



SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

An Open and Affirming Congregation

March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *I Greet You, Sure Redeemer* (vs. 1 & 5, hymn 251)

*Call to Worship (responsive)

Breath of Life, you animate us.

We come before you seeking revival from within.

Holy One, when you speak, great things happen.

Empower us to make great things happen.

Matchless One, you bring good things to life.

We desire to bring good things to life too.

Life Giver, come and revive us again. Indwell us with your spirit and let our souls awake to joy. We come boldly that you might breathe on us. May what we experience with you today change us forever and for the better. Amen

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

Prayer for Transformation and New Life-unison

Mender of Hearts, we confess that sometimes in our brokenness, we cause brokenness in others. Sometimes in our woundedness, we wound others. In these despairing moments, we need healing and restoration. We give thanks that we are never beyond your reach or grace. [moment of silent prayer]

Words of Grace (unison):

God's mercy makes wholeness possible and our wholeness is rooted in becoming who we are meant to be—living sanctuaries. Amen.

Bell Solo (Carrie Coenen): *Healing Cross* [Brockner & Shepherd]

A reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: Ezekiel 37:1-14 p. 791

Gospel reading: John 11:1-45 p. 980

Sermon: Rev. Jessica Taft

Pastoral Prayer and The 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.

Chancel Choir Anthem: *Fall, Slow Tears* [Ruth Elaine Schram]

Offering

Offertory and sharing of gifts

*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 Thanksgiving (unison):

Divine Sustainer, receive this offering that we gladly give. May it be used to revive and restore those in need. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: *Awake, Awake to Love and Work* 89

Benediction

Benediction Response: *Come, Lord Jesus* [Anna Laura Page]

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.

Prophesy to the Bones: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday of Lent were written by Rev. Teña T. Nock, Associate Pastor of Digital Ministry, First United Church of Tampa, United Church of Christ

Guest Preacher: *Rev. Jessica Taft is an ordained UCC clergy, currently taking time away from full time ministry to take care of her 3 young children. She is a graduate of Eden Theological Seminary and served as solo pastor of a church in Cincinnati, Ohio before her hiatus. She finds it meaningful to make connections between the historical context of scripture and our lives today.*

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THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Today, March 26	2pm - "Nothing to Hide" Speaker on Elderly and Mental Health
Monday, March 27	Eve - Boy Scouts
Tuesday, March 28	6PM - BOCE
Wednesday, March 29	6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel
Sunday, April 2	Palm Sunday 9AM - Palm Sunday Program 10:15AM - Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL CARE

Lisa Hart will be providing emergency pastoral care during this time of transition. If have a pastoral care emergency or need a hospital visit, etc, she can be reached at 608-438-1571.

NOTHING TO HIDE

The "Nothing to Hide" Photo Exhibit and Speaker Series will wrap up this afternoon at 2PM with a presentation on Elderly and Mental Health. There will be a light lunch following worship along with activities and fellowship for those wishing to remain at church until the presentation.

PALM SUNDAY PROGRAM

In place of Sunday school next Sunday, April 2, there will be a special Palm Sunday Program for all ages beginning at 9am.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

This Special offering will continue to be collected throughout the month of March. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

UPCOMING PULPIT SUPPLY

April 2	Katya Ouchakof
April 9	Lisa Hart
April 16	Kathleen Owens
April 23	Larry Balleine



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Scan this QR code or use the following web address:
<https://salemchurch.breezechms.com/give/online>

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