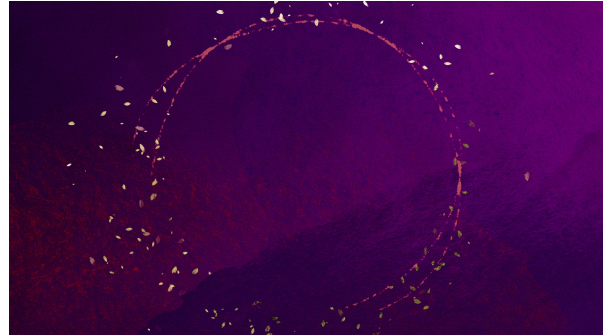


*The Congregational
Church of Salisbury*
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**21 March 2021 • 10:00AM
Fifth Sunday in 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 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 and click "join."

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

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/

REFLECTING AS WE GATHER

“Spiritual practice is not just sitting and meditation. Practice is looking, thinking, touching, drinking, eating and talking. Every act, every breath, and every step can be practice and can help us to become more ourselves.”

— *Tich Nhat Hanh (b. 1926) Vietnamese monk, peace activist, and author*

“Every practice was a learning process.”

— *Kanniks Kannikeswaran, Indo-American musician, composer, music educator*

“I am driven by two main philosophies: know more today about the world than I knew yesterday and lessen the suffering of others. You'd be surprised how far that gets you.”

— *Neil deGrasse Tyson*

“Practice kindness all day to everybody and you will realize you're already in heaven now.”

— *Jack Kerouac (1922-1969)*

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Fantasy in G minor

Johann Pachelbel

GREETING

INTROIT

“O Sing to Our God”

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: This is the day God has promised: the day of the new covenant.

ALL: We are here, because our hearts are filled with love for our God.

No longer carved on cold stone, this covenant is engraved on our hearts.

Our hearts are open so God's Word can shape us.

We will reach out to our neighbors, our friends and family, even to strangers.

Our hearts are ready to serve God and all of God's people.

HYMN #218

“Ah, Holy Jesus”
verses 1, 4, 5

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

One: If we would see Jesus, we open our eyes to the ways we have not followed him as disciples. If we want God to create new hearts within us, we speak of the old ways in which we continue to live. If we seek God's mercy, we confess all that keeps us from living as God's children. Join me, as we come to the One who will forgive us.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O Heart which seeks our own: we yearn for your presence in our lives,
yet turn away from you time and again.**

**We want to serve others,
but become obsessed with our own desires.**

**We need your Word to fill our emptiness,
yet let it be silenced by the noise of our world.**

**In this silence, and in the depths of our hidden souls,
come to us and make us whole, Steadfast Love.**

**Write grace upon our hearts,
so we might be more forgiving people;**

**write mercy on our hearts,
so we might become more welcoming people;**

**write hospitality upon our hearts
so we might become more like Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior,
who came for all people, even us.**

(We pray in silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

A new heart, a generous spirit, a fresh start: these are the gifts our God gives to us.

**Through Christ, we are cleansed; through Christ, we are healed; through
Christ, we become new people. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“O Sing to Our God”

TUNE

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 119:9-16

ONE: How can young people keep their way open to the Most High?

ALL: By living it according to Your word.

With my whole heart I seek You;

Do not let me stray from Your direction.

I treasure Your promises in my heart,

So that I may not lose my way to You.

Holy are You, O God Almighty;

Teach me Your way.

With my lips I declare all that comes from Your mouth.

I delight in Your guidance as much as in all riches.

I will meditate on Your teachings,

And fix my eyes on Your path.

I will delight in Your instruction;

I will not forget Your word.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*depts*)

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

MODERN TESTIMONY

from “Contemplation in Action”

Richard Rohr, OSF

Listen to the news or look around and within you—it is clear that we are mostly going nowhere. Each individual is on his or her own to find and create his or her personal meaning. This does not work, especially for the young. As a result, there is little sense of the common good. Thus we are repeating the same patterns that produce violence, suffering, emotional immaturity, and death. We need new ways of thinking and being to engage with others through our simple humanity, our brokenness, differences, and complexity. We must do the hard work of learning to live a generative life for others, living out our sacred soul task in service to the world.

How you do anything is how you do everything! For our spirituality to be authentic, we ... practice unitive consciousness in our conversations, problem solving, politics, vocations, lifestyle, and even our dying. Indeed, the goal of mature religion is to help us die before we die, so we are ready for our real life!

ANCIENT TESTIMONY:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

SERMON

“Practice, Practice, Practice”

Pastor John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

We practice generosity here — a response to the grace of God, an exercise of faith, a building-up of our capacity to care for our neighbors, a renewal of gratitude. Through practice, God causes our generosity to grow.

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

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Da Jesus an dem Kreuze stund”

J. Pachelbel

✕ DOXOLOGY

OLD 100TH

**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

**Holy One, as you write upon our hearts, soften them with your compassion.
As you soften them, open us to the needs of neighbors, near and far. As you
open us to the hurts and heartaches of your children, give us the grace to be**

as generous with our gifts as you are in blessing us. Take these gifts and use them to share peace, love, grace, and joy with your people. In Jesus' name, we pray: Amen.

HYMN #440

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”
verses 1, 2, 4

ABERYSTWYTH

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Fugue sur le jeux de anches

François Couperin



Worshippers:

Members and Friends of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC

Salisbury UCC Choir;

Jennifer Oberto, *cantor*

Dr. Samuel Lord Kalcheim, *music director*

Cynthia LaPier, *reader & online host*

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