PRELUDE "Fantasy in g minor" *J. Pachelbel*

WELCOME

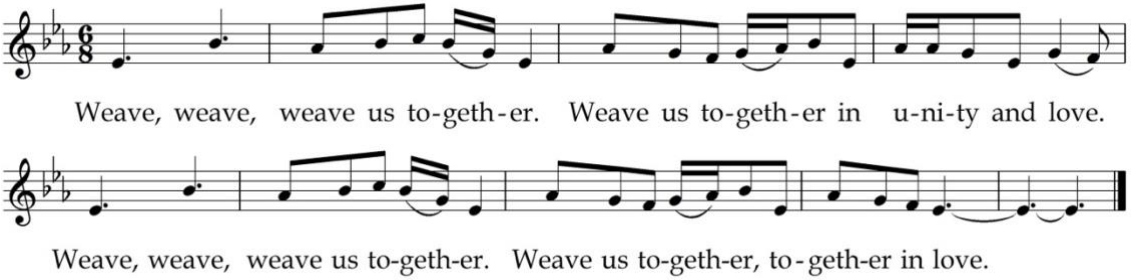
✠ **HYMN** (p. 2) "A Woman Came Who Did Not Count the Cost" WEXFORD CAROL
(✠ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We come to this place because we want to know God,
ALL: who helps us set aside the past,
to walk the path to new life.
We come in these moments because we want to know Jesus,
who anoints us with the resurrection,
who shares our lives with us.
We come with these people because we want to know the Spirit,
who shapes us for life with God,
so we may praise God forever!

RESPONSE IN SONG "Weave"



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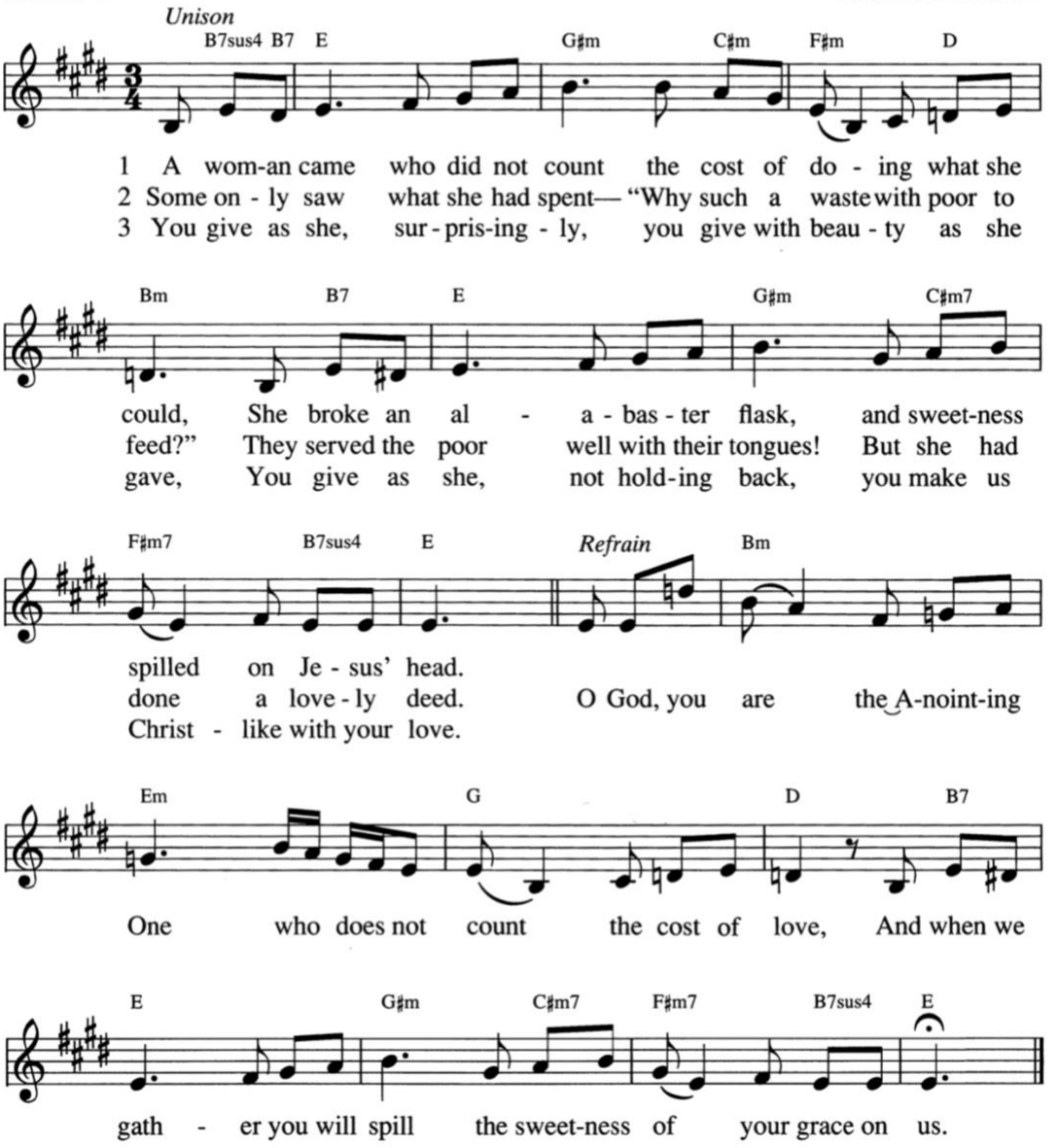
A Woman Came Who Did Not Count the Cost

