

The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

“O Welt ich Muss dich Lassen”

Brahms

WELCOME

⌘ **HYMN #282**

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

DOWN AMPNEY

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We come to this place of prayer,

**MANY: for here we can bring our longings and dreams,
our hidden fears,
and the doubts we wear on our sleeves.**

We come to this place of grace,

**for here we learn compassion and joy,
and discover how deeply we are loved.**

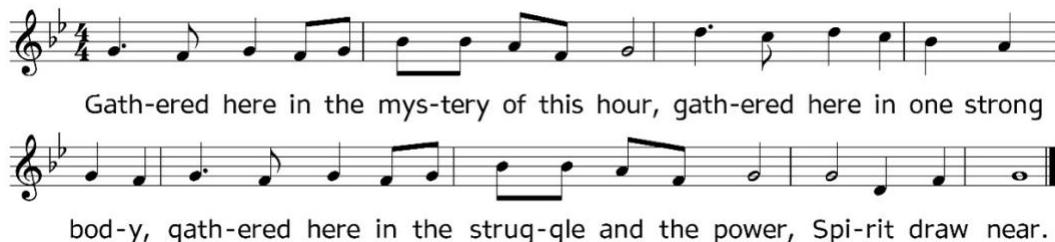
We come with these people called the church,

**for companionship on the journey of faith,
for shoulders on which to lean and weep,
for the touch of healing and the embrace of hope,
to live as one for our God.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Gathered Here”

Kirkland & Porter



Gath-ered here in the mys-tery of this hour, gath-ered here in one strong
bod-y, gath-ered here in the strug-gle and the power, Spi-rit draw near.

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A RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

ONE: O God, calm the waves of our hearts; calm their storms. We are a people who carry the memory of service, the memory of battle, the memory of loss too terrible for words. Let us honor those who are fallen by remembering as our own the vision of your prophets: that no child shall grow up in a place of want or war, that nation shall not lift up sword against nation, that we shall find true victory in the easing of animosities both ancient and new.

The memories of pain last a lifetime, and we still weep bitter tears.

**ALL: Dry our eyes and calm our souls, Creator God,
that you may rest in us, and your peace may cover us.**

On Memorial Day make us to remember the sacrifice of our sisters' and brothers' service, and your vision of reconciliation.

**Guide us toward a peace that is more than the absence of fighting:
a peace that is the taming of fear and hate and hunger.**

So often have we found that the world cannot give us peace —
but, dear God, make us know that you are able to give peace.

**O strong God of all peoples and nations, draw your great family
together with an increasing sense of our common bond and destiny,
that peace may come on earth at last, and the sun may shed its light
rejoicing on a holy brotherhood and sisterhood of all peoples.**

Let them rest, whose blood is written on the earth:

let them rest with the angels and the saints.

God, may every compassionate desire of our heart take wing and rest in you.

**Renew us, and every nation, by the power of your *shalom*,
and make us truly yours. We ask it in Jesus' name: Amen.**

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 97

ONE: The Holy One reigns!

**MANY: Let the earth be glad;
Let the many coastlands rejoice!**

Clouds and thick darkness surround the Most High;

Justice and equity are the foundation of God’s reign.

Fire is the vanguard of the Almighty,

Consuming the forces of terror and malice.

God sends forth lightning that illumines the world;

The earth sees and is awed.

Mountains melt like wax before the Almighty,

Before the Sovereign of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim God’s majestic compassion;

And all the peoples behold the magnificence of the Holy One.

All worshipers of phantoms are bereft,

Those who put their trust in earthly goods are devastated,

As all creation gives way before the Most High.

The downtrodden hear and rejoice,

The compassionate and faithful are glad,

Because of Your justice and beneficence, O God.

For You, O Saving One, are most high over all the earth;

You are exalted far above any who would take Your place.

Let those who love the Holy One

Reject injustice and hostility,

For the Creator guards the lives of those who are faithful;

God delivers the true and the compassionate

From the grasp of the oppressor.

Radiance is scattered upon the compassionate,

And joy on the true in heart.

Rejoice in the Holy One, you who walk in God’s way,

And give thanks for God’s presence and care!

