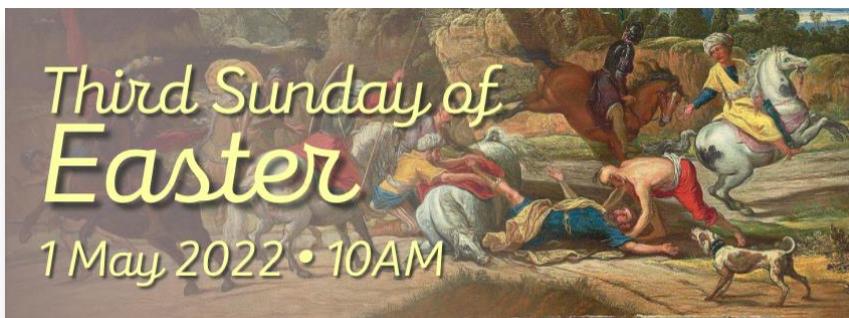


# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## PRELUDE

“Elevation in F major”

Alexandre Guilmant

## WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #451**

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

OPEN MY EYES

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Sing, all people of God! Sing the good news:

**ALL: We cry ourselves to sleep**

**and God comes in with the dawn, to awaken us with Joy's embrace.**

Sing, in every land, in every tongue! Sing the good news:

**when our lives bottom out,**

**God takes us by the hand to lead us into the light.**

Sing, in heaven and on earth! Sing the good news:

**lost, despairing, weary —**

**we cry out to God, who hears our hearts**

**and answers with resurrection's amazement.**

Sing, all people of God!

**We will sing the good news of Easter!**



## **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**

“Walk in the Light”

*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 #231**

**“Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers”**

SUO GAN

*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 the **Tunnels to Towers Foundation** — a non-profit that honors the sacrifice of firefighter Stephen Siller, who gave his life to save others on September 11, 2001. T2T provides mortgage-free homes to Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children, and builds custom-designed smart homes for catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. It is also committed to eradicating veteran homelessness and aiding the victims of major U.S. disasters.

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

“Ave Verum Corpus”

*C. Saint-Saëns*

#### ✠ 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

**Accept the offering we bring, O God: our response to the grace that you have poured into our hearts. May our lives bear witness to your Way of shalom and may we follow, in all we say and do. This we pray in Jesus' name: Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE READING

“Tell all the Truth ...”

*Emily Dickinson*

#### GOSPEL READING:

Acts 9:1-20

*New Testament, p. 154*

#### SERMON

“Voices of Truth”

Pastor John A. Nelson

## PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ HYMN #526

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

LINSTEAD

## BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

“Christ Lag in Todesbanden”

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 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:* Sarah Morrison, Janet Kaufman

*Deacon and Reader:* Lorna Edmundson

Flowers today are given to glory of God,  
and with gratitude to our parents — Loran, Anna, William and Kathryn —  
by Lorna and Dan Edmundson

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:  
Eleazar Fernandez, United Church of Christ Global  
Mission Co-Worker in the Philippines, and the  
Philippine people recovering from the devastations  
of typhoon Odette.

#### Continuing concerns:

For baby Sid, grandson of Susie Belcher, born with  
esophageal atresia, in NICU at Children's Hospital,  
Providence, for all giving him care, and for his  
family • 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 90,187 beloveds  
who have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last  
four weeks, including 2,306 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, 1 MAY

9AM Zoom Sunday School  
10AM Worship  
11:30AM Church Council meeting

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### MONDAY, 2 MAY

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

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### TUESDAY, 3 MAY

11A-6P Red Cross Blood Drive  
5:15PM Hand Bell Choir

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### WEDNESDAY, 4 MAY

12:30PM Staff Meeting  
4PM Women's Bible Study  
5:30PM Board of Christian Action meeting

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### THURSDAY, 5 MAY

5PM National Day of Prayer event  
7PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY, 6 MAY

12NOON Music & Meditation in the  
Meeting House  
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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email: [welcome@salisburyucc.org](mailto:welcome@salisburyucc.org) • web: [salisburyucc.org](http://salisburyucc.org)

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