

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, DENVER

*“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”*



December 26th, 2021
First Sunday After Christmas
Communion Sunday
salemuccdenver.org

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
O Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
(Refrain)**

UNISON PRAYER

Lori Carroll

God of infants and God of the aged, we thank you for being born again in us this Christmas season. We rejoice in this new beginning, even as we face regretful endings among us today. Have mercy on us as you always have, and love us each step of the way. Amen.

THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Infant Baptism

Rev. Kirby

*Elyssia Merritt Jones
Born July 15, 2021*

[Afterward, children are invited to gather at the back of the sanctuary for Sunday School. Teachers will take them to the classroom during this hymn.]

HYMN OF PREPARATION

What Child Is This, Who, Laid To Rest?

HFG #180

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems
sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?**

Refrain:

**This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels
sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners
here
The silent Word is pleading.
(Refrain)**

**So bring Him incense, gold, and
myrrh,
Come peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
(Refrain)**

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:15-19

Lori Carroll

¹⁵ I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. ¹⁶ Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

¹⁸ Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

THE HOMILY

A & Ω: *Beginnings and Endings*

Rev. Kirby

INVITATION & OFFERTORY

Good King Wenceslas
trad.

Chappell Kingsland, Piano

*DOXOLOGY

Hymnal #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

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

SERVICE OF TRANSITION & FAREWELL
FOR CURRENT MINISTRY OF
REV. RUSS KIRBY
AT SALEM UNITED UCC, DENVER

GREETING

Leader: Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. It's important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share a time of farewell with our Pastor, Russ Kirby, who is leaving us after 2 years of service.

TESTIMONIES

[Members and friends may briefly share brief stories reminding the congregation of Pastor Russ's gifts and contributions.]

RECOGNITION OF ENDING

Rep: On October 1st, 2019, Salem Church called the Rev. Russ Kirby to serve as your pastor

Pastor: I thank Salem United Church of Christ, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me throughout these past 2 years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I've made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

People: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept your leaving us in these days. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us when you do.

Pastor: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

VOWS OF RELEASE

Rep: Let us stand in body and spirit. Do you, the members and friends of Salem United Church of Christ, release the Pastor Russ from his duties as your pastor?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Rep: Do you offer your encouragement for Rev. Kirby's ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Rep: Do you, Pastor Russ, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

Pastor: I do, with the help of God.

Rep: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come here to serve?

Pastor: I do, with the help of God.

Rep: On behalf of the Rocky Mountain Conference, and the whole United Church of Christ, I witness to the words: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release. The member churches of our association and conference hold each of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transition signified in this service.

People: Thanks be to God!

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. O God, we thank you for the times we remember when together we have shared in the life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Pastor Russ in worship, in learning, and in service. We pray that Rev. Kirby will be aware of your Spirit's guidance as he leaves us in these days. In the name of Jesus the Savior.

People: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN *Be Thou My Vision* HFG 468

**Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou Art.**

**High King of Heaven, my victory won,
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

God Be with You (Sending Forth)

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.**

Refrain:

**Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.**

POSTLUDE

Shall We Gather at the River
by Robert Lowry

Chappell Kingsland, Piano



PANDEMIC GUIDELINES:

- To comply with Directive from the City and County of Denver masks must be worn in indoor public places
- Only one person in the bathroom at a time.
- Please wash or sanitize your hands frequently.
- Please respect that others' boundaries may be different from yours. *Salem COVID Task Force*



SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST • 5300 E. FLORIDA AVENUE, DENVER, CO 80222

Phone: 303-759-4649 • Email: salemuccdenver@gmail.com

CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Russ Kirby, Pastor • Chappell Kingsland, Music Director
Lisa Thomas, Administrative Assistant

WELCOME TO SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

Whether you are a guest or a member, thank you for worshipping with us.

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

- Mon. **7:00 pm C.E and Worship Committee,
Zoom Meeting**
7:00 pm Boy Scouts
- Tues. **10:00 am Bible Study – Zoom**
**5:30 pm Emergency Leadership Council (ELC)
Meeting**
- Wed. **9:00 am Romeos Coffee Club**
6:00 pm Community Meal
- Thurs. 7:00 pm Coin Club
- Sun. **9:30 am Contemplative Worship Service**
**Private scripture reading, meditation,
and prayer. Everyone is invited to
participate in person, or on Zoom.**



SALEM CHURCH OFFICE

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 11-1

Pastor Russ will be in Monday-Wednesday.



DECEMBER MISSION

Heifer Project and the Christmas Fund

