**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**

**World Communion Sunday**

**October 4, 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.*
* *If restrooms are needed, please use the ones below the Sanctuary steps.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER**

One: Around the world people gather to break bread and pour the wine.

**All: We gather with them in heart and mind.**

One: Around the world the broken body is made whole.

**All: As part of that body we join in its unity.**

One: Around the world the Banquet of God is prepared for the table.

**All: We, who share in the banquet, come eagerly to be fed.**

One: Let us worship together, let us share God’s bounty.

**All: Let us pray…**

**Almighty God, even as the drums of warfare beat in parts of the world,**

**even as the cries of injustice can be heard, even as the hustle of**

**busyness rumbles through the day, quiet our hearts. Still our thoughts.**

**Join us in our worship. Remember us in your mercy as we try to**

**remember you, through the proclamation of your good news and through**

**the hospitality of your gracious table. Welcome us again, God of all**

**people, Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**PLAYING OF HYMN #72** *“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

One: Great indeed is the faithfulness of God, and yet our hearts are not so reliable. We

wander. We argue. We forget. We divide ourselves with anger and bitterness and

falsehood. Rather than uniting, we choose sides. Let’s try to come back together

again, and let’s start with the truth. Let’s confess our sins, to God, and also, to

each other.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Almighty God, God of mercy, God of grace: You have called us to**

**one table, but we have pursued our own course. You have promised us**

**the abundance of all creation, but in our greed, and in our envy, the**

**world goes without. You have promised us the bread of life itself, but in**

**our pride, and in our arrogance, the world goes hungry. You have**

**promised us the waters of peace and justice, but in our violence, and in**

**our discord, the world goes thirsty. And now we are famished, too, Lord.**

**Have mercy on us. Forgive us, again. Transform us, at this table, and for**

**this table, and send us from this table as servants of your righteousness,**

**by the power of your Son, our Lord. Amen. Hear now our silent**

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

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

One: Even when our cups run dry, God’s grace overflows. Even when our plates are

empty, God’s generosity overflows. And even when our hearts feel barren, God’s

love overflows. Friends, we have been called and claimed by the God of all

people, and by the abundance of God’s grace. By the power of God’s love,

our sins have been forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to 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)*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(adapted from the Belhar Confession)*

**We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the unity of the communion of saints of the entire human family. And we believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifest and active, in that we love one another; that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another, that we share one baptism together, that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together, that we confess one name, one Lord, for one cause, with one hope, which is the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ, forever and ever. Amen.**

**TODAY’S SCRIPTURE LESSONS Psalm 133**

**1 John 4:9-11**

**John 17:17-23, 26**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

**OFFERING** *(for those worshipping virtually)–*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.**

**All: Gracious God, you create more than we could ever hope to return. You share more than we could ever hope to deserve. And yet, we pray, accept these humble gifts. May they honor and glorify you in all creation, and may they empower us for the work of witness and service, for the sake of justice, and for the sake of peace. In Jesus 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**

Leader: It began last night- as you were going to bed—World Communion Sunday. Asian Christians shared the bread and the wine. Churches in China met in secret so that they would not be arrested. Christians in the Middle East, some of whom were saved only by having dreams of Jesus, met under the watchful eye of the government as they celebrated the Eucharist. In Europe, Christians gathered in churches that used to be much fuller and celebrated the Lord’s Supper. In African the sacrament was celebrated in great numbers by a growing number of Christians, many of whom bare scars of persecution as they Commune together.

**People: Those celebrating today include Presbyterians, Methodists, Catholics, Lutherans, Pentecostals, Baptists, thousands of other denominations, and even those without denominations**.

Leader: Christ followers met both in public and in secret. Some met in freedom while others gathered under threat of persecution and death. Some take the sacrament today with organ music, others with simple singing, and still others in quiet so as not to be arrested.

**People: In wealthy churches and in desperate poverty the sacrament is observed. In churches, homes, huts, and in God’s creation this seal of the covenant was experienced. The bread is given to people that could overeat all day and to people who had no idea what they would eat or where they would get it today.**

Leader: This day Christians around the world, from different nations, with different traditions, who speak different languages gather at the same table at the invitation of Jesus.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Leader: God is with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to God.**

Leader: Let us give God thanks and praise.

