



SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

An Open and Affirming Congregation

February 27, 2022

Transfiguration Sunday

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (Responsively):

Greetings in the brightness of this hour!

Let us open our hearts to the transforming power of God.

We seek to let God's vision become our vision.

Let us open our hearts to the special word God has for us this day.

We seek to be channels through which the Lord's grace touches our lives and the lives of others.

Let us open our spirits to the revelation God has for us.

We seek to be transformed so that Christ's ministry becomes our own.

Let us then sing praise to God!

Hymn: *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding* 182

Prayer of Confession (Responsively):

We come to worship challenged by the Scriptures, by events of our world today, by people experiencing massive dislocations in their lives, and by our own expectations of ourselves. Let us now confess our sins to God.

Precious Lord, we come into the brightness of your glory knowing that we have fallen short in so many ways this week. There have been times when your light showed us the path to take, but we did not take it because it looked difficult. There have been times you gave us someone to love, but we were so caught up in our own anxieties that we did not respond. There have been times you called us forward, but we lagged behind rather than respond to the challenge of discipleship. There have been times when we could have been peacemakers, but we would not be budged from our attitudes of indifference. Redeem us and transform us by the radiance of your love that we may continually become the persons you had in mind when You created us. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon (Responsively):

Hear these words of assurance: "God raises us up to be joint heirs with Christ."

As the Psalmist wrote: "Whoever is wise, let them give heed to these things; let them consider the steadfast love of the Lord."

In God's steadfast love, we are forgiven and made whole!

Thanks be to God!

From the Hebrew Scriptures: Exodus 24: 12-18 p. 69

Hymn: *O Wondrous Spirit, O Vision Fair* 184

Pastoral Prayer and the **Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 17: 1-9 p. 896

Sermon: The Spiritual Need for Critical Distance Dr. Robinson

Hymn: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* 304

Benediction

Postlude

An asterisk (*) where those who are able should stand as an act of worship.

STAFF and SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Interim Minister

Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson
trobinson@salemchurchverona.org

Director of Music

Dawn Lingard
dawn.Lingard@landsend.com

Director of Christian Education & Interim Director of Youth Ministry

Sarah Pundt
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Office Administrator

Cara Bahr
cbahr@salemchurchverona.org

Scripture Reader

Kari Westphal

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Monday, February 28

Eve - Boy Scouts

Wed., March 2

ASH WEDNESDAY

4:45PM - Confirmation

7PM - Ash Wednesday Service

10AM-12PM - Youth Sunday Prep

Saturday, March 5

YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday, March 6

9AM - Sunday School

10:15AM - Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“BE THE CHURCH” LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

Our annual Lenten Devotional is back by popular demand. This devotional provides daily reflections written and created by Salem congregation members. The theme for the devotional this year is “Be the Church”. The adult Sunday school class has been exploring ideas for being the hands and feet of Jesus beyond our church building. This devotional theme builds on that and calls us to action in our community as both individuals and as a congregation.

Copies of the devotional are available in the back of the sanctuary beginning today. An electronic copy was sent with Friday’s News e-mail.

YOUTH SUNDAY

Join the Salem Youth for their worship service based on Exodus 14 and Luke 4. Come explore the connections between Moses parting the Red Sea, Jesus’ time in the wilderness, and our current experience in the pandemic. How do we learn to manage struggles from those who came before us? How do times of struggle impact our faith? The youth have explored these questions and more and are excited to share their worship service with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Hello Salem family!

As you know we have an active Pastoral Search committee working to find the right long-term Pastor for Salem. The first part of this effort is to write a church profile that describes our congregation and community, and we need your help! Between now and Easter (April 17), the Search Committee will offer meetings to make sure that our church profile appropriately captures your inputs regarding where we’ve been, where we are, and where we think God is calling us to be or to go as a congregation.

We are looking to team up with existing groups (e.g. Council, Fellowship, Choirs) to have these conversations, as well as to offer a few sessions on Sunday after church between March 6 – April 10th. If you want to participate in these, but would rather do that remotely, please contact Jon Pundt so that we can coordinate a Zoom call and agenda. We want to complete this information gathering phase before Easter.

Zooming out to the big picture, we intend to complete the profile with Council approval by the end of May, and then expect a 3-6 month search and interview process once the position is posted. We understand that this feels like a long time, and we really appreciate your trust in us and our use of the UCC formal process to take the time to do this right.

Thanks so much- and be on the lookout for invitations. We can’t wait to hear from you!

Search Committee

Jon Pundt, Chair (communication@salemchurchverona.org)

Krista Nechvatal

Angela Quade

Karen Williams

Kathy Hauser

Brad Bergin

Brian Winterle

(Pastor Tom Robinson)

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