

*The Congregational  
Church of Salisbury*  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

7 March 2021 • 10:00AM  
Third Sunday of Lent



## WELCOME!

Welcome to the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC! While we refrain from meeting in person during the COVID-19 crisis, we continue to share in worship together, virtually. This bulletin will guide you through the process of joining us in worship.

## HOW WE WILL WORSHIP TOGETHER

Today's service will be held over Zoom, which is videoconferencing technology available free of charge online. Zoom allows us to see one another throughout the service. To prevent background noise, you will be put on 'mute' for the majority of the service. Even when we can't hear you, you are invited and encouraged to speak your part in the responsive readings, sing boldly, and participate fully.

### PREPARE FOR OUR ONLINE WORSHIP

1. Visit [zoom.us/download](https://zoom.us/download) to find the Zoom app for desktop, laptop, or smartphone
2. For desktop computer users, make sure your webcam is plugged in
3. To practice, join a test meeting: visit [zoom.us/test](https://zoom.us/test) and click "join."

If you are not able to use a smartphone or computer, you can also call in via any regular phone (see below).

### JOIN WORSHIP ONLINE

Link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/954580657>

Or join Worship by Phone:

Call (646) 876-9923. When prompted, enter this meeting ID: 954 580 657

You may also watch the service on our YouTube channel, which has better audio quality (though we'll miss visiting with you in the Zoom meeting!):

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCBLRqeZ9Gxj7828rN9sp7og/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBLRqeZ9Gxj7828rN9sp7og/)

## REFLECTING AS WE GATHER

Whenever someone feels anger, there is a potential for powerful dignity, a sense of responsibility, and the expression of some deep personal value that has a universal rightness. This value needs acknowledgement.

*David E. Doiron, Anger and Personal Power*

I have learned through bitter experience the one supreme lesson to conserve my anger, and as heat conserved is transmitted into energy, even so our anger controlled can be transmitted into a power that can move the world.

*Mohandas Karamchand (Mahatma) Gandhi (1869-1948)*

In the midst of great joy, do not promise anyone anything. In the midst of great anger, do not answer anyone's letter.

*Chinese proverb*

## WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

### PRELUDE

### GREETING

Our service will include communion; I encourage you to get something to eat and drink that may represent the bread and wine of the Last Supper

### INTROIT

"Weave Us Together"

### CALL TO WORSHIP

The morning stars profess God's glory:

**the waking birds harmonize a refrain of grace.**

The sun warms us with God's hope,

the night sky whispers peace to our sleepy souls:

**creation's voice echoes continually in our hearts,**

**reminding us of God's steadfast love.**

Our wisdom is shattered by God's absurd love;

God's vulnerability strengthens our feeble faith:

**God's words seed joy in our hearts;**

**we follow them to peace and hope.**

### HYMN #214

"O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"  
verses 1, 2 5

DEO GRACIAS

### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

At the center of the law is God's love — that divine nonsense shown in becoming human for our sake; that weakness for us which defeats the strongest powers. This love, this grace is of more value to us than all the stocks in our pension funds. Let us open ourselves to such love as we confess our hearts to God, saying:

## RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Holy God, Maker of all

**All: Have mercy on us.**

Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor

**Have mercy on us.**

Holy Spirit, Breath of life

**Have mercy on us.**

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

**(Prayer in silence)**

Before God, with the people of God,

I confess to my brokenness:

to the ways I wound my life,

the lives of others,

and the life of the world.

**May God forgive you, Christ renew you,  
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Amen.

**Before God, with the people of God,  
we confess to our brokenness:  
to the ways we wound our lives,  
the lives of others,  
and the life of the world.**

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,  
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

**Amen.**

## RESPONSE IN SONG

“Weave Us Together”

## RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 19

ONE: The heavens declare the brilliance of God;

**ALL: The skies proclaim God's handiwork.**

Day after day they pour forth speech;

**Night after night they disclose understanding.**

Yet there is no speech, nor are there words;

**Their voice cannot be heard;**

Yet their voice goes out through all the earth,

**And their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens the Almighty has pitched a tent for the sun.

The sun comes forth with eagerness,

like one betrothed emerging from the wedding canopy,  
seeking the beloved;

**Like a champion the sun runs its course with joy.**

It rises from one end of the heavens, and journeys to the other end;

**Nothing can hide from its heat.**

The dominion of the Holy One is all-embracing, restoring life.

