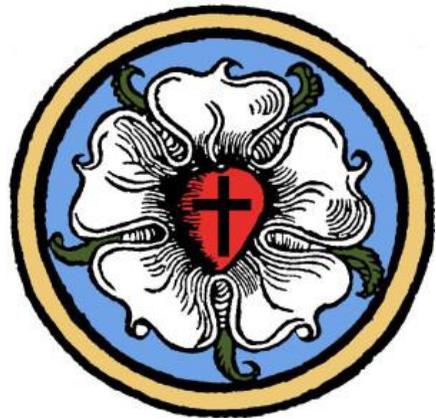


The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

31 October 2021 • 10:00AM
Reformation Day Worship



We Gather as the Church

PRELUDE

Partita for Violin in E major – Menuet

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

✠ HYMN #275

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”
Verses 1, 2, 3

EIN' FESTE BURG

(✠ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Be still!

MANY: We come to quiet ourselves in this haven of holiness.

Be still and know ...

we come to discern the Word that can set us free.

Be still and know that God is ...

our Hope, our Help, our Refuge, our Redeemer:

the Living Word that holds us in grace forever and ever.

✠ HYMN #275

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”
Verse 4

EIN' FESTE BURG

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We do not need to make grandstand plays to get God's attention. God notices. We need only acknowledge our wandering off God's way, as God makes good on the promises of grace and mercy. Join me as we pray together:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear Heart of the covenant of grace:

we have known your hopes for us, and disappointed them;
we have heard your words of faithfulness, and forgotten them;
we have seen your dreams for us and left them behind, tossed
aside, as though we knew better what fullness of life requires.

Forgive us, Hope's Heart.

Silence every blustering word, so we may hear your mercy;
still every feeble attempt to justify ourselves,
so we may be made right with you;
melt every frozen heart, so we might be drenched in your river of joy.
May Jesus Christ continue to live in us,
so we might be free to live forever with you.

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Be still and know the good news: God has not forsaken nor forgotten us, but abides within and among us, forgiving and making us new.

Why should we be afraid? God is in our midst — forgiving, restoring, sending. Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 46

ONE: God is our refuge and strength,

MANY: An ever-present help in time of trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should crumble,

Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

Though its waters roar and foam,

And the mountains tremble with the surging.

There are streams from the river of life that bring joy to the city of God,
the holy habitation of justice and peace.

God is present in the midst of that city;

It will not fall;

God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar,

Governments totter;

The voice of The Holy One issues forth,

Earth yields.

The Almighty is with us;

The God Who keeps covenant is our security.

Come, see what God does.

Does the Eternal One cause devastation on the earth?

No! God makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

Breaking the bow, and shattering the spear;

Burning the shields with fire.

“Throw down your weapons and know that I am God!

“I reign most high among the nations,

“I am sovereign in the earth.”

The Almighty is with us;

The God Who keeps covenant is our security.

We Proclaim the Gospel in Word

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts*)

✠ **HYMN** (*insert*)

“Christ Be Our Light”

All attending Church School may leave as we sing the hymn.

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Old Testament, p. 899

GOSPEL READING:

Luke 6:1-11

New Testament, p. 77

SERMON

“Change is Inevitable; Growth is Optional”

The Rev. Sara Smith

We Respond in Prayer and Faith

RESPONSE IN SONG (*insert*)

“Spirit Song”

Verse 1

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE IN SONG (*insert*)

“Spirit Song”
Verse 2

OFFERTORY

ONE: Faithful One, You have called us to be stewards of all that you have created. We strive to fulfill your call to be faithful caretakers by openly sharing the bounty you have placed in our care. May our generosity grow steadily and joyously, in thanksgiving for the abundance of your blessings to us.

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

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Ein Feste Burg”

Telemann

✠ **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**

**May our gifts offer friendship as well as food, hope as well as housing,
joy as well as justice, to those who all around us strive for fullness of
life. This we pray in Jesus’ name: Amen.**

✠ **HYMN #315**

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”
Verses 1, 3, 5

NEW DIMENSIONS

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Partita for Violin in E major - Gavotte et Rondeau

J.S. Bach



Welcome to Church!

Gathered in 1744, the Congregational Church of Salisbury is an Open and Affirming member of the United Church of Christ. It is also a welcoming home to people (*cont’d*)

“Christ Be Our Light”



1. Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2. Long-ing for food, ma - ny are hun - gry; long - ing for
3. Long-ing for shel - ter, ma - ny are home-less; long - ing for
4. Ma - ny the gifts, ma - ny the peo - ple, ma - ny the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your ho - ly
wa - ter, ma - ny still thirst. Make us your bread, bro - ken for
warmth, ma - ny are cold. Make us your build - ing, shel - ter - ing
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants to one an -



peo - ple, light for the world to see.
oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
oth - ers, wals made of liv - ing stone.
oth - er, mak - ing your kin - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

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from a great variety of church backgrounds and life experiences. Your presence is a gift to us! We hope you will feel God's Spirit here today.

