**Salem United Church of Christ Moorestown**

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

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

**September 27, 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: We lift up our souls to you, Holy God.

**All: We trust the Lord with our past, present, and future.**

One: Teach us, Lord, that we may know your ways.

**All: Guide our every move, Holy One, that we may walk in your paths of**

 **love and mercy.**

One: Let us worship the One who leads us in what is right.

**All: Together, let us worship God!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**All:** **Holy God, we thank you that you promise to be with us always. Thank**

**you that your presence is with us right now. Today we give you our hearts, our minds and our lives. Come speak your words of life into our beings. We pray that you would deepen our comprehension, broaden our thinking, and transform our understanding of what we experience today. For you are our wise counsellor, our perfect teacher and our faithful friend. Amen.**

**PLAYING OF HYMN #51** *“How Great Thou Art”*

**A TIME OF CONFESSION**

**All: God of patience, your people grow weary. We complain and question.
We put you to the test. Our mouths say yes, but our deeds say no. When we wander off your path, when we fail to follow through on our good intentions, when we give our attention to trivial things; gently call us back to you. Empty our hearts of anger and pride. Empty our souls of greed and selfishness. Empty our minds of envy, doubt, and mistrust. As you poured out your very self through your beloved Son, pour your Spirit into our hearts today. Forgive us our wrongdoing. Reclaim us with your love. Hear now our silent confessions.** *(Silence is kept)*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

One: Friends in Christ, our God is patient, steadfast, and understanding. Christ hears our cries of repentance. The Lord knows our hearts, inside and out. The One who created us, promises to care for us, even when we turn away. Hear these words of forgiveness; in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**All: We are strengthened to walk as disciples. 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)*

**TODAY’S SCRIPTURE LESSONS Philippians 2:1-13**

 **Matthew 21:23-32**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

**PLAYING OF HYMN #350** *“The Summons”*

**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: Faithful God, we gratefully acknowledge that you are the giver of all things.  You call us to share these gifts so that we may experience the joy and humility of giving to others.  We pray that this very act of offering our gifts to you will enable us to be obedient disciples of your work.  Bless these gifts and we who give them.  Trusting in your heavenly grace, we pray.  Amen.**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

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

**PLAYING OF HYMN #344** *“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”*

**\*BENEDICTION**

One: May your days be blessed by moments of quietness,
 Light in your darkness,
 Strength in your weakness,
 Grace in your meekness,
 Joy in your gladness,
 And peace in your stillness.
 Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord. 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 “Ministry Matters”, “The Worship Closet”, “prayerscapes”, “edge of enclosure”, “davidsbell.org”.*