July 18, 2021

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** “Cornerstone”

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Come away and rest for a while. Leave behind your busyness to be fully present to God.

**People: We have come for relief from life’s turmoil. God gathers us as a shepherd gathers her sheep.**

Leader: God’s steadfast love surrounds us here. We are reminded of God’s enduring faithfulness.

**People: This is God’s house, and we are God’s children. God invites us to feel at home in this place.**

Leader: We have a covenant with our Creator. This is a time for renewal of our promises.

**People: God calls for righteousness and justice. God offers us goodness and mercy all our days.**

**Hymn:**“Shout to the Lord”, Sing! #126

**Invocation**

**ALL: Rock of our salvation, we have accepted the invitation of Jesus to gather as your beloved people. We have been far away from you in our thoughts and separated from you in much that we do. Now we are together, seeking reconciliation with you and one another. We call on your steadfast love for assurance and healing. We feel our compassion for us and for all your children. We sense your longing for our wholeness and renewed faith and trust. You call us to be saints and apostles and prophets. We are overwhelmed, even as you draw us close. Amen.**

**New Testament Reading Jeremiah 23:1-6**

(Reading Preface: The messianic dimension of this prophecy from Jeremiah stands as a promise and a challenge for today’s church. The prophecy itself is rooted in a challenge to corrupt and ineffectual government over the people of Israel – to the shepherds who have destroyed and scattered God’s sheep. Here, God promises to step into the mix, acting as shepherd until surrogates can be named.)

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. 2 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. 3 Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. 4 I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. 5 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

**Special Music:**  “Living Hope” – soloist, Cindy Bradley

**Reflection Wherever You Are**

**Reflection Reading Mark 6:30-34,53-56**

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. 31 He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. 32 And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. 33 Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. 34 As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. 53 When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. 54 When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, 55 and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. 56 And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Offertory**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**ALL: Receive our best, gracious God, as we offer ourselves along with these tokens of thanks. Establish your rule in our midst so we may proclaim your reign in the world. Send us where you need us most. Use our gifts to reduce alienation and to build community. Be to us a watchful Parent and teach us to live as sisters and brothers who find you in one another and respond in love to each other’s needs. Amen.**

**Baptism and New Member Welcome**

**Welcome**

Pastor: Dear friends, as we come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though man, are one body, so it is with Christ.

**People: For by one Spirit we were baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves of free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit.**

Pastor: Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

**Address**

Pastor: Jesus said: Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Creator, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ’s church, the sign and seal of their participation in God’s forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ’s body**.

**Invitation**

Pastor: We invite to come forward those who wish to affirm their baptism and those who will be baptized in this household of faith. (PAUSE) Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ here at Salem. Through prayer they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus, using the gifts the Holy Spirit bestows. And they are here to bless with the waters of baptism, **Sullivan Patrick**, entering into the covenant of membership with Salem as one family.

**Questions of the Candidates**

Pastor: Do you desire to affirm your baptism and to baptize Sullivan into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

**Candidates: We do.**

Pastor: Will you renounce the powers of evil and desire freedom of new life in Christ, and will you encourage Sullivan to do the same?

**Candidates: We will.**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ’s disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able, and to show the same for Sullivan?

**Candidates: We promise, with the help of God.**

**Congregational Assent**

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, and to the ones affirming their baptism?

**ALL: We promise our love, support, and care.**

**Affirmation of Faith**

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

**People: I believe in God.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

**Prayer of Baptism and Affirmation**

Pastor: We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Noah, you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning. In the time of Moses, you people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery into freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land. In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ who was nurtured in the water of Mary’s womb. Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all the nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

**Act of Baptism**

Pastor: **Sullivan Patrick,** you are baptized in the name of the Creator, and of the Son, and of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit be upon you, Sullivan, child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the church. Tina, Katie, by your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the Church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks that we can be your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith. Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God’s people, sharing regularly in the worship of God, and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

**Candidates: We promise, with the help of God.**

**Welcome and Reception**

Pastor: Let us, the members of Salem United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**People: We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful, for these your children and the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend *Sullivan, Tina, and Katie* – these our new members of the body of Christ. Give to the newly baptized and affirmed: strength for life’s journey, courage in the time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

**Hymn:** “How Great Thou Art” – HC #467

**Benediction**

Pastor: Live with hope, for God is with us every day. Live in peace, for God turns us from hostility.

**People: We are one in Christ, who died for us. We are on in the Spirit who creates community.**

Pastor: Renew your covenant vows with God and people. Celebrate the oneness of humanity in Christ.

**People: We have daily access to God our Parent. We are citizens with the saints in God’s family.**

Pastor: There are people in the marketplace awaiting good news. Go to people you know who need your healing presence.

**People: We seek to recognize the needs around us. We commit ourselves to help as God gives us strength. Let us go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted, honor all people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Postlude:** “This Little Light of Mine”