

**Salem United Church of Christ
Worship Order**

February 7, 2021 • The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
—Communion Sunday—

PRELUDE Chappell Kingsland, Keyboard

WELCOME Rev. Russ Kirby
Craig Wilderman

RINGING OF THE BELL Wilderman Family

CALL TO WORSHIP Jim Dean

One: If God doesn't build the house,

Many: The builders build nothing but shacks.

One: If God doesn't guard the city,

Many: The nighttime guard may as well sleep.

One: Behold! We are God's work, doing God's work.

Many: There is none better in all the world!

All: Praise be to God!

Psalm 127:1,3 MSG, adapted

OPENING HYMN *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* NCH 439

**A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing,
Our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe
with craft and power great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth without an equal.**

**Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be
losing,**

**But there is one who takes our side, the one of God's own
choosing.**

You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus sets us free!

**With mighty power to save, victorious o'er the grave,
Christ will prevail triumphant.**

—CONTINUED—

**And though this world with devils filled should threaten to
undo us,
We will not fear for God has willed the truth to triumph
through us.
The powers of evil grim, we tremble not for them;
their rage we can endure, for lo, their doom is sure:
one little word shall fell them.**

**That word beyond all earthly powers forever is abiding;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us
siding.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill; God's truth shall triumph still;
God's reign endures forever.**

UNISON PRAYER

Jim Dean

**O God, you call us to ventures of which we cannot see the
ending, by paths untrodden, through perils unknown.
Grant us faith to go in courage, not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand leads us and your love supports us,
in Jesus's name. 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

James 2:1-5

Jim Dean

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ² For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴ have you not

made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?

NRSV

THE MESSAGE

“In All Fairness”

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Kirby

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion

Musical Reflection

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

Forward through the Ages

NCH #377

**Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits at the call divine;
Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,
manifold in service, one the sure reward.**

Refrain:

**Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.**

**Wide grows God's dominion, reign of love and peace;
for it we must labor, till all strivings cease.**

**Prophets have proclaimed it, teachers testified,
poets sung its glory, martyrs for it died.**

(Refrain)

**Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;
in each loss or triumph, lose or triumph all.
Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole,
move we on together to the shining goal.**

(Refrain)

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