**The teachings of the Most High are trustworthy,  
making the simple wise.**

The designs of the Eternal One are life-giving,  
rejoicing the heart.

**The word of the Redeemer is radiant,  
lighting up the eyes.**

Faithfulness to the Creator brings enduring strength;

**God's ways are faithful and loving,**

More to be desired than gold,

**Even much pure gold;**

Sweeter also than honey,

**Than honey from the comb.**

Your ways are the passage to life;

**All other paths are raging with peril.**

But who can keep always on course?

**Prevent me from wandering.**

Let me not be beguiled by the arrogant,  
who boast of their own powers.

Then I shall ever lodge my trust in You,

And keep to Your ways.

**May the words of my mouth  
and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to You,  
my Rock and my Redeemer.**

## **WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD**

### **A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS**

#### **MODERN TESTIMONY**

Milan Kundera

“The stupidity of people comes from having an answer for everything. The wisdom of the novel comes from having a question for everything.

“In any case, it seems to me that all over the world people nowadays prefer to judge rather than to understand, to answer rather than to ask, so that the voice of the novel can hardly be heard over the noisy foolishness of human certainties.”

#### **ANCIENT TESTIMONY:**

John 2:13-22

#### **SERMON**

“Loving Anger”

John A. Nelson

## **WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **OFFERTORY**

One: Here we remember how you poured out all of yourself, God, giving life and hope to your world. We give ourselves to your vision. We give our tithes and offerings, thankful for grace that is the deepest richness of our lives.

**ALL: Let us offer our gifts with grateful praise,  
and commit them to God's purposes.**

### **RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS**

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

#### **✠ DOXOLOGY**

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit ever more;  
One God of grace, whom we adore! Amen.**

#### **✠ UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of grace and passion, all things are yours — we are your caretakers. We return a portion of the gifts you placed in our lives, and we pray your blessing on them. Let these tithes and offerings give comfort to the suffering, food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, and a reminder of your love to all the world. We ask it in Jesus' name; Amen.**

## **WE FEAST AT GOD'S TABLE**

### **INVITATION**

### **PREPARATION**

Leader: We gather now as one body, joined around the table.

**People: Here we celebrate God's presence among us  
united in Christ's spirit, broken and whole all at once;**

Nourished and hungry, loving and lonely,  
sinner and forgiven; we make one circle of knowing,  
**believing, rejoicing, being,  
as God lights and rests among us.**

### **INVITATION**

Leader: This is the table of the Heavenly Feast,  
the joyful celebration of the saints of God.

**People: Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of life,  
to drink the cup of the new covenant.**

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. She who comes to me shall never hunger; he who believes in me shall never thirst."

**In the beginning,  
God provided every plant yielding seed  
and every tree with seed in its fruit for food.**

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God fed them with miraculous food.

**When the crowds were hungry, Jesus fed over five thousand  
with two fish and five loaves of bread.**

## **THE MEAL**

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said,

**"This is my body which is for you;  
do this remembering me."**

After supper Jesus took the cup and said,

**"This is the cup of the new covenant;  
whenever you drink it, do so remembering me."**

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS ✕ PRAYERS ✕ THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debt*s)**

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**Come, Holy Spirit. Continue to pour out your life-giving, healing power on us, and on this meal that nourishes us. As we share this food and drink, may we become, for each other, the hope that Jesus has awakened in us. In this meal we celebrate the promised banquet when all shall be fed abundantly, and all shall drink from the river of the water of life. Amen.**

## **SHARING THE MEAL**

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

**"Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup"**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

ONE: Eternal and gracious One, though we live in a world of need,

**ALL: here we have tasted your goodness  
and hungered for a world more just.**

Though afflicted by brokenness and division,

**here we have heard your call to be a people of healing community.**

Though daily we touch our limits,

**here we have received the fullness of your grace.**

You have filled us, O God:

**inspire us to live in love and to share your *shalom*! Amen.**

**HYMN #215**

**“What Wondrous Love Is This”**

WONDROUS LOVE

**BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**



*Worshippers:*

Members and Friends of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC

Salisbury UCC Choir;

Jennifer Oberto, *cantor*

Dr. Samuel Lord Kalcheim, *music director*

Sarah Rydingsword, *reader*

Kathy Mera, *online host*

The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson, *preacher*