

**Salem United Church of Christ
Worship Order**

August 2, 2020 • The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE *Music by Aaron Copland*
Chappell Kingsland, Piano

WELCOME Rev. Russ Kirby
Craig Wilderman

RINGING OF THE BELL Wilderman Family

CALL TO WORSHIP Jim Dean

One: Open our eyes, that we may see

Many: You are our God of Vision

One: Visions of truth you have for us

Many: You are our God of Vision

One: Open our eyes, illumine us

All: You are our Spirit divine!

Adapted from "Open My Eyes that I May See,"
Hymns for the Family of God, ##486

OPENING HYMN *We Love Your Realm, O God* NCH 312

**We love your realm, O God, all the places where you reign.
We recognize, with hope and joy, the world as your domain.**

**We love your church, O God, for Christ has given life
To form communities of love that seek to heal our strife.**

**We recognize, with pain, that we have not achieved
The faithfulness of our resolve when we at first believed.**

**Yet Christ, our friend and guide, continues to forgive,
Delivering us from our mistakes, inviting us to live.**

**Beyond our brokenness, we seek to know your ways
Of deep communion, solemn vows, and hymns of love and
praise.**

**We know your truth will last. We trust your reign is sure.
Equip us for those daily tasks that help your world endure.**

UNISON PRAYER

Jim Dean

Creator God, you call us into endeavors which we cannot yet imagine. You call us to build: build relationships, build community, and build your church in the world. Open our hearts to your calling; prepare our minds for the journey, and embolden our souls as we step out onto your waters of faith. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION *Ancient Words*

**Ancient words ever true
Changing me, and changing you
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart. (*Repeat*)**

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SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 29:11

Jim Dean

11 “For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.”

Proverbs 29:18b

Where there is no vision, the people perish...

NASB

Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.

NASB

THE MESSAGE

“Church Stuff: Vision”

Rev. Kirby

MUSICAL OFFERING

Piano Blues no. 1

Aaron Copland

Chappell Kingsland, Keyboard

DOXOLOGY NCH #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. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Kirby

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE Hear Our Prayer, O God

NCH #769

**Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;
incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Kirby

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion
Musical Reflection

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

Be Now My Vision

NCH 451

**Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
nothing surpasses the love you impart—
You my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.**

**Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
Now and forever your child I will be.**

**Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,
you, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
great God, my treasure, may we never part.**

**Sovereign of heaven, my victory one,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Kirby

Leader: May the Peace of God go with you.

People: And also with you. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

NCH 393

**Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
Yes, we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again!**

Postlude

Chappell Kingsland, Keyboard