**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**

**Confirmation Sunday**

**September 13, 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: God of wind and fire,  
**All: When you send your Spirit, we are created anew.**  
One: God of mighty oceans and still waters,  
**All: When we receive your baptism, we are born anew.**  
One: God of bread and wine,  
**All: When we eat at your table, we are nourished anew.**  
One: So pour out your Spirit  
**All: Let sacred waters flow**  
One: Fill us with holy food.  
**All: May our hearts and our hands be open wide to receive your gifts of life.**

**Amen.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**All:** **We give you thanks for all the ways that you bless our lives: the beauty and abundance of nature, the love of family and friends, the joy of knowing you and hearing your word. Send Your Spirit during this time of worship**

**so that we might dream your dreams and see visions of the world as you created it to be. Guide our thoughts and actions. Bring us closer to you so that we might do your will and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

**PLAYING OF HYMN #134** *“ Sweet, Sweet Spirit”*

**A TIME OF CONFESSION**

**All: Almighty God, you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples creating bold tongues, open ears, and a new community of faith. We confess that we hold back the force of your Spirit among us. We do not listen for your word of grace, speak the good news of your love, or live as a people made one in Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit, and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people, doing your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Hear now our silent confessions.** *(Silence is kept)*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has

begun. Believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**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)*

**\*2019/2020 CONFIRMATION CLASS - STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**We believe in God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, as they exist together. We believe that God created all of us, has a plan for our lives, is always there, and is in everything no matter where we are.**

**We believe that Jesus is God’s son. He came to earth in human form to live the human experience and understand us better. Jesus was crucified for our sins, died, was resurrected and ascended into heaven. He came to earth to teach us, lead us and increase our faith. He always welcomes us, even if we are lost.**

**We believe that the Holy Spirit is the link between God and Jesus, and the link between God and us. The Holy Spirit acts as our conscience, and prompts our movements in life.**

**We believe that the church is wherever the people of God gather. In that community we become closer to God, hear each other’s confessions and listen to and pray for each other.**

**CONFIRMATION LEADER’S MESSAGE**

**RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

***INVITATION***

Leader: We invite those who wish to affirm their baptism by being confirmed to come forward.

Adison Mae Faust Adam Michael Kutzura

Braiden Terry Faust Isaac Dean Kutzura

Abigail Jeanette Loch Makayla Morgan Silfies

Leader: Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These young people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Hear the words of Jesus: I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

***QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES***

Pastor: Adison, Braiden, Abigail, Adam, Isaac and Makayla, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

**Candidates: I do.**

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

**Candidates: I do.**

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

**Candidates: I do.**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ’s disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

**Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ’s presence and furthering Christ’s mission in all the world?

**Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH*** *(All who are able please rise)*

Leader: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

**People: I believe in God.**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.** *(The congregation may be seated.)*

***PRAYER OF THE CANDIDATES***

**Pastor and Candidates: O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THE CONGREGATION***

**People: God, who in baptism received Caryn and Jessie into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

***ACT OF CONFIRMATION*** *(candidates and their parents will be invited to come forward one at a time for the laying on of hands. Parents will lay hands on their child as the pastor offers the following blessing.)*

Pastor: Strengthen, O God, your servant, (confirmand’s name). May your Holy Spirit help *her/him* to grow in faith, hope, and love, so *he/she* may know peace, truth, and goodness. May *his/her* ears hear your voice. May *his/her* eyes see your presence in all things. May *his/her* lips proclaim your word. May *his/her* heart be your dwelling place. May *his/her* hands do your work. May her feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

***PRAYER:***

Leader: Let us pray. We rejoice, O merciful God, with these confirmands, in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit’s power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into fullness of life. We give you thanks that they have been moved to affirm their baptism. Help them to live not for themselves but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep them steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen.**

***QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION***

Leader: (to candidates) By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Do each of you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God’s people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

**Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.**

***WELCOME*** *(Members of Salem UCC who are able please rise)*

Pastor: Let us, the members of Salem UCC, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**People: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

*(the congregation may be seated)*

***GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE***

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Salem UCC, we extend to you a heartfelt greeting, expressing our Christian love for you as you begin a new phase in journey of faith. Congratulations!

***PRAYER***

Pastor: O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. We thank you for Jessie and Caryn, and look forward to working together in serving the needs of others. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen.**

**TODAY’S SCRIPTURE LESSONS Acts 2:1-21**

**James 1:22-25**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

**PLAYING OF HYMN #580** *“We Are Called to Be God’s People”*

**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: Bless, O God, the gifts that we bring this day, that they may be a sign of our commitment to your kingdom and a pledge of our love for you and your world. Multiply the work done by our time, treasures and talents that your presence and compassion may be known in all the earth.** **Amen.**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

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

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

***THE INVITATION***

One: At the Last Supper, Jesus, sharing bread and wine, invited the disciples to share his journey. Here, today, through bread and wine, we renew our journey with Jesus and his disciples. Here, today, through bread and wine, we renew our unity with one another, and with all those who have gone before us. Here, today, through bread and wine, we are the invited guests, and Jesus is our host. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who are here for the first time, you who have been here often and you who have not been here for a while; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; Come. Christ invites each one of us to meet him here.

***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: Holy God, we give thanks for Jesus of Nazareth, gatherer of folk, teller of stories, breaker of bread, pourer of wine, weaver of lives. In his life, wisdom, stories and social vision we recall the words he spoke to call forth in us love, care and respect for one another:

**All: And we believe the same Spirit of God that came to visibility in Jesus yearns for visible expression in us.**

One: With hearts lifted high, with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea, and sky, we praise you. With the angels of light who envelop us, with all the saints before and beside us, with brothers and sisters, east and west, we thank you. And with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we join together in praise of your unending greatness:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!**

***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".

One: Therefore let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

***THE BLESSING*** One: Holy God, bless now, by your Word and Spirit, both us and these gifts of bread and wine, 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***

He whose table was open to all is now present in this bread.

He whose word welcomed friend and stranger offers friendship through this cup.

These are the gifts of God for 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: Thank you, Jesus, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are**

**strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts. We are now commissioned to: feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**PLAYING OF HYMN #559** *“Here I Am, Lord”*

**\*BENEDICTION**

One: May the blessing of God be with you, the love of Jesus fill you, and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you, now and forevermore. 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 “UCC Worship Ways”, “REworship”, “Faith and Worship.com”* , “[*pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org”*](https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/)