

The Congregational Church of Salisbury  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**PRELUDE**

“Rhosymedre”

*Ralph Vaughn Williams*

**WELCOME**

✘ **HYMN #806**

“I’ll Praise My Maker”

OLD 113TH

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

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: God of the past who whispered in the prophets’ ears;  
who rescued us from aimlessness:

**ALL: we are here to thank you.**

God of the future, who is tearing down the old world,  
and building your kin-dom in our midst:

**we are here because we trust you.**

God of the present who, in the giftedness of our diversity,  
creates us to be one people:

**we are here to praise you.**

God of life that surprises us when we find it within us:

**we celebrate your grace.**

**RESPONSE IN SONG #288**

“Spirit of the Living God”

LIVING GOD

## **RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION**

ONE: Shining, surprising, grace-full God, for avoiding the searchlight of your desire for us and running away from your love,

**ALL: Forgive us.**

For preferring the safe, familiar and certain to the risky, unknown and mysterious,  
**Forgive us.**

For failing to believe in the vulnerability of power and the power of vulnerability,  
**Forgive us.**

For taking no delight in variety and insisting on sameness and conformity,  
**Forgive us.**

For fearing those different from ourselves, and projecting onto them what we cannot accept within our own depths,

**Forgive us.**

For assuming we are superior to the rest of creation, for abusing, despoiling, and failing to celebrate our relationship with the earth and the web of life,

**Forgive us.**

For not noticing your presence in darkness as in light, in body as in spirit, in feeling as in intellect, in pain as in healing, in Good Friday as in Easter Day.

**Forgive us.**

Set us free, we pray, to be whole human beings  
and to live our lives graciously and fearlessly.

*(In silence we offer our burdens to God)*

God forgive us.

**God, make your *shalom* within us:**

**we claim this healing, in faith and hope. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

ONE: Do not be afraid. More than anything else, God would rather turn fetid swamps into pools of crystal clear water; bonds of sin into cords of compassion; sinners into servants.

**ALL: God loves us. God forgives us. God lifts us to new life.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**RESPONSIVE PSALTER:** Psalm 49:1-12

ONE: Hear this, all you peoples;

**ALL: Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,**

Those born to power and those born lowly,

**Rich and poor together.**

My mouth will speak wisdom;

**The expression of my heart will deliver understanding.**

I will turn my attention to a theme;

**I will expound my riddle to the music of the harp.**

In times of trouble, why should I fear,

When exploiting schemers surround me,

**Who are smug in their riches**

**And boast of their great wealth?**

Truly, no ransom can pay for one's life,

**There is no price one can give to God for it.**

For the price of life is too high,

**No payment can ever suffice.**

No one can ever pay enough to be able to live on forever and never see the grave.

**We look at the wise, and we see that they die.**

The presumptuous,

and those who are ignorant of the way to life, all perish,

**And leave their wealth to others.**

Their graves are their homes forever,

Their dwelling places to all generations,

**Though lands were named after them.**

The powerful and arrogant, despite their riches, cannot endure;

**They perish like animals.**

**A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS**

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

*Hymnal, p. 35*

⊗ **HYMN #450**

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

## OFFERTORY

### THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

Theresa Carroll

*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. This week, we share our gifts with **Advocacy Unlimited**.*

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

“Andante Tranquillo”

Felix Mendelssohn

### ✠ 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

**We offer not only these gifts, Compassionate God, but our time, so we might spend more moments with the lonely; our words, so the voiceless might be healed; our hands, that the hungry might be fed; our hearts, so that the rejected might find a home. We ask your blessing on all we bring: Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23  
Luke 12:13-21

*Old Testament, p. 754-756  
New Testament, p. 90*

**SERMON:** “Your Invitation to Not Know”

The Rev. Dr. Eileen Epperson

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### ✠ HYMN #36

“For the Fruits of All Creation”

