

**Salem United Church of Christ
Worship Order**

February 14, 2021 • The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Valentine's Day

PRELUDE Chappell Kingsland, Keyboard

WELCOME Rev. Russ Kirby
Craig Wilderman

RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP Kathleen King

One: The Church is not a building,

Many: The Church is not stained glass.

One: The church is Christ's believers,

Many: The church is US: people!

One: We come together as Christ's Body,

Many: And we celebrate Christ's holy name!

One: As the Body of Christ is to us,

All: May we be the Body of Christ to the world. Amen.

OPENING HYMN *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* NCH #1

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**Your life is life-giving to both great and small;
in all life you're living, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
then wither and perish but naught dims your powers.**

**So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
All praise we now render as your angels do:
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.**

UNISON PRAYER

Kathleen King

**God of creation and God of relation, we give you thanks for
Christ's Church. You called us into being through our
Redeemer, filled us with the Holy Spirit, and birthed us into
the world. Grant us courage to make a difference, even
when it's hard, and embolden us to love you, and to love
our neighbor—no matter who they may be. 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*)**

© 2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, Used by permission. CCLI License #2963527

SCRIPTURE READING

Kathleen King

John 6: 32-35

³² Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which[g] comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Matthew 13:40-42

⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

NRSV

THE MESSAGE “Holy Rusted Metaphor, Batman!” 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

CLOSING HYMN *Lift Every Voice and Sing* NCH 593

**Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.**

**Sing a song full of the faith that he harsh past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.**

—CONTINUED—

**Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
come to the place for which our people sighed?**

**We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the
slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

**God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by your might, led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.**

**Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met
you,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget
you;
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.**

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