**Salem United Church of Christ Moorestown**

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

**August 9, 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: In a world that often feels overwhelmed by waves of bad news,

**All: We often feel like disciples at sea – tossed and turned in the chaos of**

**current events.**

One: But we are part of a dream – we are part of God’s great dream!

**All: And we are not alone in this time of storms and turmoil.**

One: There is a presence reaching into our lives, offering calm and peace and hope.

**All: There is a dream that is being fulfilled through our lives; God’s dream of**

**abundant life.**

One: Come, Disciples of Christ, let us hold tight to the vessel of faith and the dream of

possibilities; and let us be God’s people in worship.

**All: For in our worship, we reach new shores; and in our worship, God’s**

**dream is fulfilled.**

One: Come, let us worship in hopeful anticipation and faith.

**OPENING PRAYER**

One: Here we are, Holy Dreamer, your people. Here we are, carrying our dreams in our spirits, and at the same time wondering what your dream is for us. Here we are, tossed about in a sea of anxiety and conflict, holding fast to the edges of our known reality, yet hopeful that even our current uncertainty and anguish is somehow part of your great dream for humanity and this planet.

**All: Come to us, we pray, as Jesus came to the disciples in that stormy sea many years ago. Come to us, as Reuben came to the rescue of his brother, Joseph. Come to us and bring your calming touch and faithful presence into our awareness. Enter our boat and be in our midst in ways so tangible that we have no more room for doubt or fear. Come to us, and anchor our confidence in your grace. Amen.**

**PLAYING OF HYMN #23** *“All Creatures of Our God and King”*

**A TIME OF CONFESSION**

**All: Our dreams have been small, Loving God. We confess that we have not believed ourselves to be worthy of the bigger dreams that linger in our imaginations and knock at the doors of our hearts. We have allowed our fears and self-doubt to diminish our courage. We have allowed our past experiences of failure to define how we see the future. We have allowed resentments of others’ success to get in the way of wonderful possibilities in your grace. Forgive us, and dance in our dreams once more. Whisper your wisdom as we sleep so that we arise with hope renewed. Spark our waking hours with visions of what is possible, so that we act with faith and confidence. Help us enable fruition of all good dreams, even those of our brothers and sisters, toward healing this world, and strengthening all relations. Forgive us and help us to dream again. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: The great good news is that each of us is part of God’s great dream. When we

approach God in confession, God’s dream is closer to being realized.

**All: Let us stand tall in knowing that we are each important to God’s good**

**dream of wholeness. We are loved, forgiven, made new. 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** Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Matthew 14:22-33

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE by Vicki Troxell**

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

**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: God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives we offer these gifts to you.  
Through your blessing and our willingness to share, may these offerings become a source for hope and love in this church family, and in the community beyond us. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

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

**PLAYING OF THE COMMUNION HYMN #689** *“One Bread, One Body”*

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

***THE INVITATION***

One: He was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha, and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, he was always the guest. At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest. But here, here at this table we are the guests. And here, at this table, Jesus is the host. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him; those who want to follow him must first be fed by him. This is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new. So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be the guests at his.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING***

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 God thanks and praise.

**All: Let us give God thanks and praise!**

One: We give you thanks, Holy God, our Creator, for bringing the worlds into being, for forming us in your likeness, for recalling us when we rebel against you, and for keeping the world in your steadfast love. We praise you especially for Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory. We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your Holy Name.

**All: Strengthen us by this meal for the journey ahead, that we might continue to walk with Christ , continue to live as Chris lived and to love as Christ loved.. In the name of Jesus, who shares this table with us even now, we pray. Amen.**

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION***

One: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, while among friends, as they shared a meal, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks, he broke the bread, 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 way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying; "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me".

Therefore let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**All: Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again!**

***THE BLESSING***

One: Knowing that these gifts have been blessed by your Word and Spirit, bless us as well, that in receiving them at this time, and offering here our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and one another, and remain faithful to the tasks he sets before us.

**All: In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, Eternal God and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.**

***BREAKING BREAD AND POURING THE CUP***

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

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

These are the gifts of God for you, the people of God.

Come, for all things are now ready.

***SHARING THE ELEMENTS***

The Bread of Life, given for you.

The Cup of Blessing poured out for you.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING***

One: Let us pray:

**All: In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. Amen.**

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

**\*BENEDICTION**

One: And now as you go our into the world to love and serve the Lord,

May Jesus take you by the hand,

May the Spirit lift up your life.

And may God surprise you along the way.

Go in peace. 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”, “Liturgies for the Journey of Life”, “Reworship”,* [*pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au*](https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/)