

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Andante from Concerto in G minor

G.F. Handel

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #716** "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"
(✘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

BEACH SPRING

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We are people who have heard God's call to follow where God leads us.

**ALL: By faith we can obey,
even when asked to walk into an unknown future.**

We are people who have heard God's challenge to tell the story of grace to others.

By faith we may share the good news.

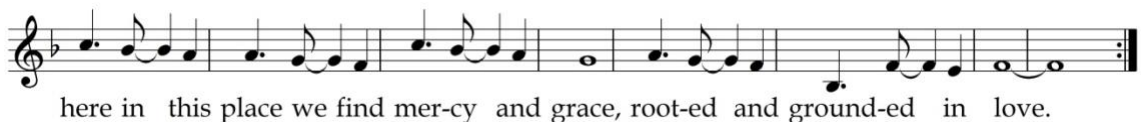
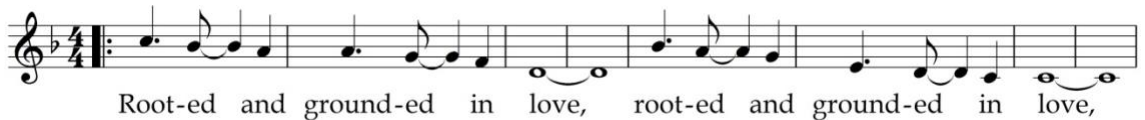
We are God's children, hearing again God's invitation to feast at the Table of grace.

By faith we will be filled and renewed with the grace of Christ!

RESPONSE IN SONG

"Rooted and Grounded in Love"

Barbara Hamm



RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

The Iona Community

ONE: Holy God, Maker of all

MANY: Have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, Breath of life

Have mercy on us.

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

(Prayer in silence)

Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness:
to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

**May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Amen.

**Before God, with the people of God,
we confess to our brokenness:
to the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.**

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Amen.

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.**

OFFERTORY

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

Janet Accardo

*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 the **Housatonic Youth Service Bureau**.*

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 *Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist*

D. Buxtehude

✠ 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

By faith you bless us, hopeful God. So, by faith, we return to you a portion of what we have and who we are, knowing that you will use these gifts in the work of your realm of justice and hope, of grace and wonder. So, by faith, we bless the gifts in Jesus’ name: Amen!

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 33:12-22

ONE: Sing joyfully to the Most High, O you who put your trust in God.

ALL: Praise flows freely from those who follow God’s ways.

Praise the Almighty with the lyre;

Make melody to our God with the harp of ten strings.

Sing to the Holy One a new song;

Play sweetly on the strings, with shouts of joy.

For the word of the Most High is true,

God’s every work is done in faithfulness.

The Almighty loves integrity and justice;

The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Holy One.

By the word of the Creator the heavens were made,
By the breath of God's mouth, all their starry array.

The Deliverer gathered the waters of the sea into a bottle;

And put the oceans into storehouses.

Let all the earth give honor to the Most High;

**Let all the inhabitants of the world
stand in awe of the Holy One;**

For God spoke,

And the universe came to be;

God commanded,

And it endured.

The plans of the nations come to frustration,

The designs of the peoples fall short.

The plans of the Holy One stand forever,

The thoughts of God's heart extend to all generations.

Joyful is the nation whose God is the Holy One,

Joyful the people who keep covenant with the Almighty.

GOSPEL READING:

Luke 12:32-40

New Testament, p. 91

SERMON: "The Unexpected Hour"

The Rev. Dr. Eileen Epperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

Hymnal, p. 35

RESPONSE IN SONG

"Rooted and Grounded in Love"

p. 1

We Feast at God's Table

PREPARATION

LEADER: We gather now as one body, joined around the table.

**PEOPLE: Here we celebrate God's presence among us
united in Christ's spirit, broken and whole all at once;**

Nourished and hungry, loving and lonely,
sinner and forgiven; we make one circle of knowing,
believing, rejoicing, being,
as God lights and rests among us.

INVITATION

This is the table of the Heavenly Feast,
the joyful celebration of the saints of God.

**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.

She who comes to me shall never hunger; he who believes in me shall never thirst."

**In the beginning, God provided every plant yielding seed
and every tree with seed in its fruit for food.**

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God fed them with miraculous food.

**When the crowds were hungry,
Jesus fed over five thousand
with two fish and five loaves of bread.**

THE MEAL

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God, broke it
and said,

**"This is my body which is for you;
do this remembering me."**

After supper Jesus took the cup and said,

**"This is the cup of the new covenant;
whenever you drink it, do so remembering me."**

✠ ACT OF PRAISE (*sung*)

GREATOREX

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen; Amen.**

✠ **UNISON PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

Come, Holy Spirit: continue to pour out your life-giving, healing power on us, and on your feast. As we share this food and drink, may we become, for each other, the hope that Jesus has awakened in us. Here we celebrate the promised banquet when all shall be fed abundantly, and all shall drink from the river of the water of life. Amen.

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 a desire for God's sustenance. We serve gluten-free bread and grape juice, as we seek to welcome all to the table.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

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 #298**

“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

ABBOT'S LEIGH

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Presto from Italian Concerto

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

Guest Minister: The Rev. Dr. Eileen Epperson

Ushers: Sharon Tingley, Joanne Taber

Communion servers: John Estabrook; Pat Palmer; Kathy Mera; Jenn Oberto

Reader: Theresa Carroll • *Deacon:* John Estabrook

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 for Forgiveness © 2001 The Iona Community from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*, published by Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Unit 16, Six Harmony Row, Glasgow G51 3BA, Scotland.