Mark 14:3–9 *Richard D. Leach, 1990*

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A PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

ONE: Holy God, Maker of all

ALL: Have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, Breath of life

Have mercy on us.

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

(Prayer in silence)

Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness:
to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Amen.

Before God, with the people of God,
we confess to our brokenness:
to the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.

May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

With the whole church,

We remember that we are forgiven by God,
befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.

With people everywhere,

We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.

With all creation,

We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life: the
unfolding purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG "Weave" *p. 1*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy shaper of this rich reality,
we give you thanks for the way you form us into vessels of your healing.

Holy light of new beginnings, we give you thanks for your presence among us as Love's Own Self, leading us into fullness of life.

Holy comforter of those in pain, we give you thanks for the unfailing power of your Spirit, pruning us to bear the fruits of hope.

We give you thanks for your Church: a community which abides in grace and believes in hope and healing for our fractured world.

PASTORAL PRAYER and **LORD'S PRAYER** (*debts/debtors*) *Hymnal, p. 35*

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.
You who come to me shall never hunger,
You who believe in me shall never thirst.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus took the Passover bread,
and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said,

This is my body, broken for the healing of the world.
Whenever you eat it, do so remembering me.

After supper, Jesus took wine of Passover, gave thanks to God, and poured it, saying,

This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you and for all.
Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.

O Holy One send now your Spirit, that these gifts of bread and cup
may be for us the living presence Christ.

Unite us with Christ forever and bring us
with the whole creation to your eternal realm of *shalom*.

SHARING THE MEAL

We celebrate an open communion and welcome every person to the table. We share the bread and the cup in Jesus' name as a reenactment of an ancient vision of God's feast for all people. We don't require you to be a member of our church, or any church, to

participate with us in this feast of grace: all that is needed is that you desire God's nurture. We serve gluten free bread and grape juice, that all may eat freely.

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.

Embolden us to serve you, O God,

in faith, in hope, and in love. Amen.

✠ **HYMN** #830 "Jesus, Priceless Treasure" JESU, MEINE FREUDE

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

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.

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 "God So Loved the World" *J. Stainer*
from "The Crucifixion"

✠ **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**

O Giver of abundant life receive these gifts, freely offered to you for our shared ministry. Let them flourish under the power of the Holy Spirit and be joined with the offerings of your people around the world. Let us be part and partner in sharing your blessing of grace everywhere. In Jesus' name; Amen.

Scripture Readings	Isaiah 43:16-21 John 12:1-8	*Old Testament, p. 823* *New Testament, p. 129*
Sermon	"Normal Extravagance"	Pastor John A. Nelson
Pastoral Prayer		
✠ **Hymn** #509	"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"	HOLY MANNA
Benediction and **Sung Amen**		
Postlude	"Fugue sur le jeux de anches"	*F. Couperin*

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: Pat Palmer, Becky Belcher
Reader: Jenn Oberto • *Deacon*: John Estabrook

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2022 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission.
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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

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 Abi Hernandez, Global Ministries Mission Co-worker in Japan, the United Church of Christ in Japan, the Asian Rural Institute, and many mission partners.

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 172,736 beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last four weeks, including 25,270 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!

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 3 APRIL
- 9AM Zoom Sunday School
- 10AM Worship & Sunday School
- 11:30AM Church Council meeting

MONDAY, 4 APRIL
- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 5 APRIL
- 5:15PM Hand Bell Choir

WEDNESDAY, 6 APRIL
- 12:30PM Staff Meeting
- 4PM Women's Bible Study
- 5:30PM Board of Christian Action meeting

THURSDAY, 7 APRIL
- 7PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 8 APRIL
- 8:45AM Men's Bible Study

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.

30 Main Street | P.O. Box 392 | Salisbury, CT 06068 • 860-435-2442

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

Office Hours: 8:30am – 1:30pm, Monday-Friday