**Salem United Church of Christ Moorestown**

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

**August 23, 2020**

**Please note that in order to protect ourselves and each other:**

* *Masks, covering our nose and mouth, will be worn during the entire service.*
* *There will be no congregational singing during hymns or responses. This is our opportunity to enjoy Lisa’s musical talents.*
* *During the passing of the peace, we will remain seated and share the peace of Christ by waving or sharing the peace sign.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Who do you say I am?
**All:   Some say Moses, some say Elijah,**

 **Prophet who comes with a word from the Holy.**

One: Who do you say I am?
**All:   Some say Messiah, some say “Human One”, Healer who shares the life**

 **of the Holy.**

One: Who do you say I am?
**All:   Some say Emmanuel, God-with-us,**

 **Some say Wisdom, teacher of truth,**

 **Some say Ruler of Peace, Bringer of Justice.**

One: And you, Salem UCC in Moorestown, who do you say I am?
**All:**   **You are the Body to which we belong;**
 **We are your members, each needed, each treasured.**
 **In you we are transformed into your Hope, your Love, your Vision,**

 **You are the One we long for, the One we seek here today,**
 **The One who empowers our lives.**

One: Come, Let us worship!

**OPENING PRAYER**

**All:**  **O Lord, you bind us together in love, to learn, to be healed, to grow, to**

 **serve. Be with us this day and open our hearts to the amazing**

 **opportunities to help others through the gifts we possess. In Jesus’**

 **glorious name, we pray. Amen.**

**PLAYING OF HYMN #43** *“ Majesty”*

**A TIME OF CONFESSION**

**All: It is so easy for us, Lord, to diminish the gifts you have given us. We have**

 **come to believe that either we are experts in some areas or we know**

 **nothing. Each of us has been given special talents and gifts that can be**

 **used to help others, but for some reason we have chosen not to use**

 **these gifts, deciding that they are unimportant or not needed. Forgive us**

 **when we make decisions not to act. Help us look at the blessings that**

 **you have poured into our lives and to discover the special talents that we**

 **have. Open the doorways of service and let the gates swing wide , that**

 **we may go forth to serve you in this world**. **Hear now our silent**

 **confessions.** *(Silence is kept)*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

One: Each one of us has been blessed with unique talents. The Lord has need of our

 talents, our energies, our spirits in the world in which we live.

**All: Trusting in God’s forgiveness, we place our trust in God’s loving**

 **guidance and open our hearts to serve God. Amen.**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE!**

Leader: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you!**

Leader: Share the peace of Christ with one another *(stay in place, wave or make the*

 *peace sign)*

**TODAY’S SCRIPTURE LESSONS Romans 12:1-8**

 **Matthew 16:13-20**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

**PLAYING OF HYMN #593** *“Lord, Speak to Me”*

**OFFERING** *(Virtual only)–*I invite you at this time to consider ways to express your thankfulness for all that God provides by giving of your time and talents in new ways in this time. I also ask you to consider how you will offer your tithes and offerings to support the ministry of our church 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 and mail it in monthly. Thank you.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION.** *(In Grove Only)*

**All: Generous God who always gives to each one of us the best, we thank you for this opportunity to share from our abundance. Bless these gifts, offered through the ministries and mission of this church. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER** (debts and debtors)

**PLAYING OF HYMN #719** *“Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

**\*BENEDICTION**

One: The world awaits the love and gifts you have to offer.

 Go forth in joy and peace to be God’s disciples this day and all your days.

 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

**\*THREE FOLD AMEN** *(played by Lisa)*

**\*POSTLUDE**

 *In order to keep a safe distance, please remain seated until an usher directs you to leave. Thank you!*

*\* Portions of this worship service were adapted from “Season of the Spirit”, “Reworship”,*