**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**

**Thanksgiving Sunday**

**November 22, 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 bathrooms are needed, please use the ones under the sanctuary stairs.*

**PRELUDE**

As you listen to the prelude this morning reflect on these Thanksgiving quotes:

* “For each new morning with its light, for rest and shelter of the night, for health and food, for love and friends, for everything thy goodness sends.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson
* “Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving.” - W.T. Purkiser
* “To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch Heaven.” - Johannes A. Gaertner

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER**

One: Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!

**All: Serve the Lord with celebration!**One: Come before God with shouts of joy!Know that the Lord is God—
**All:   God made us; we belong to him. We are God’s people, the sheep of his**

 **own pasture.**

One: Enter his gates with thanks; enter his courtyards with praise!
**All:   Thank God! Bless his name!Because the Lord is good,**One: God’s steadfast love lasts forever;

**All: God’s faithfulness lasts generation after generation.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

 **All: Creator God, we come together today to praise your awesome deeds. God**

 **who answers prayer, we give our hopes, our dreams and our struggles to you.**

 **We give thanks for your goodness, your mercy and your presence among us.**

 **You fill our lives with your bounty, and we are grateful. We are so grateful.**

 **Amen.**

 **HYMN #22** *“Let All Things Now Living” (played by Lisa)*

 *Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the creator triumphantly raise.
 Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, who still guides us on to the end*

 *of our days. God's banners are o'er us, His light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining*

 *forth in the night. Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished as forward we*

 *travel from light into light.*

**DRAMATIC READING** “*You Can’t Forget God” (Based on Deuteronomy 8:7–18)*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

One: In the midst of our thanksgiving, let us pause to recall how we so often

 lose sight of the gifts of each day and of their Giver.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Gracious and loving God, we know there are times when we forget your**

 **generous nature and your steadfast love for us. We take the credit for the**

 **success in our lives when we should lift you up. Help us to be more grateful,**

 **less boastful; more caring, less conceited. In the moments when we forget**

 **you, help us to be humble and grateful and happy. Help us remember all that**

 **comes from you and the transforming power of your love. Hear now our**

 **silent confessions.**

*(silence is kept)*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

One: This is the good news: as God dresses creation in wonder, so you will be clothed in

 grace; as God pours out abundance upon the earth, so you will be blessed with peace

 and joy.

**All: We don't say it often enough, but thanks be to God for healing, for life, for**

 **wonder, for mercy.  We are blessed, for we are forgiven.  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)*

**PRAISE RESPONSE:**

Leader: Praise the Lord!

**People: The Lord’s name be praised!**

**TODAY’S GOSPEL STORY**

Saying “Thank You” to God*(Based on Luke 17:11–19)*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE by Vicki Troxell**

**TODAY’S MESSAGE** *“More Than Counting Our Blessings”*

**HYMN #359** *“Give Thanks” (played by Lisa)*

 *Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he’s*

 *given Jesus Christ his son. And now let the weak say, “I am strong”, let the poor say, “I*

 *am rich” because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!*

**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: As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need of your gifts and presence in their lives. Amen.**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

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

 *(a portion of the Pastoral Prayer was adapted from “A Thanksgiving Blessing by Noami King)*

**THANK GOD THAT YOU WERE CREATED**

One: All of creation beckons me to worship you, O God
 The grandeur of the universe, echoes your Glory!
**All: More than spectacular is the work of your hands!
 Who can match your brilliance and authority?**One: You set boundaries for the ocean,
**All: You raise majestic mountains to touch the sky
 Sunrise and sunset happens on your watch.**

One: Who is humankind that you are mindful of us,
 the frail sons and daughters that you would
 entrust us rule over all you’ve made?
**All: Who are the peoples of the earth that we get to bare your image?**

One: Who am I that you even notice me?
 How can it be that my tears and dreams matter to you?
**All: Eternal God – beyond time and space,
 Who am I that you lean in when I draw near?**One: Wind and sea obey at your command,
 yet you invite me to follow you with a whisper.
**All: Thank you for creating me and giving me life.**

**HYMN #14** *“Now Thank We All Our God” (played by Lisa)*

 *Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
 Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;
 Who from our mothers’ arms has blessed us on our way
 With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

**BENEDICTION**

One: May you have the joy of Thanksgiving, which is hope,

 The spirit of Thanksgiving which is peace,

 And the heart of Thanksgiving, which is love.

**All: We go with grateful hearts to love and serve the Lord. 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 “season of the spirit”, “reworship”, “anewliturgy.com, “ministrymatters.com”*

**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.**

**ACOLYTE: Andrea Jiminez.**

**PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD: The FLOWERS in memory of Gerald Nagle by wife, Roberta.**

**The CANDLE in honor of Corryn and Cindy Snyder’s and Joanne Hugo’s birthdays.**

**THE ALTAR GUILD is offering red or white poinsettia plants for Christmas. The cost is $10.00**

**per plant. Order deadline is Sunday, December 6. Order forms are available on the table at the back of the church or in your December Newsletter. 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.

**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.**

**SEARCHING FOR A TREASURER:** We are still looking for someone to be treasurer of Salem. Please speak to Vicki or any Consistory member, if you are interested in the position or if you have questions about the position.

**STARTING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH (NEXT SUNDAY), WE WILL NO LONGER MEET IN PERSON FOR WORSHIP UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. This decision was made by the Consistory due to the rising number of COVID cases in our area and the recommendations of the Penn Northeast Conference.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Our Christmas Eve Service will be virtual only. You will find this service on Facebook or our website anytime you wish on Christmas Eve. We hope you will enjoy this service with your family. HAVE A SAFE, HEALTHY AND MERRY CHRISTMAS.**

**COVID CHRISTMAS CAROLING.** Join us the 4th Sunday in Advent, December 20th at 2 PM (weather permitting) for an outdoor time of fellowship, storytelling, singing Christmas carols and decorating the Christmas tree in the courtyard with bird friendly ornaments. Please make or purchase a bird friendly ornament and bring it with you to decorate the tree. We will gather outside in the front of the red sanctuary doors and in the courtyard. Social distancing and masks covering your mouth and nose will be required. Hope you can join us for this “in person” gathering. Remember to dress for the weather. The gathering

will last approximately ½ hour . If standing for ½ hour is difficult for you, please bring your own chair.

**HARVEST HOME**: Our Salem Family donated $658.00 and a lot of food to the Bath Area Food Bank. Thank you for your generous donations.

**MAKE YOUR OWN ADVENT WREATH:** The first Sunday in Advent is November 29th. Since we will be gathering this Advent season virtually, or you will be using the home worship mailer, Pastor Kaye invites you to create your own Advent wreath to use on Sunday, mornings during the virtual worship services. All you really need are 5 candles one for each Sunday in Advent and one for Christmas Eve. You can arrange 4 candles in a circle and place one in the center of the circle for the Christ candle. This might be a nice family project. See your December Newsletter for further information.

**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** If you won’t be at the Covid Christmas Caroling to pick up your envelopes, please call the church office to schedule a time to pick them up. 610-759-1652.