



SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

An Open and Affirming Congregation

October 3, 2021

World Communion Sunday

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Stewardship Moment

Nathan Bahr

*The Call to Worship (Responsively):

We come on World Communion Sunday to the Lord's Table, not because of our worthiness, but because of Christ's call to us.

We join with Christians of all times and all places in expressing our need for the wholeness and purpose of Jesus Christ.

Let us now rejoice that the realms of this world have become the Realm of our Lord Jesus Christ,

And that he will rule us forever and ever.

Praise the Lord!

The Lord's Name be praised!

Hymn:

O Word of God Incarnate

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O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
We praise you for the radiance
that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps,
shines on from age to age.

O God, we hold this treasure
from you, its source divine,
A light that to all ages
throughout the earth will shine;
It is the chart and compass
that all life's voyage through,
'mid mists and rocks and tempest,
still guides, O God, to you.,

O make your church, dear Savior,
a lamp of purest gold,
to bear before all people
your true light as of old!
O teach your wandering pilgrims
by this their path to trace,
'till, doubt and striving ended,
they meet you face to face.

*Prayer of Confession (Responsively):

Great God: You have heard our prayers. We need not heap up phrases to persuade you, for you know our needs before we ask.

We ask only to be quiet and centered so that we may accept your healing and be channels of that peace and healing to others.

We pray for ourselves. We bring to you discouragements and worries we need to let go of, and strengths to say thanks for and to celebrate.

Keep us from getting down on ourselves when we feel the burden of failure, and nudge us to new aspiring when we get too comfortable and complacent.

Make us strong to handle each day's tasks, one day at a time. And keep us clear-eyed to see the right path to walk in.

You are God of the whole world, and so we pray for people far away as well as those near to us. Especially for sisters and brothers whose prayers are anguished today because they suffer violence or want, hunger or fearfulness. Give them a future and a hope. Make wars to cease unto the ends of the earth:

Shatter the spear

Break the bow

Burn the chariots in the fire.

And bring the day long-promised, when earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God as waters cover the sea. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon (Responsively):

(from Isaiah 54:10)

"For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,

And my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you."

In the Name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

In the Name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Gospel Reading:

Mark 10: 13-16

Communion Meditation:

"Faith Like a Child"

Dr. Robinson

Call to Offering – **The Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering**

Prayer of Dedication for the **Neighbors in Need Offering**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion:

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration and the Lord's Prayer:

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

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.

Words of Institution

Act of Communing

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison):

**Lord God, we have experienced Your grace;
we have heard the words of life.**

**Now we are commissioned to do what we have heard and seen;
we are called to serve in Christ's name.**

**Equipped with the assurance of Your presence,
may we reach out to others, now and always.**

**Confronted by Christ's calling,
may we seek the bond of unity and the ministry of peace.**

We will praise You, Our God, in our daily walk.

With every step, we remember Your faithfulness.

Hymn: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

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Beams of heaven, as I go,
Through this wilderness of woe,
Guide my heart in peaceful ways,
Turn my midnights into days;
When in life's shadows I would grope,
Faith always finds a star of hope,
And soon from all life's grief and danger,
I shall be free some day.

Refrain:

I do not know how long 'twill be,
Nor what the future holds for me,
But this I know, if Jesus leads me,
I shall get home some day.

Oftentimes my sky is clear,
Joy abounds without a tear,
Though a day so bright begun,
Cloud's may hide tomorrow's sun.
There'll be a day that's always bright,
A day that never yields to night,
And in its light the streets of glory
I shall behold some day. [Refrain]

Burdens now may crush me down,
Disappointments all around,
Troubles speak in mournful sigh,
Sorrow through a tear-stained eye.
There is a world where pleasure reigns,
No mourning soul shall roam its plains,
And to that land of peace and glory,
I want to go some day. [Refrain]

*Benediction

Postlude

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

Scripture Reading

Mark 10:13-16

¹³ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

STAFF

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THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Wednesday, October 6 6-6:30PM - BRC
6:30-7PM - Chancel

Sunday, October 10 Consecration Sunday
9AM - Sunday School
10:15AM - Worship
5-7:30PM - Youth Fall Party

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Next Sunday, October 10, we will dedicate our stewardship pledges for 2022.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS STILL NEEDED

We still need several people to serve in our Sunday school program. You pick the age group you prefer to teach, and you choose when and how often you teach. Please consider giving the gift of time to our Christian Education ministry. Please contact Sarah Pundt spundt@salemchurchverona.org.

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.

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