

Salem United Methodist Church

Second Sunday In Lent March 16, 2025

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 119)

One: Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Many: Happy are those who keep God's decrees, who seek God with their whole heart.

One: Make us understand the way of your precepts, O God, and we will meditate on your wondrous works.

Many: Put false ways far from us, O God, and graciously teach us your law.

ALL: Lead us in the path of your commandments, for we delight in it.

*OPENING MUSIC

"Seek Ye First" #405

OPENING PRAYER (in unison): **Holy God, we thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ. Help us respond to his call to give ourselves to your Kingdom. We confess that we have often failed to live as your holy people. We have ignored your command to love and serve our neighbor. In your mercy, forgive us. By your Holy Spirit, empower us to honor our commitment to your realm, and live as more faithful followers of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison): **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison): **Eternal God, who spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways, and who has spoken to us by your Son: Open our ears and hearts by your Holy Spirit to welcome your Holy One's words of eternal life, that we may rejoice in your rule and walk after him in your ways. Amen.** (based on Hebrews 1:1-2; John 6:68-69)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 5:1-16 (NRSV)

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

MESSAGE

"The World's Most Important Sermon"

*DOXOLOGY

#95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly hosts; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison): **We believe Jesus Christ brought God's Kingdom near, calling all people to repent and believe the good news. We believe his death on the cross exposes both the reality of human sin and the depths of God's selfless, sacrificial love. We believe his resurrection is God's ultimate victory over sin, hate, evil, and death. We believe that through the Holy Spirit, Jesus still calls us and all people to repent and believe the gospel, yielding our hearts to God alone, embodying in our lives the justice, mercy, and love of God's rule.**

*CLOSING MUSIC

"My Hope Is Built" #368

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm on your face. The rain fall soft on your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

*POSTLUDE

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD

Live stream notice: We are blessed to be able to live stream and record our 10:45 a.m. worship service. Anyone in the sanctuary during that time may appear on camera as part of the service and consents to filming. Our camera is directed at the front of the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Stacey.

Our Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer for Illumination and Affirmation of Faith and cover art are all adapted from materials provided by Resurrection, A United Methodist Church for this sermon series based on The Message Of Jesus by Adam Hamilton.

Welcome to Salem United Methodist Church! Thank you for joining us today in worship.

Our Worship Leaders Today:

Jean Mattheu, Liturgist

Mark Carter, Tech Team Producer

Katy Stevens, Music Director

Bryan Niles, Tech Team Director

Rev. Dr. Stacey Nickerson, Pastor (pastor@salemunited.org)

Junior Church begins after the Children's Message.

Choir rehearses at 9:45 a.m. in the chapel.

THIS WEEK (see our website for details: salemunited.org)

Monday, 3/17 – prepaid Soup Sale orders due (forms in narthex & online)

Monday, 3/17 7:00 p.m. – Pastor's Lenten Bible Study on Zoom

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86945193408>) based on The Message of Jesus:

Words That Changed The World by Adam Hamilton.

Monday, 3/17 7:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)

Wednesday, 3/19 10:00 a.m. – Morning Bible Study (Salem House)

Wednesday, 3/12 6:30 p.m. – Vespers

Wednesday, 3/19 7:00 p.m. – Church Council (Salem Room)

UPCOMING (see our website for details: salemunited.org)

Sunday, 3/23 – Soup Sale pickup (Kitchen; 15 minutes after each service)

Tuesday, 4/1 – Knit or crocheted hats for NICU babies due to church. Contact Angela Spinner with questions.

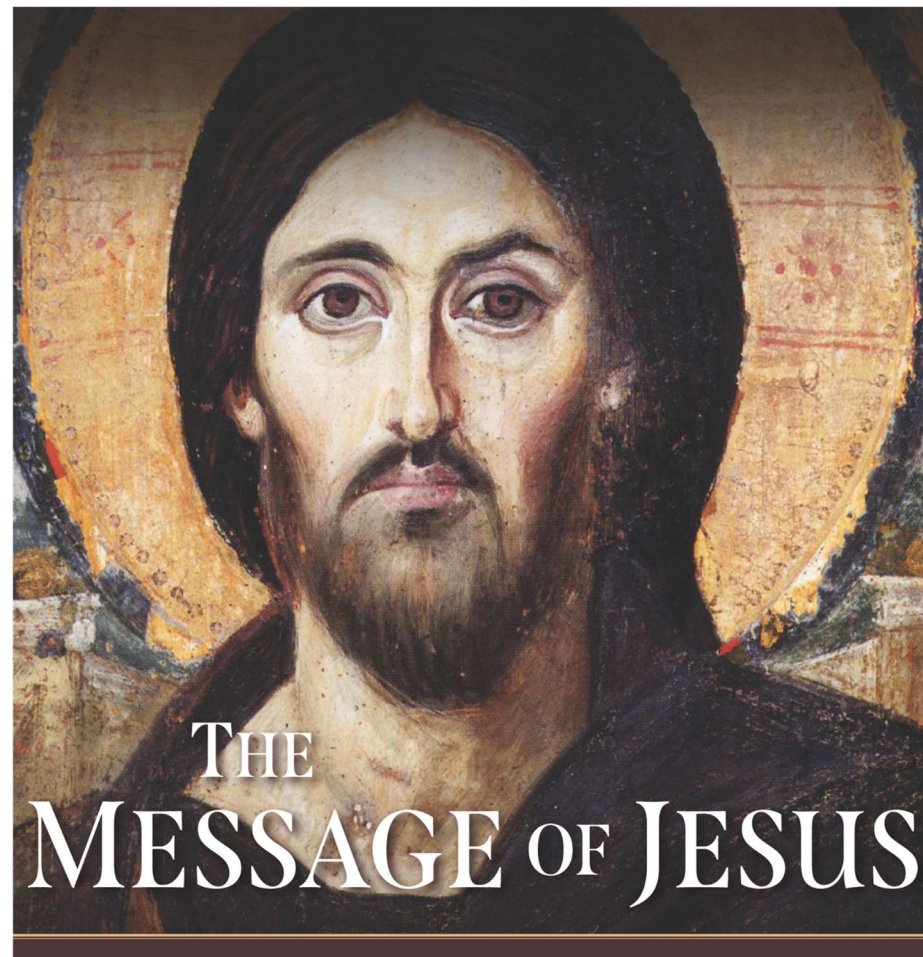
Holy Week: Please mark your calendar for our Holy Week offerings:

- April 13, both services: Palm/Passion Sunday
- April 17, 6:00 p.m.: Soup & Bread Supper
- April 17, 7:00 p.m.: Holy Thursday worship with Communion (in person & online)
- April 18, 1:00 p.m.: Community Cross Walk (meet at Franklinville Presbyterian Church, 11846 Franklinville Road)
- April 20: Easter
 - 6:30 a.m. – Sunrise at the Cemetery
 - 6:30 – 10:00 a.m. – Breakfast in the Hall
 - 8:00 a.m. – Chapel
 - 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School/Egg Hunt
 - 10:45 a.m. - Sanctuary

Salem United Methodist Church

7901 Bradshaw Road, PO Box 192, Upper Falls, MD 21156 (410) 592-2543

salemunited.org



**“THE WORLD’S MOST
IMPORTANT SERMON”**

**SALEM UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

MARCH 16, 2025