

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## REFLECTING AS WE GATHER

The soul of one who loves God always swims in joy, always keeps holiday, and is always in the mood for singing.

*St. John of the Cross*

Our natural will is to have God, and the good will of God is to have us, and we may never cease willing or longing for God until we have God in the fullness of joy.

*Julian of Norwich*

If you have no joy in your religion, there's a leak in your faith.

*Billy Sunday*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #246**

“Christ Is Alive”  
verses 1, 3, 4

TRURO

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: When God restored the fortunes of the people,  
we were like those who dream.

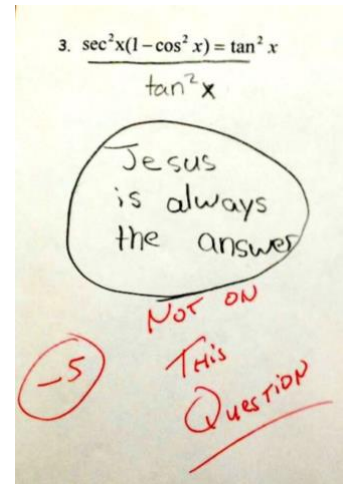
**ALL: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

When God raised Jesus from death to life,  
we were like those who dream.

**Now our mouths are filled with laughter,  
and our tongues with shouts of joy.**

God has done great things for us; let us rejoice!

**May all those who have sowed in tears  
reap with shouts of hilarity!**



## RESPONSE IN SONG

“Christ Is Alive!”

TRURO

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise!**

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

None of us likes to look foolish, but which is sillier? Chasing after the world and all the gaudy trinkets that flatter our souls, or being a ‘fool for Christ’, imitating Love’s Own Self in serving others, offering ourselves in humility and joy to the world? Let us in prayer admit to God the foolish choices we so often make, saying,

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**You know better than we do, Amused God,  
what important people we think we are.**

**Believing we have to be serious all the time,  
we miss out on the joy of your creation.**

**Choosing to feast on the pain of the world,  
we skip the picnic offered in paradise.**

**Clinging to the despair which we have befriended  
we ignore Jesus, who can bring us home to your embrace.**

**Forgive us, Heart of Joy.  
Make us open to the startling,  
upside-down ways in which you work.  
Fill us with Easter's laughter;  
fill us with your healing joy;  
fill us with the hilarity of love  
poured into us through Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior.**

*(We pray in silence)*

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

ONE: The Gospels tell us over and again of the joy that comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with delight. The good news is that this joy is now given to us.

**ALL: Thank you, God, for the humor-filled Spirit that bursts out in chuckles and gales of laughter. Thank you for the joy that turns us from death to life. Thank you for your forgiveness, lifting us with glee — and send us to give away that gift to anyone who will listen to your great Easter joke. Amen.**

### **RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 133**

ONE: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

**ALL: It is like precious oil joyfully poured on the head in greeting,**  
Pouring down the face,  
over the chin of the anointed,

**Running down over the collar of the anointed one's robes.**  
It is like the rich dew of the northern realm,

**Which falls in the south on the mountains of Zion.**  
For there the Holy One ordained blessing,  
**Life forevermore!**

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

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*debts/debtors*)

*Hymnal, p. 35*

✘ **HYMN #249**

**"Because You Live, O Christ"**

VRUECHTEN

*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. This week, we share our gifts with **Jesuit Relief Services**, an international relief agency devoted to caring for impoverished and overwhelmed populations as a result of political conflict, weather catastrophes, and environmental hardships.*

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**      "When Christ was Arisen"      *Orlando Gibbons*

### ✠ 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

**God, you are powerful beyond measure.  
You whisk stones off of tombs,  
you defy death, you cause life to sing out,  
you raise even our hearts when they have grown heavy and tired.  
So we bless these gifts in your life-giving name.  
By your grace, may they provide  
food, healing, and laughter to a hurting, hungry world.  
We pray you will use us to do the same: Amen.**

**MODERN TESTIMONY**      "A Splendid Torch"      *George Bernard Shaw*

**ANCIENT TESTIMONY**      John 20:19-31      *New Testament, p. 141*

**SERMON**      "Then There Was the One..."      *Pastor John A. Nelson*

# PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ HYMN

“Christians, We Are Made for Laughter”

MUSIC: BEETHOVEN  
WORDS: JO CASSIDAY-MALONEY

1. Chris - tians, we are made for laugh - ter, born to gig - gle and guf - faw!  
2. This is how our great God made us: fa - ces, lungs, and hearts for glee.  
3. Christ was dead and now he's ri - sen! Is - n't that a cause for glee?

E - ven in the great here - af - ter mirth is in - ter - spersed with awe.  
And it's how God would pa - rade us, show - ing forth most joy - ous - ly.  
Love has shat - tered all the pri - sons we have built so care - ful - ly.

So don't hold back, let it fill you, let your mus - cles do their thing!  
All the love and all the glad - ness, such a great ca - pa - ci - ty  
Now un - fet - tered, free as bree - zes, gig - gles, snorts, and glee a - bound!

Don't you wor - ry, we won't drill you! Just let go and laugh and sing.  
for the joy that drives all sad - ness out of e - very you and me.  
E - ven when our laugh - ter whee - zes, we praise God with e - very sound.

## BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

### POSTLUDE

“Carpaccio on a Forgettable Theme” *Prefers to remain Anonymous*



## 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.*

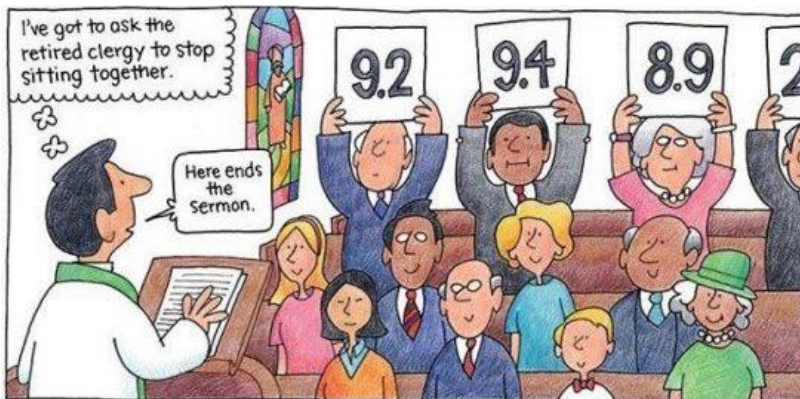
*This Church is **Open** to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment regardless of race, ancestry, class, gender identity, physical and mental ability or sexual orientation. We **Affirm** each individual as a child of God, celebrating the total identity of each person.*

*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:* Janet Kaufman, Joanne Taber  
*Reader:* Ruth Choate • *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.

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.)

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#### New additions:

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries: our neighbors in Lebanon, and mission partners Nishan and Maria Bakalian, serving with the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in Lebanon.

#### Continuing concerns:

The people of Ukraine and all striving to end war • Richard Wardell, recovering from heart surgery • Ruth Tyrol, in nursing care in New Hampshire • Barbara Austin, in rehab at Geer Village • • the people of South Africa facing devastating floods • 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 103,248  
beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease in  
the last four weeks, including 14,737 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.

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**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

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### SUNDAY, 24 APRIL

9AM Zoom Sunday School  
10AM Worship & Sunday School  
11:30AM Annual Meeting

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### MONDAY, 25 APRIL

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

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### TUESDAY, 26 APRIL

5:15PM Hand Bell Choir

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### WEDNESDAY, 27 APRIL

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

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### THURSDAY, 28 APRIL

5PM Music Director Search Committee  
6:15PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY, 29 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.*

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