

**Salem United Church of Christ
Worship Order**

October 18, 2020 • The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE Chappell Kingsland, Keyboard

WELCOME Rev. Russ Kirby
Craig Wilderman

RINGING OF THE BELL Wilderman Family

CALL TO WORSHIP Krissy Berry

One: In a culture that tells us to “cancel” those against us,

Many: God calls us into love and forgiveness.

One: While we feel we need to circle up the wagons,

Many: God invites us to open up our hearts.

One: When others gloat over what they have grabbed,

Many: God reminds us to give thanks for all that is.

One: O God who calls, invites and reminds,

All: We lift up your holy name!

OPENING HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth* NCH #28

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of
light,

(Refrain)

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and
mild,

(Refrain)

--CONTINUED--

For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed,
(Refrain)

UNISON PRAYER

Krissy Berry

We are here, O God, but we are weary. We are weary of the world that overwhelms with instant access, political pandemonium, a never-ending pandemic, everyday stress and more. Our parched souls cry out to you. Rest us. Refresh us. Rebuild us. Fill us with your Spirit, and remind us that you—and only you—are God. 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

Matthew 5:43-46

Krissy Berry

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?”

Matthew 22:36-40

³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

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Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

NRSV

THE MESSAGE

“Be Thou Our Vision:
Jesus’ Vision”

Rev. Kirby

MUSICAL OFFERING

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

Rev. Kirby

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guide me, O my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren
land;

I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your powerful
hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, ever be my strength and
shield,
ever be my strength and shield.

When I reach the River Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on heaven's
side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Kirby

Leader: May the Peace of God go with you.

People: And also with you. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

God Be With You

NCH 81

**God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

Postlude

Chappell Kingsland, Keyboard