**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**

**The Baptism of Christ Sunday**

**January 10, 2021**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The heavens open. The Spirit descends

**All: Jesus emerges from the water.**

One: And a voice echoes through the blue expanse.

**All: “This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am well-pleased.”**

One: Jesus is named. Claimed.

**All: We come to the water. We remember we are named. Claimed.**

One: Can it be so: What a thing to be named. Claimed.

**All: Let us worship the one who names and claims us still.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Word of God, speak, for your servants are listening.***(pause)*

**Spirit of creation and renewal, hover over our gathering this day, as you hovered over creation on that first day. Enter into our hearts and our lives as you did at the day of our baptism. Descend on us like a dove, as you did on Jesus’s day of baptism, that we may hear again your words of love and adoption. Speak from the heavens into our minds, that we may perceive your words of guidance and wisdom.**

**Amen**

**HYMN #131** *Surely the Presence (sung 2 times)*

**A TIME OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

One: When our hearts are hard as stone, soften us with your grace. When our lives are riddled with sin and pain, heal us with your mercy. When our ears are ringing with self-doubt and cynicism, strengthen us with words of faith and love. When our minds are muddled with confusion and fear, enlighten us with the radiance of your wisdom. Speak to our spirits from the truth of your being, the reality of your love, and the promise of your forgiveness, that we may hear your voice clearly and follow where you call us to go.

**All: Hear now our silent confession.**

*(silence is kept)*

One: Hear the truth of God’s voice breaking through the clouds of our lives: “You are my child, the one I dearly love. I delight in your creation.”

**All: “You are my child, the one I dearly love.** **I delight in your creation.”**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE!**

Leader: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you!**

Leader: Share the peace of Christ with one another using the comments on the Facebook

page.

**SCRIPTURE Genesis 1:1-5**

**Acts 19:1-7**

**Mark 1:4-11**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

**HYMN #461** *Breathe on Me Breath*

**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.**

One: Bless these gifts with your voice of creation, your healing, and your love, Mighty God. Transform our meager offerings into abundant gifts for a world in need of your light and life. Amen.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

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

**HYMN #134**  *Sweet Spirit*

**BENEDICTION**

Go in peace; love and care for one another in the name of Christ; may the Spirit of God which filled John and Jesus, fill your hearts, souls, and minds; may the power of God which upheld them, strengthen you for each day; and may the love of God which directed their every action be your guiding light and your shining star, both now and forevermore.

Amen.

**THREE FOLD AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

*\* Portions of this worship service were adapted from “ministry matters”, “reworship”.*

**ACOLYTE: Mason Strawn.**

**PASTOR KAYE’S VACATION TIME: Pastor Kaye will be on vacation from January 4th thru January 11th and will not be available during that time. If you have a need for pastoral care, please call Peggy Troxell at 610-759-2501 and she will contact Rev. James Gottwald, who will be covering for her. Rev. Gottwald will return a call to you as soon as possible.**

**Ed Taylor will be leading worship today.**

**PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:** The sponsor sheets for ALTAR FLOWERS and CANDLE are on the bulletin board. Call Peggy Troxell at 610-759-2501, if you want to sponsor flowers or candle.

**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** The 2021 offering envelopes are ready for pick-up, please call Peggy at home at 610-759-2501 to schedule a time to pick them up.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION:** The Consistory has decided we will not hold our Annual Congregational Meeting this January due to the pandemic. Please read the Annual Report booklet, which you should be receiving soon, and find the voting page to complete. Please take time to return your voting sheet, either by mail or email Vicki at [Salempresident@yahoo.com](mailto:Salempresident@yahoo.com). Your VOTE IS NEEDED to elect a 2021 consistory

and adopt the 2021 budget. RETURN your voting sheet by January 24th.

**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.

**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.