

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

“O Rest in the Lord”

F. Mendelssohn

WELCOME

✘ HYMN #327

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | LORD’S PRAYER (debts) Hymnal, p. 35

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The world belongs to God,
How good it is, how wonderful,
Love and faith come together,
If Jesus’ disciples keep silent,
Open our lips, O God,

**ALL: the earth and all its people.
to live together in unity.
justice and peace join hands.
the stones themselves would shout aloud!
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Weave”



Weave, weave, weave us to-gether. Weave us to-gether in u-ni-ty and love.



Weave, weave, weave us to-gether. Weave us to-gether, to-gether in love.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

ONE: When we act out of fear: **ALL: O God, have mercy.**

When we act to keep busy: **O God, have mercy.**

When we act alone,
despairing of your help
mistrusting your gifts
in our sisters and brothers: **O God, have mercy.**

When we act without joy: **O God, have mercy.**

For unripe actions,
taken in our time, not yours: **forgive us, God.**

For decisions made in haste
without waiting on your word: **forgive us, God.**

For our conviction
that it all depends on us: **forgive us, God.**

O God, give us your love, **which casts out our fear.**

Give us patience, **to wait upon your time.**

Give us joy, **sign of your life with us.**

Be our light, O God: **you are our salvation.**

(We pray in silence)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God is the love that over and around us lies;
the grace that is totally unearned;
and the healing that makes the earth whole.

Give thanks to God; we are forgiven. Alleluia; Amen!

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Weave”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 42:1-5

ONE: As a deer longs for flowing water,
So my soul longs for You, O God.

MANY: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When shall I come into God's presence?

**My tears have been my food day and night,
While people taunt me saying, "Where is your God?"**

As I pour out my soul I remember

**how I used to go with the throng, the festive throng,
to the house of God, with glad shouts, and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.**

Why are you downcast O my soul,

Why so troubled within me?

Put your hope in God;

**For I shall again sing with joy to the Eternal One,
my ever-present help, my God.**

COMMISSIONING OF SILVER LAKE SUMMER STAFF

ONE: Our friends gathered today have agreed to serve as Silver Lake Conference Summer Staff, taking the love of God to the hundreds of children and youth who come to our beautiful Northwest Corner seeking adventure, fellowship, and God's presence. Each of these persons has been called by God, has accepted that call, and stands before us today to witness to their willingness to serve.

(To the Silver Lake Staff)

Beloved Children of God, you have answered God's call to provide leadership and care to the children and youth who will come to Silver Lake this summer. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to give yourself to this task?

SILVER LAKE STAFF: I am, relying on God's grace and help.

Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

SILVER LAKE STAFF: I do, relying on God's grace and help.

Members of the congregation, you have heard the promises of our Silver Lake Summer Staff who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

CONGREGATION: We celebrate the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to keep you in our prayers, honor your leadership, and support your ministry.

Let us pray. Eternal God, you have called these persons to serve you in a ministry that has the capacity to transform lives and send healing into the world. You have

entrusted this good work to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on these beloveds, that they may serve with honor and faithfulness. May their example prove worthy for us to follow, as we bind ourselves in the ministry of Christ, Love's Own Self, to the glory of your name. Amen.

✘ **HYMN #37**

“Let All Things Now Living”

THE ASH GROVE

OFFERTORY

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

Lorna Edmundson

*Each week, offerings not specifically designated for the Church (including any checks with “Light of Service” or “LOS” in the memo line) will be given to an organization doing compassionate work that is close to the heart of a participant in our church. Today we offer our support to the **Southern Poverty Law Center**.*

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 “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

Thomson

✘ **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**

**We bring our gifts to you, God. Here is the work of our hands,
and here is the hope of our hearts. Accept them and use them,
through Christ, Love's Own Self: Amen.**

MODERN TESTIMONY

“Coming Together in Poverty”

Henri Nouwen

ANCIENT TESTIMONY

3 John 1-15

New Testament, p. 294

SERMON

“Among Friends”

The Rev. Dr. Michael Ciba

PASTORAL PRAYER

✕ HYMN #309

“Come, Great God of All the Ages”

ABBOT'S LEIGH

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

“Toccatà in E minor”

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: Kevin Wolgemuth, Sarah Morrison
Deacon: Janet Kaufman

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Prayer of Confession, "Wait on the Lord," by Susan Blain and Felicia Thomas (6 May 1987, Union Theological Seminary, NYC)
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 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



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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