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

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 7 AUGUST

10AM Worship
*followed by fellowship & refreshments
in the Parish Hall*
11:30AM Church Council meeting

WEDNESDAY, 10 AUGUST

12:30PM Staff Meeting
6PM Board of Deacons meeting

MONDAY, 8 AUGUST

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club



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.

30 Main Street | P.O. Box 392 | Salisbury, CT 06068 • 860-435-2442

email: welcome@salisburyucc.org • web: salisburyucc.org

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

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 716

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm) Dm (G) B^b

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

(D) F (Bm) Dm

end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
 grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

(G) B^b (D) F (A) C

cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
 joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
 spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

(Bm) Dm (F#m) Am (Bm) Dm (G) B^b (A) C (D) F

to you, of - fering up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,

(Bm) Dm (G) B^b (D) F

rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

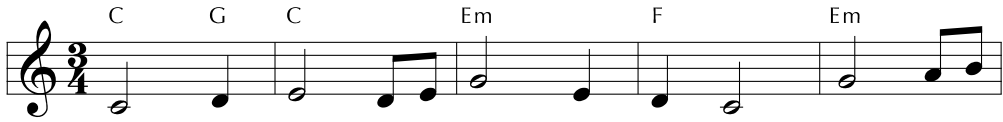
Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text on stewardship was one of about 450 submissions in a search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

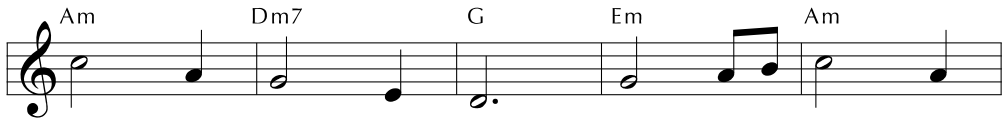
TEXT: Robert L. Edwards, 1961, alt.
 MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958
 Text © 1961, ren. 1989 *The Hymn Society* (admin. *Hope Publishing Company*)
 Music Harm. © 1958, ren. 1986 *Broadman Press* (admin. *Music Services*)

BEACH SPRING
 8.7.8.7.D

All Who Love and Serve Your City 351



1 All who love and serve your cit - y, all who
 2 In your day of wealth and plen - ty, wast - ed
 3 For all days are days of judg - ment, and the
 4 Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y be the



bear its dai - ly stress, all who cry for
 work and wast - ed play, call to mind the
 Lord is wait - ing still, draw - ing near a
 cit - y of de - spair? Come to - day, our



peace and jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless:
 word of Je - sus, "You must work while it is day."
 world that spurns him, of - fering peace from Cal - vary's hill.
 judge, our glo - ry. Be its name "The Lord is there!"

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This 20th-century text greatly enriches the neglected genre of urban hymns. The second stanza quotes John 9:4, the third stanza refers to Jesus weeping over Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37/Luke 13:34), and the final line cites the name given to Israel's future holy city (Ezekiel 48:35).

TEXT: Erik Routley, 1966

MUSIC: *The United States Sacred Harmony*, 1799; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1964

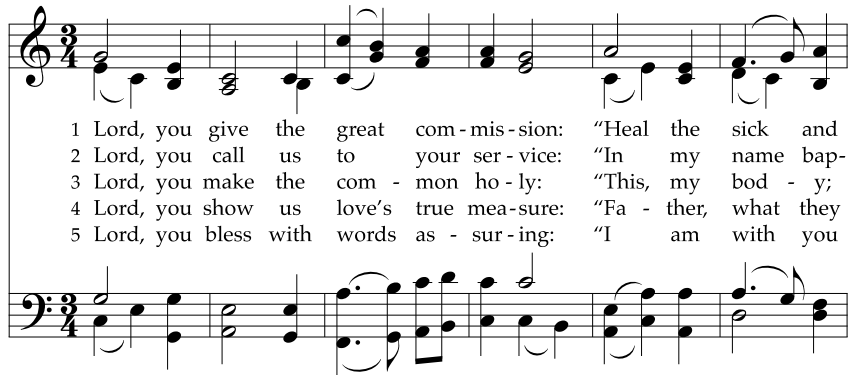
Text © 1969 Stainer & Bell, Ltd. (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

Music Harm. © 1965 Abingdon Press (admin. The Copyright Company)

CHARLESTOWN

8.7.8.7

298 Lord, You Give the Great Commission



1 Lord, you give the great com-mis-sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser-vice: "In my name bap-
 3 Lord, you make the com-mon ho-ly: "This, my bod-y;
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa-ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as-sur-ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne-glect its mis-sion, and the
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom-ise, life a-
 this, my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo-ry, dai-ly
 do, for-give." Yet we hoard as pri- vate trea-sure all that
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re-stor-ing, may we



gos-pel go un-heard, help us wit-ness to your
 bun-dant meant for each, give us all new fer- vor,
 lift life heav-en-ward, ask-ing that the world a-
 you so free-ly give. May your care and mer-cy
 serve as you in-tend, and, a-mid the cares that

United by the refrain after each stanza, this text relies on passages from Matthew and Luke to highlight various dimensions of the church's mission and ministry in the world. It was written for use with this tune, composed in the village near Bristol, England, for which it is named.

pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty: with the Spir - it's
 lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

gifts em-power us for the work of min - is - try.