



Salem/Shalom Lutheran Church ELCA  
4700 West 72<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46268  
Rev. Dr. James M. Capers

Order of Homegoing Service for  
Rev. Dr. Bonnie Sparks

Welcome Pastor James M. Capers

Opening Hymn "Be Thou my Vision"

1. Be Thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2. Be Thou my Wis - dom, and Thou my true Word;  
3. Rich - es I need not, nor man's emp - ty praise,  
4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—  
I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!

Thou my best thought by day or by night,  
Thou my great Fa - ther, and I thy true son,  
Thou and Thou on - ly be first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.  
Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.  
High King of heav - en, my Treas - ure Thou art.  
Still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## Invitation to Worship

**P** When we were baptized in Christ Jesus we were baptized into His death. We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

## Apostolic Greeting

**P** The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister, *Bonnie*. We thank you for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith that we may see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

## Words of Appreciation

## Reading of Obituary

## Scripture

### Old Testament Reading

### Genesis 1: 26-31 NRSV

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**Second Reading****Song of Simeon/Nunc Dimittis**

Lord, you now have set your servant free  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

**The Gospel****Mark 5: 21-24, 35-43 NRSV**

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him.

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

**Eulogy**

Jillanne Thomas

**Pastoral Words**

Pastor James M. Capers

**Hymn**

***"Here I Am Lord"***

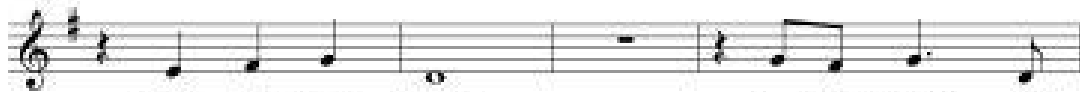
verses



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my  
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my  
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the



peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin  
 peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them.  
 poor and lame. I will set a feast for them.



My hand will save. I who made the  
 They turn a - way. I will break their  
 My hand will save. Fin - est bread I

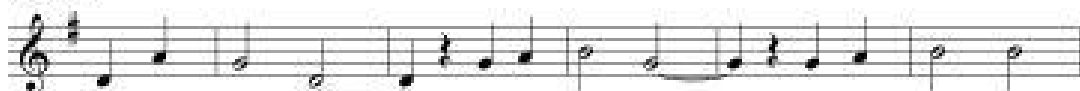


stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.  
 hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 will pro - vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

## **Apostles Creed**

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

## **Prayers of the Church**

Constance Kadyole, Pastor Laurin Vance, Riziki Luanda

### **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 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 and ever.  
Amen.*

### **The Commendation**

Closing Hymn

*"I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"*



1 I sing a song of the saints of God, \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, there are



pa - tient and brave and true, who \_\_\_\_\_ toiled and \_\_\_\_\_ fought and \_\_\_\_\_  
 his love \_\_\_\_\_ made them strong; and they fol - lowed the right, for \_\_\_\_\_  
 hund - reds of thou - sands still, the \_\_\_\_\_ world is \_\_\_\_\_ bright with the



lived and died for the Lord they \_\_\_\_\_ loved and knew. And \_\_\_\_\_  
 Je - sus' sake, the \_\_\_\_\_ whole of their good lives long. And \_\_\_\_\_  
 joy - ous saints who \_\_\_\_\_ love to do Je - sus' will. You can



one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, and one was a shep -  
 one was a sold - ier, and one was a priest, and one was \_\_\_\_\_ slain  
 meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains,



herd - ess on the \_\_\_\_\_ green: they were all of them saints of \_\_\_\_\_  
 by a fierce wild \_\_\_\_\_ beast: and there's not an - y rea - son \_\_\_\_\_  
 or in shops, or at tea, for the saints of \_\_\_\_\_ God are just



God \_\_\_\_\_ and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.  
 no, not the least, why I should - n't be one too.  
 folk like \_\_\_\_\_ me, and I mean to be one too.

*Saints' Days; All Saints' Day (November 1).*

Words: Lesbia Scott (b. 1898), alt.

Music: *Grand Isle*, John Henry Hopkins (1861-1945)

Irr.

P Let us go forth in peace.

The family wishes to thank Pastor Capers, the Salem/Shalom community, and the many, many kind individuals who have offered help surrounding our unexpected loss. Your love, support, and prayers have been greatly appreciated.



Rev. Dr. Bonita S. Sparks passed away Wednesday, May 5, 2021 in Indianapolis, IN. She was a retired minister of the ELCA church. Born in St. Louis, MO to John M. and Viola, Bonnie and her family moved to Indianapolis when she was a child. Though she moved many times as an adult, Indianapolis remained a home base throughout her life.

Bonnie valued all education, including both formal education and learning through travel and experience. She was proud to have earned a doctorate and to have traveled and lived in many locations. Whenever she could, she encouraged others to broaden their minds by pursuing education and travel. She applied her own degrees in a career in Christian education, pastoral and elderly care, and pastoral church ministry. She credited the matriarchs in her family for instilling a religious foundation which directed her career in the church. Salem Lutheran, her final congregation, is not only one she called home, but also one where her work shines brightly. Rebuilding the congregation to serve the needs of the international community around them was a source of enormous pride for her. It encapsulated many of her values: reimagined growth through learning, outreach to the vulnerable, and cross-cultural understanding. After Bonnie's retirement, she continued to grow and learn through transformative travel, deeply experiencing several countries and cultures of Africa. Upon her final return to Indianapolis, she used her knowledge and experience to strengthen her local Crooked Creek North Neighborhood Community to be one of mutual dignity, support, and justice. She will be missed globally and locally.

Bonnie embraced her eccentricities and delighted in what made her unique. She decorated for Halloween to the fullest, ruthlessly used the words "shall" and "autumnal," wore the craziest glasses and hats she could find, and made it her mission to complete as many "sets of experiences," such as visiting national parks, states, countries, or Disney theme parks, as she could. If she could surprise others with the unexpected, she would smile.