We seek to love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and love our neighbors as ourselves. This Church is Open to all for participation, membership, leadership, and employment regardless of race, ancestry, class, gender identity, physical and mental ability or sexual orientation.

We Affirm each individual as a child of God, celebrating the total identity of each person.

“Spirit Song”



1. O let the Son of God en - fold you with His Spir - it and His
2. Oh come and sing the song of glad - ness as your hearts are filled with



love Let Him fill your heart and sat - is - fy your soul.
joy. Lift your hands in sweet sur - ren - der to His name.



O let Him have the things that hold you And His Spir - it like a
Oh give Him all your tears and sad - ness; give Him all your years of



dove Will de - scend up-on your life and make you whole.
pain, And you'll en - ter in - to life in Je - sus' name.

Refrain



Je - sus, O Je - sus, Come and fill Your lambs. Je - sus, O



Je - sus, Come and fill Your lambs.

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As an Open and Affirming Congregation, we commit to work toward ending ignorance, fear, hatred, prejudice, and discrimination against any person.

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

If you are visiting us, Welcome! Please sign our guest book and introduce yourself to our Pastor or to one of the Deacons. Fill out a welcome card in the pew to join our email list. Assistive Listening Devices are available; please ask an usher for assistance!

Kindly set phones to silent (unless you're expecting a call from Jesus)

Today's Worship Leaders

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME OUR GUEST PREACHER, THE REV. SARA D. SMITH, ESQ., pastor of United Congregational Church of Bridgeport, and CEO/President and founder of nOURish BRIDGEPORT, Inc., a volunteer-driven organization bringing hope through service and support programs. Rev. Sara believes deeply in the transformative power of God's love for all people. She often says, "If your faith means anything, it does something. It changes you, so you can change the world!"



Ushers: Sarah Morrison, Joanne Taber • *Cantor:* Jennifer Oberto
Reader: Janet Kaufman • *Deacon:* Pat Palmere

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from Lectionary Liturgies by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2021 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission.

Psalm adapted from The Psalms in Worship, Mary Susan Gast, © 2002; used by permission.

Our Ministry Team

Ministers: All Participants in the Life of the Congregation

Worship & Music

Transitional Music Director:

Dr. Samuel Lord Kalcheim

Bell Choir Director: Mary Davidson

Faith Formation

Religious Education Coordinator:

Barbara Collins

Religious Education Assistant:

Holly Tierney

Holding the Parts Together

Administrative Assistant: Loriann Chevremont

Bookkeeper: Alex Bercy

Sexton: Steven Wolf

Church Officers: Betsy Beck, *moderator*;

Jennifer Weigel, *treasurer*; Jennifer Oberto, *clerk*

Pastor and Teacher: The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

Occasions for Service, Witness, and Prayer

IN OUR PRAYERS:

We gladly list joys and concerns, and typically print them for four weeks after they are offered in worship. (Prayer requests may be renewed at any time.)

Continuing concerns:

Ed and Lynda Kulikowski • Linda Estabrook, recovering from broken hip • missionaries kidnapped in Haiti, and the innumerable victims of kidnapping whose cases do not reach our attention • residents of areas devastated by volcanoes, storms, earthquakes, floods, fires, and drought • the people of Afghanistan • healing from gun violence and its long-term trauma • families seeking asylum and opportunity in the US • an end to hunger • courage and wisdom to reckon with the racism and white supremacy in our society and its violence • faithful care of God's creation & repair of human damage to the environment • for

our country's leaders and for all citizens striving to hold our country to its best standards.

In treatment for cancer: Gale; Pauline; Johanna; Karen; Melinda; Deborah Merwin.

For survivors of war, for neighbors in conflict zones, and for repentance from the use of deadly force.

Family & Friends who have passed away:

Rev. Alan Jay Sorem • Nancy Trotta

We thank God for the gift of life, and pray tender mercy on family and friends who are grieving.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PASTORAL VISIT, please call the church office (860-435-2442) or email Pastor John (jnelson@salisburyucc.org). Sometimes we don't find out about an injury or illness or other need until long after — so please call!



Please Recycle this Bulletin!



The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey: you are welcome here.

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email: welcome@salisburyucc.org • web: salisburyucc.org

Office Hours: 9am – 2pm, Monday-Friday