



# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

**25 APRIL 2021 • 10:00AM • FOURTH 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](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

We have become, by the power of a glorious evolutionary accident called intelligence, the stewards of life's continuity on earth. We did not ask for this role, but we cannot abjure it. We may not be suited to it, but here we are.

— *Stephen Jay Gould*

When we use the toil of our hands and not only our minds to bring newness and restoration to the world, we become part of God's healing process in creation.

— *Jerusalem Jackson Greer*

The Holy Land is everywhere.

— *Black Elk*

## WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

### PRELUDE

### GREETING

### INTROIT

One: In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life,  
in the name of Christ, the pulse of life,  
and in the name of the Spirit, the breath of life. Amen.

**All: Holy! Holy! Holy!**

**Earth is filled with God's presence.**

**Sung:**

**Holy! Holy! Holy!**

**Creator God Almighty!**

**Forest, land, and wilderness are full of life from Thee.**

**Water, air, and spirit: each reveals your glory!**

**Christ in all creation: praise and honor be!**

NICEA

### CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We gather in the presence of our God:

**ALL: where those bearing grief,  
and those with seeking solace,  
and those with skinned knees  
have our tears wiped away.**

We gather as God's children:

**to worship the One who provides our deep needs,  
even before we know them.**

We gather, summoned by grace,

**to taste the goodness of God,  
to drink deeply from God's mercy.**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

Knowing how easy it is to wander from the paths of right living; aware of all the shadowed valleys we wander; remembering how we have failed to place our trust in God - how can we not come to God with our confessions? Please join me as we pray, saying,

**UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**Comfort of your people: we confess the emptiness of our souls that sends us searching for all those things which cannot nourish us. Our restless longing for the goods of the world fills us with every envy and thirst. Our belief that still waters are stagnant causes us to long for whitewater thrills and adventures. Our trust in the hollow promises of our culture turns us away from the shelter you offer to us.**

**Forgive us, Goodness Incarnate. Call us back from our wayward lives, so we may find rest in the stillness of your gentle heart; we may find healing from your scarred hands; we may find that life for which we yearn, together in you and through Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior.**

*(We pray in silence)*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

This is the good news: God will walk with us in every moment,  
God will fill us with goodness and mercy,  
God will bring us home to live forever.

**Anointed with grace and forgiveness, our lives overflow with love for all.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 23**

ONE: God is my shepherd: I have everything I need.

**ALL: The Most High makes me lie down in green pastures;  
leads me to water in places of repose;**

God refreshes my soul.

**God guides me on the paths of righteousness,  
as befits the Holy name.**

Though I walk through the valley of deepest gloom,  
or stand in the shadow of death,

**I am not afraid, for you are with me.**

Your rod, Your staff — they comfort me.

**You spread a full table before me, even in the midst of fearful pain;**

You feast me with your abundance  
and honor me as Your chosen one,

**Anointing my head with sweet oil, filling my cup to the brim.**

Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life,

**And I will live in God’s radiance forever and ever.**

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

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

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*debts*)

#### **MODERN TESTIMONY**

from "Losing our Virtue"

*by David F. Wells*

"Humility has nothing to do with depreciating ourselves and our gifts in ways we know to be untrue. Even "humble" attitudes can be masks of pride. Humility is that freedom from our self which enables us to be in positions in which we have neither recognition nor importance, neither power nor visibility, and even experience deprivation, and yet have joy and delight. It is the freedom of knowing that we are not in the center of the universe, not even in the center of our own private universe."

#### **ANCIENT TESTIMONY:**

Psalm 23

#### **SERMON**

"God's Greening"

John A. Nelson

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

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

#### **OFFERTORY**

**ONE:** Generous God, you blessed the world with a creation that fosters life and sustains life. You gave us places where your spirit of life goes untamed, and places where we may rest in peaceful wonder. We remember how good and holy are your works. In gratitude we make our tithes and offerings, returning to you a portion of the richness you have entrusted to us.

**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**

**Creator God, we bless these gifts in your name. May they honor you. May they bring a measure of healing to your earth. May this be a new beginning of our giving — offering the best we can, to your gracious rule of all the world. We ask it in Jesus' name; Amen.**

**HYMN**

“And Did Those Feet in Ancient Time”

JERUSALEM

*Text: William Blake, adap.*

**And did those feet in ancient time  
walk upon these our mountains green?  
And was the holy Lamb of God  
on these our pleasant pastures seen?  
And did the countenance divine  
shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
among these dark satanic mills?**

**Bring me my bow of burning gold!  
Bring me my arrows of desire!  
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!  
Bring me my chariot of fire!  
I will not cease from mental fight,  
nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,  
till we have built Jerusalem  
in this our green and pleasant land.**

**BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**



**Participants in Today's Celebration**

*Worshipers:*

Members and Friends of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC

Salisbury UCC Choir;  
Jennifer Oberto, *cantor*

Dr. Samuel Lord Kalcheim, *music director*

Karin Noyes, *reader and online host*

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