**Salem United Church of Christ Moorestown**

**Church Office (610) 759-1652 – www.salemuccbathpa.org**

**Pastor Kaye Lentz, (610)217-0041, email:SalemPastor2218@yahoo.com**

**Lisa Abruzzese, Organist/Choir Director, (610) 217-4234**

**Ministers of the Church – Every Member of Salem UCC**

**April 12, 2020 - Easter Sunday Worship**

**Musical Selections**

**Welcome to Virtual Worship**

**Musical Trio *“Easter Hallelujah”* Ed & Morgan Taylor, Bruce Roth *(see attached)***

**Call to Worship**

One: Today the world is made new!

**All: Today we hear the songs of birds and angels, praising God!**

One: Today we recognize the signs of life all around us.

**All: Life that cannot be held back or destroyed; life that resists all**

 **the powers of death; life that rises triumphant!**

One: If we did not sing, this day, all of Creation would still vibrate with life.

**All: The buds would burst, the streams would chatter, the very**

 **stones would sing forth the glory of our God!**

One: Let us give all praise to the one who grants eternal life as a present

 possibility!

**All: Let us sing praises to the one whose love is more powerful**

 **than all the powers of this world!**

One: Praise to God, for death is conquered!

**All: Praise to God, for love endures!**

One: Praise to God, all the Earth!

**All: Praise to God, all Creation!**

One: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**All: Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Music – Hymn # 288 – “*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” (2 verses) (see attached)***

**Prayer of Confession**

**All: On this morning of hallelujahs, we must confess how human we are, O God.  We have failed to do good when we had the chance.  We have refused to forgive. We easily accept the witness of the angel in the tomb, but find it difficult to share this good news with our friends and neighbors. Bring us new life; where we are tired and stressed, give us the energy to serve others.**

*(continued)*

**Transform our unforgiving hearts into fountains of grace; forgive us of all the wrongs we have done, and fill us with the joy of your Spirit.  In the name of Jesus Christ, who gives us new life, we pray. Hear now our silent confessions*…(****silence is kept)*

**Assurance of Pardon**
One: God, our Creator, gives us new life. On this Easter Day and every day, we walk as God’s people, forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God.  Amen.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Children’s Message**

**Called By Name – *based on John 20:1-18***

 **Drama – “The Angels Discuss It” Morgan and Ed Taylor**

**Today’s Message**

**Music – Hymn # 298 –** *“The Day of Resurrection” 2 verses* ***(see attached)***

**Offering –** We have witnessed Christ’s resurrection. We have been given new life. How will we dedicate ourselves to living as a people of peace; as a people of hope; as a people of God’s holy and grace-filled love? May all that we do reflect the love that has been poured out upon us. I invite you at this time to consider ways to express your thankfulness by giving of your time and talents in new ways in this time of social distancing.

 I also ask you to consider how you will offer your tithes and offerings at this time as well – some options are:

* on-line giving available through our website or your smartphone,
* mail check in weekly or
* set aside your offering each week until we can meet again in the building.

**Prayer**

**Celebration of the Lord’s Supper**

**Invitation**

One: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death. He appeared to Mary Magdalene, and on that same day he sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**All: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, from the east and the west, from the north and the south, gather about Christ’s table that is set in many places.**

One: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God’s people.

**Communion Prayer**

 One: God *is* with you.

 **All: And also with you.**

 One: Lift up your hearts.

 **All: We lift them up to God**.

 One: Let us give thanks to God Most High

 **All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

 One: Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ’s birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world.

**Words of Institution**

One: We remember that on the night our Lord was betrayed, he took a loaf of bread. And having given thanks he broke it and gave it to the disciples saying, “This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same manner after supper he took the cup and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ’s death, celebrate Christ’s resurrection, and await Christ’s coming again.

**All: Amen. Come Christ Jesus!**

One: Gracious God, bless now, by your Word and Spirit, all these gifts that have been gathered near and far. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt and light and leaven, for your will to be done in all the world.

**All: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit**

**Resurrection Acclamation**

One: Alleluia! Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one.

**All: I died, and behold I am alive for evermore. Alleluia.**

**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, Forever. Amen.

**Call to Supper**

 Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

 Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

 Here on this table and there on your table are the gifts of God for you the

 people of God. All things are now ready.

**Sharing of The Elements**

 This bread, and the bread on your table, is the bread of life, blessed by the spirit and given for you. Take and eat. (silence)

And this cup and the cup before you, blessed by the Spirit, is the cup of the New Covenant poured out for you. Take and drink. (silence)

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** (in unison)

Gracious God, thank you for the gift of resurrection. Thank you for sharing your bread of life and your cup of blessing. Grant us strength and grace to serve you and to share the wonderful news of your resurrection with others. Amen.

**Music – Hymn # 302** *“He Lives”* ***(see attached)***

**Benediction**

May the loving power of God, which raised Jesus to new life, strengthen you in hope, enrich you with love, and fill you with joy. Amen.

*\*Portions of this worship were adapted from ”Seasons of the Spirit”. “Liturgy Link”*

Pastor Kaye would like to express her appreciation to the rest of the Virtual Worship Team for their assistance in creating our virtual worship services. Thanks to Lisa Abruzzese, Ed and Morgan Taylor and Bruce Roth. ***\*\*Please note that we are practicing strict social distancing throughout the filming of these services.***

Credits for the photos used during ‘Easter Hallelujah’ go out to Wendi Myers, Vicki Troxell, Kerry Bernstein, Kaye Lentz, Kyle Taylor and Ed Taylor. All photos were taken at Salem UCC or on our personal property.

**Easter Hallelujah** *written by Kelley Mooney and used with her permission*

A crown of thorns placed on His head
He knew that He would soon be dead
He said did you forget me Father did you?
They nailed Him to a wooden cross
Soon all the world would feel the loss
Of Christ the [King](https://www.elyricsworld.com/hallelujah_lyrics_easter.html) before His Hallelujah

(Chorus) Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

He hung His head and prepared to die
Then lifted His face up to the sky
Said I am coming home now Father to you
A reed which held His final sip
Was gently lifted to his lips
He drank His last and gave His soul to glory

(Chorus) Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

The soldier who had used his sword
To pierce the body of our Lord
Said truly this is Jesus Christ our Savior
He looked with fear upon his sword
Then turned to face his Christ and Lord
Fell to his knees crying Hallelujah

(Chorus) Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Took from his head the thorny crown
And wrapped him in a linen gown
And laid him down to rest inside the tomb
The holes in his hands, his feet and side
Now in our hearts we know he died
To save us from ourselves oh hallelujah

(Chorus) Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Three days went by again they came
To move the stone to bless the slain
With oil and spice anointing hallelujah
But as they went to move the stone
They saw that they were not alone
But Jesus Christ has risen Hallelujah

(Chorus) Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah





****