



In the One Spirit

Paul's First Letter to the
Christians in Corinth



SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

An Open and Affirming Congregation

April 3, 2022

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Introit: *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* [Tom Council]

Welcome

*Call to Worship (Responsively):

We are gifted people because of God's gracious design.

Some are gifted in teaching, some in fellowship; and still others in caring service.

The greatest gift of all is love. It is that gift that makes all the others alive and filled with power.

We cannot carry out the task God has assigned us, as Christ's Church, gifted though we are, without the gift of love. We desire that gift most of all.

*Hymn: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (vs 1, 2, 4) 43

*Prayer of Confession (Responsively):

We believe that God spoke to Prophets.

We believe that God spoke to Jesus, and likewise to Peter and Paul as they guided the first Christians. We believe that God is a personal God, whose grace heals and love strengthens.

Yet it is difficult to believe that God has an active word for us each and every day. As we pray together, let us become as those with ears to hear and eyes to see, so that the mercy of Christ becomes known, and shown, in our times as well, every day.

Gracious Lord, we are in your service, gifted by your whole and holy love. Jesus offers us grace that fulfills that love, and it is indeed amazing. But we confess that often we want to keep that grace to ourselves. We don't feel moved to extend to others the love that you have first shown to us. Cure us of shortsighted views of your creation and your children. Free us to catch a glimpse of the vision you have for your world, a vision beyond what we can see. Give us open hearts and minds to hear your prophetic word, and the courage to heed that word. And instill in us a courageous faith that breaks through the boundaries that separate person from person, so that we can share life in the love of Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Silent and Personal Prayers of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon (Responsively):

The nature of God is love, and whoever has been created as God's child has the capacity to apply that love.

That capacity for God's love to shine through us comes only as we open our lives and our hearts, to God, to each other, even to ourselves.

Condition us, Lord God, to be instruments of your peace, and witnesses to your love, in all we are and become. Amen.

Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 13: 1-13 p. 1049

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer (Unison):

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.

Choir Anthem: *And Can It Be?* [Dan Forrest]

Sermon: "The Sacrifice of Love" Dr. Robinson

*Hymn: *Great is Your Faithfulness* 423

Benediction

Benediction Response: *Old English Prayer* [James Gossler]

Postlude

An asterisk (*) where those who are able should stand as an act of worship. Hearing-assistance devices are available in the entrance near the canopy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN MISSION PROJECT

Our church wide Lenten Mission project is benefiting FB4KMadison (Free Bikes for Kids Madison). Please help us support this organization by donating a bike helmet, a bike lock, financial contributions, and your time. Last fall, the Salem Youth collected 67 bicycles from the community for FB4K Madison. Our Lenten mission project goals are based on supporting the restoration and preparation of those donated bikes. Please help us meet this challenge!

| Project Update | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | Bike Helmets | Bike Locks (Combination) | Financial Contributions | Volunteer Hours |
| Goal | 30 | 30 | \$1500 | 67 |
| Collected | 8 | 3 | \$140 | 66 |
| Still Needed | 22 | 27 | \$1360 | 1 |

PALM SUNDAY PILGRIMAGE AND PROGRAM - APRIL 10 @ 9AM

As we emerge from Covid restrictions, we are once again able to have a Palm Sunday Pilgrimage and Program during the Sunday school hour. On April 10, please meet in Fellowship Hall at 9am for the pilgrimage. Following the pilgrimage and program, we will conclude the Sunday school hour with coffee, juice, and hot cross buns.

Readers Needed: We are looking for 7-10 speakers who are willing to read simple lines for the program following the pilgrimage. Please contact Sarah Pundt spundt@salemchurchverona.org if you are interested in serving as a reader.

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

Salem Women's Guild will hold a business meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 1:30 pm. We will have two major topics to discuss. First, Angela Quade and Krista Nechvatal, members of the search committee, will come to have a conversation with the ladies present at the meeting. They will be asking questions pertaining to: where Salem has been, where we are now, and where we think God is calling us to go. Our thoughts will be used for the search committee to develop a profile for Salem UCC. This will be an important tool to be used in Salem's search for a new Pastor.

Continued...

Secondly, we will need to discuss the possibility of having our annual Spring Salad Luncheon. With the mask mandate lifted, we may be able to host this event. The officers will check with Pastor Tom and the Council to get their thoughts/approval prior to the meeting. If it is a "go," we can continue to make plans for this event.

As a reminder, Paying Hostesses for March are: Joyce Fredrickson, Becky Hagenston, Verlis Luchsinger, Pat McCarthy, and Ann Nelson. For April: Helen

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
spundt@salemchurchverona.org

Office Administrator

Cara Bahr
cbahr@salemchurchverona.org

Scripture Reader

Doug Smith

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Monday, April 4

Eve - Boy Scouts

Wednesday, April 6

4:45PM - Confirmation

6PM - BRC

6:45PM - Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 7

1:30PM - Women's Guild Meeting

Friday, April 8

5PM-9AM Saturday - Youth Lock-in



Sunday, April 10

Palm Sunday

9AM - Palm Sunday Pilgrimage and Program

10:15AM - Worship

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