**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: How shall we get along with one another in this world?
**All: The Apostle Paul said that our love should be genuine. We should hate what**

 **is evil and hold fast to what is good.**
One: We should honor one another with kindness and compassion.
**All: We should always be strong in our enthusiasm to serve God.**
One: Come, let us joyfully worship God in all that we do.
**All: Let us praise God in our words, our thoughts, and our actions. Amen.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**All:** **Lord of summer sunshine and autumn harvest, be with us this day as we**

 **gather to encounter your word and your way for us. Remind us that we**

 **can place our trust in your eternal love.  Enable us to be more effective**

 **in our witness to that love by word and deed.  Guide our steps and pick**

 **us up when we falter. Dust us off and place us on the pathways of grace**

 **and service. These things we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**PLAYING OF HYMN #9** *“ Come, Let Us Praise the Lord”*

**A TIME OF CONFESSION**

**All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not always lived up to the**

 **example set by your Son, Jesus set for us. It is hard for us to truly love**

 **the people around us and especially those we consider enemies; to care**

 **as deeply for their well-being as for our own, to delight in their good**

 **fortune without feeling envious. Often we act out of our own self-**

 **interest; putting our needs and desires ahead of the needs of others,**

 **hoarding our resources rather than sharing them freely. We confess how**

 **easy it is to do what we know is wrong: to rationalize our bad decisions**

 **and behaviors, to make excuses for our hurtful words and actions. You**

 **call us to turn away from the behaviors and attitudes of the world**

 **around us; and to be renewed and transformed by your grace at work in**

 **our lives. Through Your Holy Spirit, continue the work that you have**

 **begun in us, so that our words and deeds may bring honor and glory to**

 **you. Hear now our silent confessions.** *(Silence is kept)*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

One: In the power of the burning bush, in the quiet stillness, in the everyday noises of

 living, God is calling to each one of us, offering forgiveness and telling us to trust

 in the gifts of love, kindness and generosity which God has bestowed on us.

**All: We are forgiven, beloved and blessed by God to be a blessing to others.**

 **Let us rejoice!**

**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 Exodus 3:1-15**

 **Romans 12:9-21**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

**PLAYING OF HYMN #461** *“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”*

**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: We make our offerings, small and large, with the hope and confidence
that all we do, all we offer, all we say, all we think, and all we hope, will take root in this world and be the source of new expressions of God’s love, of God’s justice, of God’s character, of God’s mission, and of God’s reign. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

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

**PLAYING OF HYMN #719** *“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

**\*BENEDICTION**

One: Go boldly into the world in the confidence that God goes with you,

 Guiding your steps in paths of peace and healing.

 Bring the good news of God’s love to all you meet.

 Go in peace. AMEN.

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

**\*POSTLUDE**

 *In order to keep everyone safe, please keep a distance of 6 feet between you and others as you leave the worship space. Thank you!*

*\* Portions of this worship service were adapted from “Season of the Spirit”, “Ministry Matters:Worship Connection”,* “[*pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org”*](https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/)