AR HYD Y NOS

### BENEDICTION and **SUNG AMEN**



## 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

Guest Minister: The Rev. Dr. Eileen Epperson  
 Ushers: Deborah Moore and Joanne Taber  
 Reader: Patricia Palmer • Deacon: Theresa Carroll

**TODAY’S LIGHT OF SERVICE SUPPORTS ADVOCACY UNLIMITED**, which serves those who are searching for hope and finding their purpose after receiving a psychiatric diagnosis. “As a peer-run organization, our staff uses their direct lived experience navigating mental health, addiction, and trauma to promote individual growth, human rights, and systems transformation. We believe that everyone has the inner capacity to

heal, grow, and change. Our team envisions a world in which everyone – regardless of socio-economic status or psychiatric/addiction histories – has space to be seen, heard, and valued.”

**WELCOME TO GUEST MINISTER, THE REV. DR. EILEEN EPPERSON**, who is leading worship while Pastor John is on vacation with his family. Eileen is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), a regular worshiper in our church, a neighbor, and a good friend to Salisbury UCC. Her passion is coaching leaders to live gracefully and powerfully in the present. That involves three critical points in the Life Triangle: forgiveness, authentic communication and living with integrity.

Eileen has degrees in literature and theology and has been active in interfaith dialogue and cooperative interfaith projects for 40 years. She was a presenter at six of the seven modern Parliaments of the World’s Religions between 1993 and 2018. She has been a college, hospital and hospice chaplain, and an Interim minister in six churches.

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

Prayer of Reconciliation by Kate Compston, from *Gifts of Many Cultures: Worship Resources for the Global Community*, edited by Maren C. Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy

Psalm adapted from *The Psalms in Worship*, Mary Susan Gast, © 2002; used by permission.



**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

## 806

## I'll Praise My Maker

(Psalm 146)

1 I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; and when my voice  
2 How hap - py they whose hopes re - ly on Is - rael's God,  
3 The Lord pours eye - sight on the blind; the Lord sup - ports  
4 I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; and when my voice

is lost in death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.  
who made the sky and earth and seas with all their train;  
the faint - ing mind and sends the la - boring con - science peace.  
is lost in death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.

My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought  
whose truth for - ev - er stands se - cure, who saves the op - pressed  
God helps the strang - er in dis - tress, the wid - owed and  
My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought

and be - ing last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.  
and feeds the poor, and none shall find God's prom - ise vain.  
the par - ent - less, and grants the pris - oner sweet re - lease.  
and be - ing last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.

This paraphrase of Psalm 146 was a great favorite of John Wesley: it appeared in his first hymn collection in 1737 (published in Charleston, South Carolina) and was on his lips when he died. The 16th-century tune to which it is set here is the one Watts had in mind for it.

# Spirit of the Living God 288

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

## KOREAN

살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서  
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서  
 빛으시고 채우소서  
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서

## SPANISH

*Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.  
 Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.  
 Tóname, cámbiame, lléname, úsame.  
 Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.*


Both the words and the music of this prayer-song were written by a Presbyterian minister from Tarboro, North Carolina. The words were initially inspired by Jeremiah 18:1-6; a friend helped him set them to music during an evangelistic meeting in Orlando, Florida, where the song was first sung.

TEXT: Daniel Iverson, 1926; Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee; Spanish trans. anon. LIVING GOD  
 MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926 Irregular  
 Text and Music © 1935 Birdwing Music (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)  
 Korean Trans. © 2001 Birdwing Music (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)




# 450 Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) E<sup>b</sup> (G) A<sup>b</sup> (D/F#) E<sup>b</sup>/G (A7) B<sup>b</sup>7 (D) E<sup>b</sup>




1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;  
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) B<sup>b</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup> (G) A<sup>b</sup> (A) B<sup>b</sup>




naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) A<sup>b</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup> (F#m7) Gm7 (G) A<sup>b</sup> (A) B<sup>b</sup>



thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;  
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) Cm (D/F#) E<sup>b</sup>/G (G) A<sup>b</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup>



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.  
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

# For the Fruit of All Creation 36

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -

sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.  
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."