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

Leader: God of all nations, our hearts truly are glad, and we are filled with thankfulness, because in your great love you did not abandon us in the dark and fearful places of this world. In Jesus, you came to us, to rescue us, to restore us, and to give us new life. All who are tired and burdened, all who are frightened and unsafe, all who are sick and broken, can come and find new life at this table.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Leader: All around the world, in many different languages, by ordained clergy, authorized ministers and volunteer pastors, something like these words of institution were spoken:

On the night He was betrayed Jesus took bread. And when he had given thanks and blessed it, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying,

**People: “This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

Leader: The bread offered throughout the world today is many different types and colors and from many places. Some created primarily from wheat, others from rice or other kinds of grain. Some will have bread left over. Some will have barely enough for every Christian to have just a morsel. Still- it represents the body of Christ and sustains the body of Christ around the world today. (breaking of the bread)

Leader: In the same way after supper Jesus took the cup and gave it to His disciples, saying,

**People: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Drink you all of it in remembrance of me.”**

Leader: The juice around the world will be different. For many it will be wine, some will have juice, some will celebrate with water that had to be carried from a dirty well some miles away. Some will use individual cups, others fancy goblets, still others have been passing around whatever cup was in the home where they were meeting.  Still- it represented the blood of the covenant in their place and in their communities, just as it does in ours. (pouring of the cup)

**THE BLESSING** Leader: Holy God, we thank you for this sacrament of communion shared with Christians around the world. Pour out your Holy Spirit on these elements, those gathered in home worship spaces and on all who partake—that we may be your body and the representation of your covenant in our lives and throughout the world. Amen.

**BREAKING BREAD AND POURING THE CUP**

Leader: Today, as the bread is passed around, you will see many different colors and types of bread. Remember as you see the plate all of those around the world with whom you share the table today.

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**

Leader: With thanksgiving, let us celebrate our new life in Christ giving thanks to God our creator and sustainer:

**All: Loving and gracious God, thank you for this holy meal. We are grateful for Jesus and his all-inclusive love for humanity. Thank you for the ministry of churches around the world who gather with us today. By this broken bread and shared cup may we each be restored for the work yet to come. At this shared table may we be united as children of your promise, children of your word, sent boldly together into the world as servants of your peace.** **Amen.**

**PLAYING OF HYMN #614** *“Let There Be Peace On Earth”*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

One: You were called to this table.

You were fed at this table.

You were united at this table.

Now, you are sent from this table into all the world.

Go therefore into the world, with courage.

Set a place for all who hunger.

Fill the cup of all who thirst. And as you go,

May the Spirit of power and love attend you,

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ uphold you,

And may the great faithfulness of our God sustain you, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

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

**\*POSTLUDE**

*In order to keep everyone safe, please wait for an usher to lead you out of the sanctuary. Thank you!*

*\* Portions of this worship service were adapted from “worshipofferingsblogspot - Rev. Jeff Gord, “presbyterianmission – Matt Gaventa” , “providenceucca.wordpress”.*

*If restrooms are needed, please use the ones below the Sanctuary steps.*

**Presented to the Glory of God: The FLOWERS celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Kathryn and Hank VanBlargan. The MEMORIAL CANDLE is burning in memory of Richard Schaffer.**

**We are looking for people who would like to help with recording the service or virtual worship. Please speak to Ed Taylor or Vicki Troxell if you are interested.**

**Today we begin worshipping in the sanctuary at 10:15. Members will be seated following social distancing guidelines. Masks covering your nose and mouth will be required at all times. We will be entering and exiting only using the red church doors. Virtual worship on Facebook Live and on our website will continue to be an option for at home worship.**

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR YOUTH GROUP BY PURCHASING GIANT GIFT CARDS. The group receives 5 percent of the amount purchased. If you would like information about this activity, please speak to Wendi Myers or call the Church Office at 610-759-1652.**

**THE ALTAR GUILD HAS THE YELLOW GARBAGE BAGS TO SELL, THE COST IS $10,00/ROLL. If you are interested, please speak to Donna Schlegel or call the church office at 610-759-1652.**