

*The Congregational
Church of Salisbury*
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**18 April 2021 • 10:00AM
Third Sunday of Easter**



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

One cannot level one's moral lance at every evil in the universe. There are just too many of them. But you can do something — and the difference between doing something and doing nothing is everything.

Daniel Berrigan

“Much of religion is about forcing others to become something they are not. God’s desire in sending us out to serve, on the other hand, is about enabling us to become something we are: members of the Body of Christ, a community that knows and extends God’s shalom to the world.”

— *C. Andrew Doyle*

The greatest gift we can give the world is our own evolution.”

— *Donna Goddard*

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

“Elevation in F major”

Alexandre Guilmant

GREETING

INTROIT

“Sanctuary”

John Thompson and Randy Scruggs

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: When fear and doubts stroll through our doors:

ALL: God stands beside us, whispering of peace.

When we toss and turn late at night:

God sits by our beds, singing lullabies of love.

When we stumble through the shadows of sin:

God illuminates the paths of goodness and joy.

HYMN #247

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

NOËL NOUVELET

Verses 1, 3, 4

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

If our actions mirrored our words, if our hands were mentored by our hearts, if we walked the talk - we would be God’s children. But too often, it is our silence, our doubts, our fears which tell others who we truly are. Let us confess to God how we have not been as faithful as we hope, as we pray, saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

God of empty tombs: Peter speaks with power and clarity of his faith, while we remain silent. The psalmist speaks of trusting in you, while our doubts

overwhelm us. Jesus is ready to come and grace us with peace, but our fears keep our hearts shuttered and locked.

God of full hearts: your love can change us from scared people to children of grace. You can weed doubts from our hearts and plant seeds of joy in their place. You can silence the panic of our souls with the peace Jesus offers to each of us. Transform us into Easter people, through the power of Jesus Christ, our risen Teacher and Savior.

(We pray in silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: What marvelous love, what wondrous grace, what abundant mercy God offers - to us!
We really are God's people - that is exactly who we are!

ALL: We are God's children - those whose lives have been changed by the One who loves us and forgives us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG #

“Sanctuary”

John Thompson and Randy Scruggs

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 4

ONE: Happy are those who consider the poor;
The Holy One delivers them in the day of trouble.

**ALL: The Author of Life protects them and keeps them alive;
They are called happy in the land.**

You do not surrender them to the desires of their enemies.

**The Almighty sustains them on their sickbed,
Transforming their bed of suffering.**

As for me, I said, "O Holy One, be gracious to me;

Restore me, for I have strayed from You."

My enemies asked in malice when I would die,

And my name pass from memory.

And when they came to see me,

**They uttered empty words,
While their minds amassed tales;**

When they went out, they defamed me.

All who hated me whispered together about me;

They assumed the worst for me.

They speculated that a deadly thing had fastened on me,

That I would not rise again from where I lay.

**Even my closest friend
in whom I trusted,
who ate of my bread,
Turned against me.**

But You, O Redeemer, had compassion on me,

And raised me up, that my life might refute their claims.

I know that You bless me,

Because the ill-will of my enemy has not triumphed over me.
You uphold me because I put my trust in You,
And let me live in Your presence forever.

**Blessed be the Holy One, the God of the faithful,
from everlasting to everlasting.
Amen and Amen.**

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts*)

MODERN TESTIMONY

*from "If You Want to Write:
A Book about Art, Independence and Spirit"*

Brenda Ueland

"When Van Gogh was a young man in his early twenties, he was in London studying to be a clergyman. He had no thought of being an artist at all. He sat in his cheap little room writing a letter to his younger brother in Holland, whom he loved very much. He looked out his window at a watery twilight, a thin lamppost, a star, and he said in his letter something like this: "it is so beautiful I must show you how it looks." And then on his cheap ruled note paper, he made the most beautiful, tender, little drawing of it.

"... the moment I read Van Gogh's letter I knew what art was, and the creative impulse. It is a feeling of love and enthusiasm for something, and in a direct, simple, passionate and true way, you try to show this beauty in things to others....

"And Van Gogh's little drawing on the cheap note paper was a work of art because he loved the sky and the frail lamppost against it so seriously that he made the drawing with the most exquisite conscientiousness and care."

ANCIENT TESTIMONY

Luke 24:36b-48

SERMON

"We'll Take the Fish"

Pastor John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

PASTORAL PRAYER | SILENT PRAYER

OFFERTORY

God gives love, says the scripture, and gives abundantly — which means that we have much to give away to others. Even when we don't think we have much, here we remember how generous God has been with us. Here we honor and even imitate God, in giving generously to the works of love in the world.

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

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

Chorale: "Christ Jesus
Lay in Death's Strong Bands"

*Text: Martin Luther
Music: M. Luther & J. Walter,
harm. J.S. Bach*

✠ **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**

**Generous and gracious God, you have given us all that we call our own. We
are returning a portion of that abundance, and now pray your blessing upon
the giving, that what you send through us might make a difference in the
lives of your children, our kindred, around this world. Amen!**

HYMN #295

"Go to the World"
verses 2, 3, 4

SINE NOMINEE

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN (Hymnal, #600)

POSTLUDE

"Christ Lag in Todesbanden"

J.S. Bach



Worshippers:

Members and Friends of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC

Salisbury UCC Choir;

Jennifer Oberto, *cantor*

Dr. Samuel Lord Kalcheim, *music director*

Malcolm Brown, *reader*

Kathy Mera, *online host*

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



The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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