

Salem United Church of Christ
German Reformed

231 Chestnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101



Present Building Erected 1821-22, Organized 1787

Welcome to Salem UCC

If you are visiting us today, welcome! We are glad that you have come to worship with us. If you would like to receive a pastoral call, or be put on our mailing list, please fill out a visitor card found in the aisle racks or on the back tables and place it in the baskets in the back tables.

Some Basics

Restrooms are located out the left door at the front of the sanctuary. Take a left and a quick right and you'll find both the men's and women's restrooms off the hall to the church office on the left.

For your safety, yellow and red cards are placed at each pew with emergency procedures in case they are necessary. In addition, the church doors are closed after the first hymn at approximately 10:40. If you will arrive after that, please text your name and the time you will arrive to 717-319-8992 and we will make sure you are welcomed at the door on the east side garden at the corner of Chestnut and 3rd.

Church Tours

Established in 1787 on land given by John Harris, Salem has been a congregation committed to loving God and serving others for over 200 years. The name, Salem, comes from the Hebrew Shalom, and means peace, or the well-being of all. If you would like to learn more about the church's history, please come to the front of the church after the service and one of our members will be happy to give you a 15-minute guided tour.

Our information

Website: www.salemuccharrisburg.org

Facebook: Salem United Church of Christ, Harrisburg, PA

Church phone: (717) 232-7145

Church email: salemucc@hotmail.com

Pastor email: pastor.salemuccharrisbur@gmail.com

Salem United Church of Christ
May 2, 2021
5th Sunday of the Easter Season

Our Mission

"Historic Salem, in the heart of Harrisburg, seeks the Holy Spirit's guidance in welcoming all people to worship God; by encouraging participation in the ministry of Christ through Christian outreach with the city's heart."

Welcome and Pre-liturgy Announcements

Organ Prelude

Tolling of the bell

Call to Worship from Psalm 23 (please rise)

L: The Lord is our Shepherd, we lack no good thing.

P: In grassy meadows and by quiet streams Jesus restores our soul.

L: The Lord is our Shepherd, he leads us in good paths.

P: Even if the way is dark, Jesus will protect and comfort us.

L: The Lord is our Shepherd, he will not desert us.

P: In the midst of those who wish us ill, Jesus cares for us and gives us all that we need.

L: The Lord is our Shepherd; his faithful goodness never leaves us.

ALL: Because of his love, we will live together with him forever.

Opening Hymn: *"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"* Red 304 v1,4

Prayer of Invocation

L: Jesus Christ, Risen Lord, Savior, Friend. By your actions here on earth, you have earned the title of our Good Shepherd. You have shown us what it means to love because you laid down your life for us. Through your resurrection you proved to us that you can be trusted, even when our path lies through the valley of death. In love you continue to guide and lead us through your Spirit. We welcome you to this gathering, our Savior and Lord. May you be pleased with our worship, both in this sanctuary, and throughout this week. (please be seated)

Solo

"How Blessed to Know"

R. Powell; C. Mahon

Prayer of Confession

L: Let us continue in a prayer of confession:

All: Loving King, you have the words of life, you know the path to life. We confess that we do not always take the time to listen to you; or if we hear you we do not obey your voice. To do this is foolish, for it keeps us from walking with you and being who we were created to be. Correct us, Lord, when we turn a deaf ear or when we go astray. Amen.

Interlude

Kyrie



Lord have mer-cy up - on us; Christ have mer-cy up - on us; Lord have mer-cy up-on us.

Words of Assurance

M: It is God who is at work in you both to will and to do according to God's good pleasure. Praise to you, Lord Christ!

Scripture Lessons

First Reading: Acts 4:5-12

The Disciples Before the Jewish Elders

⁵ The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ Jesus is

"the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone."

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

How We Know Love

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what

pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Gloria Patri (please stand and stay standing for the Gospel)



The Gospel Reading: John 10:11-18

Jesus is the Good Shepherd

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—
¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.” (please be seated).

Sermon

Whose Voice Do You Hear?

