



PRELUDE

“O Lamm Gottes unschuldig – I”

J. Pachelbel

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #740**

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

TUNE NAME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Do you feel it? God’s realm of grace is opening to us, even now.

**ALL: We live in the new creation
shaped by God out of our brokenness.**

Do you know it? God’s reconciling love in Christ has shattered our ways of viewing our neighbors.

**No longer will we label our sisters and brothers:
we welcome each, with open arms.**

Do you believe it? God has made everything, including us, new,
and sends us out to share this good news with everyone!

RESPONSE IN SONG #740

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We know our faults -- the way we have treated others, our alienation from God, our unwillingness to be faithful people. We will not hide our sin or remain silent,

but confess them to the One who embraces us with steadfast love. Please join me as we pray, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**On this very day, Waiting God,
we admit the lengths to which we go so we might avoid you.
You offer us a realm of joy and wonder,
yet we would hide in places where temptation waits.
You invite us to feast on your grace and peace,
but we stubbornly refuse, because accepting your invitation means
letting go of our hurts and irritations and self-righteous indignations.
We are quick to see all the mistakes that those around us make,
and still hope you will ignore our foolish choices.

Celebrating God, even before we come to our senses
we find you running towards us: sweeping us up in your arms,
tears of mercy mingling with our cries of confession,
a mighty river washing away our sinful ways to restore us to new life.
In Jesus Christ, Love's Own Self, we find no limitations on your grace,
no reservations about your love,
but a feast that overflows with wonder,
a place we can finally call home.**

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God rolls away everything that stands in our way - our past, our sin, our pain, our hesitation, and reshapes us into new people living in the new creation. What wonderful grace. In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven!

**Broken, God makes us whole;
lost, God brings us home;
empty, God fills us with songs of gladness.
Thanks be to God who has graced us with mercy. Amen.**

RESPONSE IN SONG #740

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 32

ONE: Joyful are those whose arrogance is forgiven,
whose error is erased.

**ALL: Joyful are those whom the Most High forgives,
and holds blameless,
and in whose spirit there is no denial of the truth.**

While I kept silent and did not face the truth,

**My body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.**

Day and night Your hand was heavy upon me,
grasping my deception;

My strength dried up as if by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my offense to You,
and I did not cover up my culpability;

**I said, "I will confess my unfaithfulness to the Holy One,"
and You forgave the guilt of my failure.**

Therefore let all who are faithful pray to You;

At times of distress,

the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are my shelter;

You protect me from woe;

You surround me with songs of deliverance, redemption songs.

Let me instruct you, my children, and teach you the way you should go;

Let me counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
who must be curbed with bit and bridle,

or it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments

of those who forsake the ways of the Holy One,

But steadfast love surrounds

those who put their trust in the Most High.

Rejoice in our God and be glad, O faithful ones,

Sing, all you truthful of heart!

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

⌘ **HYMN #415**

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”
All attending Church School may leave as we sing the hymn.

RESTORATION

OFFERTORY

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

Each week, offerings not specifically designated for the Church will be given to an organization doing compassionate work that is close to the heart of a participant in our church. This week, we share our gifts with Not One More Vet, which provides much needed support to members of veterinary teams and students who are struggling or considering suicide. “Because you are good enough, and you are never alone.”

One: God has poured gifts into our lives; we now return our tithes and offerings.

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

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

Our church welcomes every size gift, and thanks you for your generosity.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“O Lamm Gottes unschuldig”

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**

**All things belong to you, generous God: we are your caretakers.
You gave us everything and you keep on giving.
To each of your children, each of us, you give an inheritance
of love and passion and compassion. May we spend them richly,
freely, extravagantly! Bless all these gifts, and bless the giving,
in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Joshua 5:9-12
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*Old Testament, p. 244
New Testament, p. 95*

SERMON

“Enough, Already!”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN #761**

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

BEECHER

BENEDICTION and **SUNG AMEN**

POSTLUDE

“O Lamm Gottes unschuldig – I”

J. Pachelbel



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 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 through our worship and fellowship.

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.*

*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

Ushers: Joanne Taber, Karin Noyes
Reader: Charlie Noyes • *Deacon:* Janet Kaufman

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
Cantor: Jennifer Oberto

Faith Formation

Religious Education Coordinator:
Barbara Collins
Religious Ed. Assistant: Holly Tierney

Holding the Parts Together

Administrative Assistant: Loriann Chevremont
Bookkeeper: Alex Bercy
Sexton: Richard Tietjen

Church Officers: Betsy Beck, *moderator*;
Jennifer Weigel, *treasurer*;
Jennifer Oberto, *clerk*

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

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY,

9AM Zoom Sunday School
10AM Worship & Sunday School

MONDAY,

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY,

5:15PM: Handbell Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY,

12:30PM Staff Meeting
4PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY,

6PM Music Director Search Committee
7PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY,

8:45AM Men's Bible Study

Mark Your Calendars

Holy Week



Sunday, April 10

Palm Sunday

10 am Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 14

Tenebrae

7 pm Worship

Good Friday, April 15

Ecumenical Worship

7 pm Trinity Church, Lime Rock



Sunday, April 17

Easter Sunday

6 am Ecumenical Sunrise Service

Town Grove, Lakeville

9:45 am Bell Choir Prelude

10 am Easter Worship



The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Congregation

www.SalisburyUCC.org · 860-435-2442

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.)

New additions:

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries: for the people of Morocco, the Evangelical Protestant Church in Morocco, and for Emmanuela Loccident, Global Ministries Mission Co-worker.

Continuing concerns:

The people of Ukraine and all striving to end war • Edie Blodgett and Ruth Tyrol, in rehab at Noble Horizons • Barbara Austin, in rehab at Geer Village • Linda Estabrook, recovering from broken hip • the people of Afghanistan • Families seeking asylum and opportunity in the US • Faithful care of God's creation & repair of human damage to the environment.

For those in treatment for cancer — David Douyea, MingMing, Deborah Merwin, Keith Blanton and others — prayers for strength, healing, endurance for them, their families, friends, and caregivers.

Family & Friends who have passed away

Families and friends of more than 189,978 beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last four weeks, including 31,581 in the US •

We thank God for the gift of life, and pray for the Spirit's strong presence with family and friends who grieve.

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