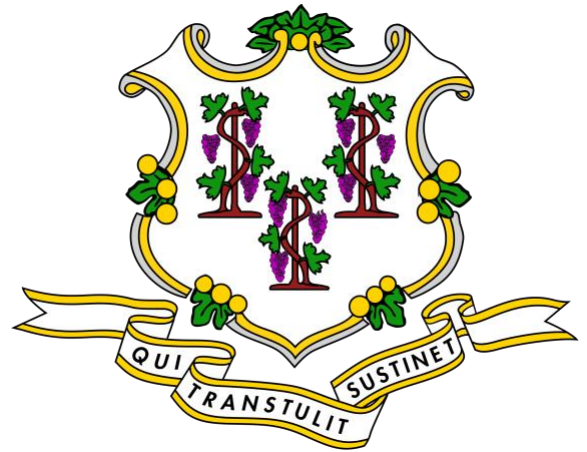


*The Congregational
Church of Salisbury*
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2 May 2021 • 10:00AM
Fifth 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 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/

REFLECTING AS WE GATHER

In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spurious self-isolation in a special world, the world of renunciation and supposed holiness. The whole illusion of a separate holy existence is a dream.

— *Thomas Merton*

This we know. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth, befalls the people of the earth. We did not weave the web of life. We are but a mere strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

— *Chief Seattle*

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

GREETING

INTROIT

“Rooted and Grounded in Love”

Barbara Hamm

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Here in this place of worship,
with the congregation of the faithful,

**ALL: we lay down our fears,
to boldly sing God’s praise.**

Here in the vineyard of God,
with our sisters and brothers in Christ,

**we sing the songs of our faith
and recall the stories of God’s grace.**

Here, where God waits to serve us at the Table,

**we shall be so filled with love
that we may run to serve others.**

HYMN #36

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

AR HYD Y NOS

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

ONE: The seeds of grace, hope, joy, and love are planted deep with us, so they can bear fruit in our lives. But we resist staying connected to the Vine, thinking we can flourish on our own. Let us confess our sins, so we can once more feel God abiding deep within us. Please join me as we pray, saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Heart of Compassion:
called to be one body,
we fragment ourselves into a million selfish pieces;
your children of love,
we persist in judging our sisters and brothers;
though your Perfect Love was broken for us,
we are afraid to give of ourselves to the world.
Abide in us, Vine Grower.
Forgive us of our sins,
so we may live boldly,
love fearlessly,
and proclaim unceasingly that **Jesus Christ**
is our **Teacher and Savior.**

(We pray in silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Do you feel it – there, deep down in your hearts? God’s love is alive, beating, breathing – in you!

Because God abides in us, we can live for others, allowing God’s love to bear fruit in us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Rooted and Grounded in Love”

Barbara Hamm

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c

ONE: Hallelujah!

ALL: How good it is to sing honor to our God;

For the Holy One is gracious,

And a song of acclaim is fitting.

The Most High rebuilds the holy city;

And gathers up the outcasts.

The Almighty heals the brokenhearted,

And binds up their wounds.

The Holy One determines the number of the stars;

And gives to each its name.

Great is our Creator, and abundant in power;

God's wisdom is beyond measure.

The Holy One lifts up the downtrodden;

And brings the oppressors down to the dust.

Sing to the Most High with thanksgiving;

Make melody on the lyre to honor our God,

Who covers the heavens with clouds,

Prepares rain for the earth,

Makes grass grow on the hills.

Who provides food for the beasts of the field,
And for the raven's brood when they cry.

The Author of Life does not prize the strength of the horse,
Nor value the speed of the runner;

But the Holy One delights in those who trust in God,
In those who put their hope in God's unfailing love.

Hallelujah!

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts*)

MODERN TESTIMONY

"Paradise"

George Herbert

I Blesse thee, Lord, because I GROW
Among thy trees, which in a ROW
To thee both fruit and order OW.

What open force, or hidden CHARM
Can blast my fruit, or bring me HARM,
While the inclosure is thine ARM?

Inclose me still for fear I START.
Be to me rather sharp and TART,
Then let me want thy hand & ART.

When thou dost greater judgments SPARE,
And with thy knife but prune and PARE,
Ev'n fruitfull trees more fruitfull ARE.

Such sharpnes shows the sweetest FREND:
Such cuttings rather heal then REND:
And such beginnings touch their END.

ANCIENT TESTIMONY

John 15:1-8

SERMON

"Branching Out"

John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

OFFERTORY

Leader: Jesus calls us to bear fruit — to show that we have chosen to live in the vision of God's grace. This vision is ours for the claiming: by forgiving, we receive forgiveness; by working for peace, we receive peace; by caring for others, we receive care; by perceiving God in every person, we meet God; by giving generously of ourselves, we welcome love.

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

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

Meditation on "Ar Hyd y Nos"

Samuel Lord Kalcheim

✠ 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, from you comes every gift we need, every blessing we have. May
we not hoard them for ourselves, but offer them back to you, that the poor
might be fed, the lonely befriended, and the despairing be filled with hope.
This we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**

WE FEAST AT GOD'S TABLE

INVITATION

RESPONSIVE THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is good and right to give God our thanks and praise.

O God, we thank you for the rich blessing of your Creation, and come to offer our whole
selves as you call us to live for your realm of *shalom*.

Our hearts fill with joy and wonder as we answer your call to be your people.

Thanks be to you, O Holy One, for the goodness of your creation.

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

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.**

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.**

And so we breathe out hope as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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”

J. Berthier

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 #526

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

LINSTEAD

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE



Participants in Today's Celebration

Worshippers:

Members and Friends of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC

Salisbury UCC Choir;

Jennifer Oberto, *cantor*

Dr. Samuel Lord Kalcheim, *music director*

Terre Lefferts, *reader*

Kathy Mera, *online host*

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