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

✠ HYMN

“If Thoughts and Prayers Could Only Heal”

EMMA'S CALL



1 If thoughts and prayers could on - ly heal a world by bul - lets shat - tered,
 2 If thoughts and prayers could on - ly feed the need - y and for - got - ten
 3 If thoughts and prayers could on - ly cure the big - o - try and mal - ice



where greed and pow - er write the laws and Black lives do not mat - ter.
 who dwell be - side us in this land with af - flu - ence gone rot - ten.
 that prey like can - cer on our fears and vic - ious - ly en - thrall us.



So think and pray, then raise your voice a - gainst the tools of slaugh - ter.
 So think and pray, then o - pen wide your eyes to see your neigh - bor.
 So think and pray, but then a - rise! Be strong and be per - sist - ent!



Call out the lies and fight for truth till just - ice rolls like wat - er.
 Call out the greed and teach to share, and in God's eyes find fav - or.
 Call out the hate, em - brace the love; the Gos - pel is re - sist - ance.

Words: Henry Lebedinsky, 2018

Music: *Emma's Call*, Henry Lebedinsky, 2018.

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OFFERTORY

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

Dave Heck

*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 **Wounded Warrior Project**, a non-profit that supports veterans, and is among the most active in working with mental health issues.*

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

“Teach Me, O Lord”

Attwood

✠ 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

God of grace and glory, you create us as dwelling places for the Holy Spirit, you renew us by the power of forgiveness, you free us to serve. There is no end of wonder with you! We pray to be faithful caretakers of all that you have placed in our hands, and we dedicate our gifts to your holy purposes, to build up the realm of *shalom*: wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Old Testament, p. 233

GOSPEL READING:

John 17:20-26

New Testament, p. 136

SERMON

“Auguries of Heaven”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ HYMN #541

“God Be with You 'til We Meet Again”

RANDOLPH

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

“Cornet Voluntary”

Travers

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, Joanne Taber

Reader: Janet Accardo • Deacon: Lorna Edmundson

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

Psalms 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:

The people of Uvalde, Texas: especially the survivors of the mass shooting on May 23rd, those who are grieving the deaths of their children and teachers, first responders, those tending to the traumatized, those whose own trauma has again disrupted life, those who are laboring to stop the easy access to guns.

For the ongoing ministry of the Evangelical Church of West Timor, its dedicated leader, the Rev. Dr. Mery Kolimon, and the ministry to the most vulnerable of West Timor, including the women, the trafficked children, and the many migrants and overseas laborers, as well as Rebecca Young, Global Ministries Mission Co-worker in Indonesia.

Linda Estabrook, in recovery from a second hip fracture • the danger to women's health and women's autonomy as reproductive rights are under renewed threat • 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 • 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 • friends and family now serving our country in the armed forces • All those serving or living in war or conflict zones around the world.

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 53,109 beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last four weeks, including 10,640 in the US.

Larry Blades

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, 29 MAY

10AM Worship & Sunday School

MONDAY, 30 MAY

Memorial Day — church offices closed

10AM Memorial Day Parade

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

WEDNESDAY, 1 JUNE

12:30PM Staff Meeting

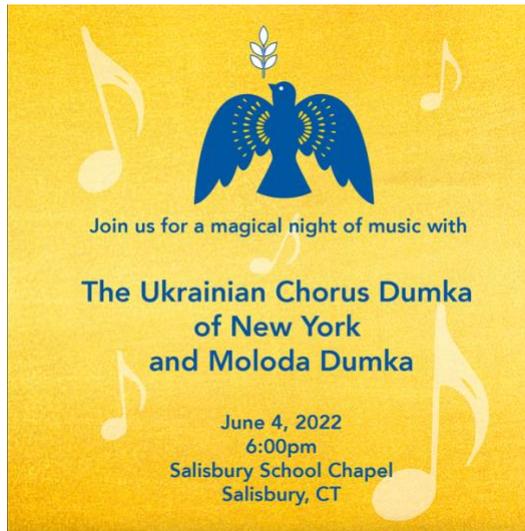
5:30PM Board of Christian Action meeting

THURSDAY, 2 JUNE

7PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 3 JUNE

8:45AM Men's Bible Study



Info: andrewlodar@gmail.com



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: 8:30am – 1:30pm, Monday-Friday