

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## PRELUDE

*Andante from Concerto in G minor*

G.F. Handel

## WELCOME

### ✘ HYMN #49

“The God of Abraham Praise”

LEONI

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The One who commands the clouds  
calls us to be poured out for others.

**ALL: We can, by faith,**

**be the waters of peace that quench the fires of discord.**

The One who creates mercy and hope,  
longs for a world of fair play and grace.

**We can, by faith,**

**let righteousness and justice be our constant companions.**

The One who is with us in every moment  
composes a love-song for our hearts.

**We can, by faith, teach this song to everyone we meet.**

## RESPONSE IN SONG

### “Come Spirit, Come”

Hal Hopson, 1972



Come Spi-rit, come, our hearts con-trol; our spi-rits long to be made whole.



Let in-ward love guide ev-ery deed; by this we wor-ship and are freed.

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## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

ONE: Being human, we never find it easy to ask for forgiveness. But as God's children, called to live in relationship with one another, we know we must speak of how we have hurt others, so we might be forgiven and restored to new life. Please join me as we pray to God, saying,

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**What more can we say, Expectant God, that you don't know already?**

**You long for justice for all people,**

**but it is washed away by the flood of violence in our world.**

**You hope that righteousness will walk with us,**

**but you hear the clear cries of those harmed**

**by our deeds or our way of life.**

**You ask us to speak up for those in need,**

**but we shut our mouths and turn away.**

**Forgive us, Righteous God.**

**Have mercy when we do not bear the fruit we could.**

**Even though we have not lived our faith to the fullest,**

**may we receive the promises of hope and grace you have given to us**

**in Christ Jesus our Teacher and Savior.**

*(Silence is kept)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Shhh, listen! Can you hear them? The saints of heaven — those who have gone on before us — are cheering us on as we once more seek the ways of grace.

**ALL: Thanks be to God! Through Love's Own Self, we are made new!**

**Amen.**

## RESPONSE IN SONG

“Come Spirit, Come”

Hal Hopson, 1972

### RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 82

ONE: God presides in the divine council;  
And gives reproach in the midst of the “gods:”

**MANY: “How long will you judge unjustly,  
and show partiality to the dominant?”**

“Give justice to the weak and the orphan;  
Maintain the lives and secure the futures  
of the lowly and the destitute.

**“Rescue the downtrodden;  
Deliver them from the hand of the exploiter.”**

Those who see themselves as gods know nothing;

**They understand nothing of life;**

**They walk around in dense fog;**

All the foundations of the earth are shaken,  
By their abuse of humanity.

**“You take yourselves for gods,  
And you are children of the Most High, all of you;**

Yet you shall die, as mortals do,  
And fall, like every other ruler.”

**Rise up, O God, bring justice to the earth;  
For all the nations belong to You!**

## A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

*Hymnal, p. 35*

✕ HYMN #816

“If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee” WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

## OFFERTORY

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

Janet Offensend

*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 Afya Foundation.*

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** *Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten* J.S. Bach

✘ **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

**O Source of every gift, we speak our thanks and return a portion of  
the bounty with which you have blessed us. Help us to give also our  
ready minds, our willing spirits, and our joyful hearts. May we, by faith,  
ever grow in generosity to our neighbors: Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Jeremiah 23:23-29 *Old Testament, p. 888*

**GOSPEL READING:** Luke 12:49-56 *New Testament, p. 92*

**SERMON** “Fire, Hammer, Water, Wind” Pastor John A. Nelson

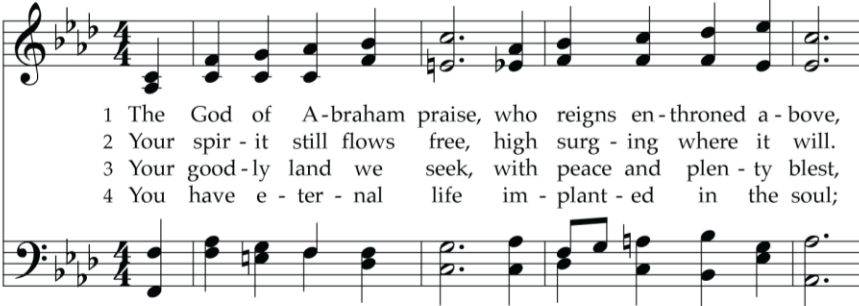
### PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN** “See How Great a Flame Aspires” ARFON

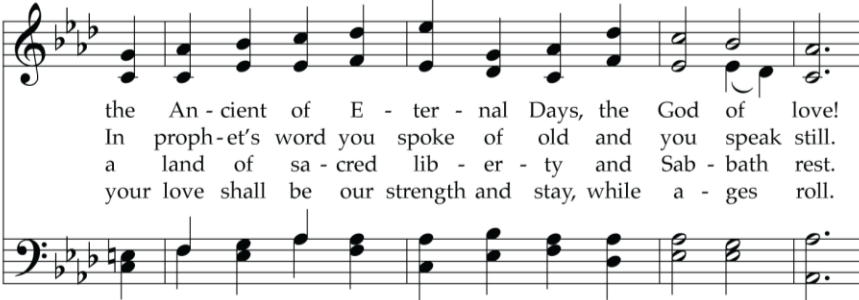
### BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