Hymn of Response

“When Jesus Speaks”

K. Bible

(To the tune of “I’m Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger)

When Jesus speaks, he speaks to persons
Each heart to heart and face to face-
A word of peace, a word of challenge,
A word of sin, a word of grace.

When Jesus speaks, his word is wisdom.
O hear it sounding in your soul!
Your Lord is calling you to freedom,
To come and rest in his control.*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (debts and debtors)

Rejoicing in the mighty power of God who has given us hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us lift our voices and pray.

M: For our lives and for those whom we love, for the beauty of this planet which God has created for us, for the presence of the peace of Christ in our lives, let us give thanks to the Lord of life...Risen Lord, **Receive our praise!**

M: For your church, O Christ, for those who serve in the church and through the church, that we may lead by our example of listening to your voice. May we teach others to hear you and know that they are loved, so they may find the joy of being in your flock... ..Risen Lord, **Hear our prayer.**

M: For the leaders of the nations and peoples of the world, that the powers of oppression and destruction may be defeated through the light and love of truth and goodness. May God's peace, justice, and prosperity multiply and spread through our prayers and actions...Risen Lord, **Hear our prayer.**

M: For those who are sick and those who suffer, that the hope born of Easter gives them peace and healing. We pray specifically for... and those we mention now both silently and out loud... In the midst of their struggles may they sense your presence, Lord, who has shared our struggles to bring us peace...Risen Lord, **Hear our prayer.**

M: For those who have passed from this life to the next that they may rest in the love and light of God. That we who grieve them may find our hope in the power of the resurrection and be comforted in the truth that death is not the end of our stories...Risen Lord, **Hear our prayer.**

M: We offer these prayers in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying...**Our Father which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Presenting our Offerings

Doxology (please rise)

Prayer for Offering

M: Blessed are you, gracious God, who holds all things in your hands. As you have given us new life through Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to not only praise you, but also to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!”

Black 257, v1

Benediction (Hebrews 13:20-21)

M: Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen

(Please remain standing until the candles have been extinguished.)

Postlude

* CCLI# 3515326

THOSE SERVING THE CHURCH TODAY

Organist: Caleb Sisak

Soloist: Joseph Sobel

Worship Leader: Darlene Hillegas

Ushers and Greeters: Tom and Linda Farr

Acolyte: Richard Veet

Custodian: Sandy Sgrignoli

Pastor: Sue Schmidt

The flowers on the altar today are placed in memory of her mother, Goldie, by Gidge Geegee.

TO PONDER THIS WEEK

God is still speaking. Jesus' voice comes to us in many ways. Let us be open to hearing and responding this week.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting May 23: Keep the date for a brief congregational meeting after the service on May 23. Details coming.

Opportunities to Care:

UCC Homes' annual fundraiser (including the auction) is going virtual this year. Information about the event is included at the end of the bulletin.

Both Bethesda Mission and Christian Churches United are participating in Highmark's Walk for a Healthy Community. This event goes through mid-July. More information coming.

As We Open:

As we seek to be warm and welcoming, let's remember to respect personal space and boundaries others may wish to keep, especially given the current pandemic.

Parking at Salem:

With the construction across the street, street parking has become more limited. Remember that we may park in the lot at the bend on the southern end of Third Street. If you need to be closer to the church because of difficulty in walking, please contact the church office. We have 4 spaces available in the B'nai B'rith parking lot which are available on Sunday mornings with advance notice.

Salem's Closet: After being closed due to COVID, the closet will be opening soon. We'll keep you posted!

Wellspring Pastoral Counseling: Did you know there is pastoral counseling at Salem church? Pastoral counseling services are available for individuals,

families, and couples with concerns, such as: anxiety; depression; feelings of shame and guilt; spirituality; or grief and loss. Appointments are available Monday - Friday, 10am – 6pm (evening hours are also available). For more information, contact: Scott M. Watts, MS, LPC, NCC, call 717-433-7426, or email: wellspringpc@outlook.com.