



**SALEM UNITED CHURCH**  
OF CHRIST  
*Living Out God's Love*

An Open and Affirming Congregation

July 3, 2022

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

\*The Call to Worship (Responsively):

Throughout the ages, disciples have said, "I will follow you wherever you go."

**Lord, give us the freedom to follow you in the ways of love.**

We come from busy homes, filled with little time to consider Christ in our lives.

**Lord, give us the strength to follow you in the ways of peace.**

In times of struggle, we look to God for help.

**Lord, give us the opportunity to follow you in the ways of kindness.**

**Today, we celebrate freedom in the Spirit of God, knowing the liberating joy of following God. Lord, give us the patience to follow you in the ways of faith. Amen.**

(based on II Kings 2, Galatians 5, Luke 9)

\*Hymn: *O Savior, Let Me Walk with You* 503

\*Prayer of Confession (Responsively):

Lord, we want to follow you whoever you lead. Reach out to us this day, stirring our souls and spirits with the winds of your power that we may faithfully be your disciples. For we ask this, in the name of Christ, as we express our need for you, in our prayer:

**Merciful Lord, we know that you want the best for us.**

**It must really disappoint you when we fail to be the kind of devoted followers that you need.**

**You know of the needs in this world and the capability that we have of meeting those needs and bringing words of hope and healing through actions of compassion and justice.**

Yet we are hesitant in our commitment to you and to ministries of peace.

We want good things to happen.

We just aren't sure that we are up to the tasks you set before us.

**Forgive us when we so easily doubt your call, your presence, and your abiding love.**

**Lift us up from lives of self-pity and self-centeredness, and bring us to you with hearts filled with joy, praising you for opportunities to witness to your love in our service to your people. Amen.**

\*Silent, Personal Prayers of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

Although following Jesus is difficult, we can be assured that God is always with you, bringing us encouragement, strength, and peace.

**Let us rise up and follow the one who offers his life for all. Amen.**

Reading from Hebrew Scriptures: I Kings 2: 1-14 p. 300

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.

Reading from the Gospels: Luke 9: 51-62 p. 947

The Sermon: "Freedom as a Choice – Not as a Gift" Dr. Robinson

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology: tune: 780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn: *God of Grace and God of Glory (vs 1, 3, 4)* 436

Benediction

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

### VBS | JULY 10-12

VBS will be at Salem July 10, 11, & 12 @ 6:00-7:30pm. The evening begins with a kid-friendly meal followed by games, Bible stories, crafts, and music. There will be a bible study and discussion for adults.

## 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 & Director of Youth Ministry

Sarah Pundt  
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### Office Administrator

Cara Bahr  
cbahr@salemchurchverona.org

### Scripture Reader

Lisa Hart

## THIS WEEK AT SALEM

**Sunday, July 10**

9AM - Worship

6-7:30PM - VBS (July 10-12)

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