

**CELEBRATING THE GIFTS OF GOD AND CONSECRATING OURSELVES TO GOD
GATHERING AS STEWARDS BETTER TOGETHER IN MISSION!**

Prelude:

Welcome

Introit

Call to Worship (Responsively):

Come, you stewards of the gifts of God.

Come with thanksgiving for God's abundant hand of generosity.

Come with dedication to God's mission of justice and righteousness.

Come with love's offering of itself in glad stewardship and joyful discipleship.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Ever-giving God, we come to praise you for the gifts that enrich our living and to dedicate ourselves to the kind of stewardship that can enrich the lives of others. Send your Spirit to guide us in this glad and joyous work that we may move forward in this congregation's mission of witnessing to the word and work of Jesus that all people may know the welcome of God, worship with joy, grow as disciples, live as servants, and enjoy the strength of Christian fellowship, all to your glory. Amen.

Hymn:

We Praise You, O God

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

God of faithfulness, you are more faithful to us than we are to you. We seek your pardon for the unfaithfulness that is rampant in the world, and for our part in it. For every open door to greed, to the unfair advantage of one over another, to the exploitation of the environment, and to the neglect of justice and the higher righteousness, O Lord, have mercy. Forgive us for all we have cheapened and for all we have unduly inflated with false value. We ask this with Christ in mind, and pleading for the amazing grace he proclaimed. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hymn: *Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing* (vs. 5)

**Praise God who rules all worlds, the risen Christ adore,
Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God for evermore!
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.**

Passing the Peace

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

**It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.**

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there God ordained the blessing,

the blessing of life forevermore.

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.**

Scripture Reading:

Acts 2:41-45

Chancel Choir Anthem: *Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)*

A Reading: *Stride Towards Freedom* by Martin Luther King

Agape is love seeking to preserve and create community. It is insistence on community even when one seeks to break it. Agape is a willingness to sacrifice in the interest of mutuality. Agape is a willingness to go to any length to restore community. It doesn't stop at the first mile, but it goes the second mile to restore community. It is a willingness to forgive, not seven times, but seventy times seven to restore community. The cross is the eternal expression of the length to which God will go in order to restore broken community. The resurrection is a symbol of God's triumph over all the forces that seek to block community. The Holy Spirit is the continuing community creating reality that moves through history.

Sermon:

The Rev. Andrew Warner

The Act of Consecration

Prayer of Preparation

Distribution of Pledge Cards

Completion and Return of Pledge Cards

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Receive, O God, our pledges to be faithful stewards who share in the life and ministry of this congregation of your people. Strengthen our resolve and help us to move faithfully forward in that united and unbroken line that moves forward through the ages in the cause of love and justice. Amen.

Hymn: *Forward through the Ages*

Benediction

Benediction Response

Postlude

Please remain in your place. "Fellowship hour" treats will be distributed to each vehicle during the Postlude

Announcement of the BETTER TOGETHER Amount Pledged Today

The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.**

Dismissal

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Yurs, Pastor
Dawn Lingard, Organist/Pianist

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