**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**

**Second Sunday after Christmas – Epiphany Sunday**

**January 3, 2020**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(written by Rev. Teri Peterson)*

One:    Come and see!

**All:     We hear the call of Love, ringing in our ears.**

One:    Come and see!

**All:     We see the light of stars and candles, leading the way.**

One:    Come and see!

**All:     We long for a sign, an experience, to know God face to face.**

One:    Come and see!

**All:     We come, to be part of God’s story of Love.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**All: God of Promise and mysterious Light, be with us this day as we journey in our faith; to meet your Gift. Give us courage and hope along our way, as your light will continue to glow brightly in our path, leading us to service and discipleship in Jesus’ Name. Amen.**

**HYMN 233 “***We Three Kings of Orient Are” (verses 1 and 5)*

[*We three kings of orient are*](https://genius.com/Christmas-songs-we-three-kings-lyrics#note-18709274)*, bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor*

*and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal*

*beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice! Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia  
 Heaven to earth replies. O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright  
 westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

**A TIME OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

**All: O God, we hear your voice, we see your light and we see the way of Jesus set before us. But it’s hard, dear God, to try again and again to follow the light and path you set before us and maintain our resolve to be your people in the world.   
In repentance we ask you to forgive us. Set us once again on the lighted path that leads to you. Hear now our silent confession.** *(silence is kept)*

One: Friends, God hears our prayers and sets before us the way of Jesus.  
 God calls us and gives us enough grace and mercy to follow the way.

.**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 using the comments on the Facebook

page.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON –** *Isaiah 60:1-6*

*Following the Star* *(based on Matthew 2:1–12)*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SONG *“This Little Light of Mine”*  by Morgan Taylor**

**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.**

One: Lord Jesus, you are the Messiah, the Savior of the world. We dedicate these earthly things to your use, that they and all the world might shine with your light. We celebrate the gift of life abundant, in your holy name. Amen.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**LORD’S PRAYER** (sung by Randy Lentz)

**EPIPHANY SERVICE OF LIGHT**

One: Let us begin our service of light in a moment of prayer.

**All: God of constant surprise, you enter our world in silence but delight and disturb us in so many varied ways. You invigorate us when we are lulled into boredom. You call us to new places when our lives have grown stale and predictable. This morning as we share this Epiphany celebration, may your light of discovery shine brightly within each of us—casting away shadows and enabling us to see ourselves anew, to confess what we have never honestly acknowledged before, to be transformed by your love, and to fully receive your spirit of new beginnings. Amen.**

*(Worshippers are invited to light a candle at this time)*

One: In my times of greatest self-doubt, whenever I torment myself...  
**All: God, grant me new understanding.**One: Whenever my mistakes loom large, or the future seems bleak...  
**All: God, grant me a fresh realization.**  
One: Whenever my ego ignores reason, when immediacy dictates my every decision...  
**All: God, grant me a newfound awareness.**One: Wherever I am patient with injustice, when I look to others to do the work that

is mine...  
**All: God, shine a new light in my understanding.**  
One: Whenever I deny the worth of others or ignore my worth to God...  
**All: God, grant me a new insight.**One: Whenever I allow stereotypes to shape my beliefs, or allow my ignorance to cause

harm to others...  
**All: God, enlighten me in a new way.**One: Whenever, overwhelmed and frustrated, I say nothing can be done because the

problem seems too big for me alone...  
**All: God, grant me a renewed realization.**One: Whenever I lack the courage to change my direction or participate in creating new life

around me...  
**All: God, shine a new guiding light in my path.**One: Whenever I rush to judgment, whenever I value the law over grace...  
**All: God, grant me new understanding to honor what is true, to value myself**

**while trusting others, and to always place my hope in you. Amen.**

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S** **SUPPER**

Leader: We, like the Magi, have come seeking the child — Wondering where love might be born, seeking the joy that might satisfy our thirst, wandering through the darkness of so many mistakes. We have come to this place where wisemen and shepherds and young women met.

**People:** **We too, like those people, have followed the light; to this place where our hearts rise like yeast, to this place where we meet our newborn hope, to this place where we taste our deepest joy.**

Leader: There is something here that will satisfy our hunger, no matter how long we have wandered. Here our hearts arise. Our light has come. In this bread and in this cup, we celebrate something we can’t quite understand.

**People: Because God invites us to this table. Because God satisfies our hunger in the most unlikely places. Because God comes to be with us, now and always.**

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: Holy God, from age to age you surround every form of life with love. From age to age you call to every corner of creation with promise. Some travelers once journeyed together beneath a fiery star to seek the treasure of their hearts. Kneeling in a stable they found the gift they sought, a baby in a manger.

We remember how that newborn baby grew into a little child, then the man Jesus, who one day turned to his hope-filled friends in an upper room as they shared a meal. And taking a loaf of bread, after giving thanks, he broke the bread, and gave it to those friends, saying: "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And in the same way, he then 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".

Therefore let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**All: Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again!**

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. Amen.

One: Come, all who journey in faith: bring your lives, fragile and holy.

There is a place for you here.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Come, for all things are now ready.

**People:** **We come to this table, ready to see anew.**

***Distribution of the Elements***

The Bread of Life, given for you.

The Cup of Blessing poured out for you.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

Leader: Let us pray

**People:** **In gratitude, for this moment, this meal, the newborn baby, the Light of the world, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #231** *“ Arise Your Light Is Come” (all verses)*

*Arise, your light has come! The Spirit’s call obey; show forth the glory of your God  
which shines on you today.  
 Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captive’s liberty,  
good tidings to the poor.   
 Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the brokenhearted ones  
and comfort those who mourn.  
 Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing,  
God’s power will make us strong.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

One: Let us go into the world in the power of the Spirit to fulfill our high calling as

disciples of Christ, who shines on us now and forever. Amen.

**\*THREE FOLD AMEN**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*\* Portions of this worship service were adapted from “ministry matters”, “liturgylink” ,* *“seasons of the spirit”, “UCC Worship Ways”*

**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 on Sunday, January 10th.**

**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 bulletins.

**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** The 2021 offering envelopes are ready for pick-up, please call Peggy at home at 610-759-2501 or the church office at 610-759-1652 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.