**POSTLUDE** *Presto from Italian Concerto* J.S. Bach

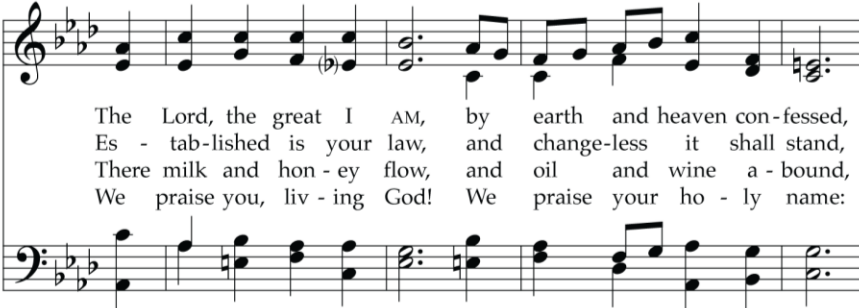
# 49 The God of Abraham Praise



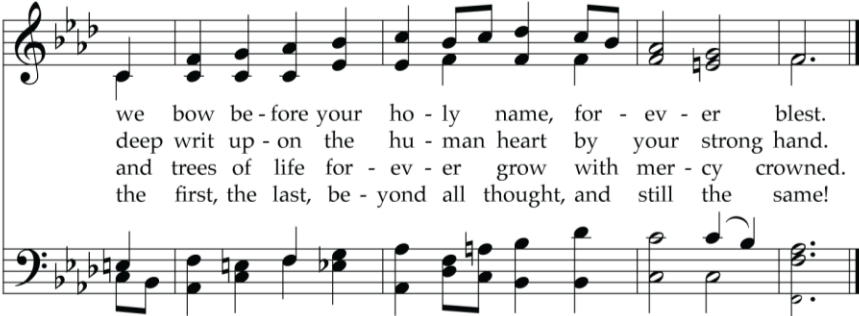
1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,  
 2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.  
 3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,  
 4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;



the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!  
 In proph - et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.  
 a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.  
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con - fessed,  
 Es - tab - lished is your law, and change - less it shall stand,  
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,  
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:



we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.  
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.  
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.  
 the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

# If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee 816

1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hope - ful  
 2 On - ly be still, and wait God's lei - sure in cheer - ful  
 3 Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, but do thine

heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, what - e'er be -  
 hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e'er thy Keep - er's  
 own part faith - ful - ly. Trust the rich prom - is - es of

tide thee, to bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in  
 plea - sure and all - dis - cern - ing love hath sent. No doubt our  
 grace; so shall they be ful - filled in thee. God nev - er

God's un - chang - ing love builds on the rock that nought can move.  
 in - most wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways dear.  
 yet for - sook at need the soul se - cured by trust in - deed.

This hymn is a testimony of experience. The original seven-stanza German text (based on Psalm 55:22) and its tune were created by the author/composer at the age of twenty in thanksgiving for finding employment many weeks after being left almost penniless following a robbery.

1. See how great a flame as-pires, kin-dled by a spark of grace.  
 2. When Christ first the work be-gun, small and ten-der was his day;  
 3. Saints of God, your Sa-vior praise! God the door hath o-pened wide;

God's love all cre-a - tion fires, sets our hearts and souls a - blaze.  
 Now the Word doth swift-ly run, now it wins its wid-ening way.  
 God hath given the Word of grace, Je - sus' Word is glo - ri - fied;

To bring fire on earth Christ came, kin-dled in some hearts it is;  
 More and more it spreads and grows, ev - er might - y to pre - vail;  
 Je - sus, who with love re - deems, Spi - rit who the work hath wrought;

O that all might catch the flame, all par-take the glo-rious bliss!  
 Sin's strong-holds it o - ver-throws, shakes the trem-bling gates of hell.  
 Spi - rit's fire sets all a - gleam, Grace who made a world from naught.



## 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

*Usher: Deborah Moore*

*Reader: Barbara Collins • Deacon: John Estabrook*

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2022 ([lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://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

**Music Director:** David Baranowski  
**Bell Choir Director:** Mary Davidson  
**Cantor:** Jennifer Oberto

### Faith Formation

**Religious Education 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: for Global Ministries co-workers Bosela Eale (All Africa Council of Churches, Director of Peace, Diakonia, and Development Office) and Brigitte Eale (Organization of African Instituted Churches in Kenya). Their appointments are made possible in part by this congregation's gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

#### Continuing concerns:

For the ongoing plague of gun violence: for each one grieving the deaths of beloveds, for survivors recovering from physical and spiritual trauma, for first responders, those tending to the traumatized, those whose trauma has again disrupted life, those who are laboring to stop the easy access to guns.

Linda Estabrook, recovering from a 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 memory care in New Hampshire • 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 — Frank Swaye, 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 65,179 beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last four weeks, including 12,522 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!

**TODAY'S LIGHT OF SERVICE SUPPORTS THE AFYA FOUNDATION**, which collects unused medical supplies and equipment from throughout the New York metro area and gives them a second life. Domestic regulations require that enormous volumes of supplies must not be reused — which means they are destined for local landfills. Afya ships these critical materials to under-resourced and compromised health systems all over the globe, thereby improving access to healthcare, the quality of care delivered, and the retention of local providers.



## This Week at Salisbury UCC

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### SUNDAY, 14 AUGUST

10AM Worship  
*followed by fellowship & refreshments  
in the Parish Hall*

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### TUESDAY, 16 AUGUST

5PM Visioning Team meeting

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### WEDNESDAY, 17 AUGUST

12:30PM Staff Meeting

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### MONDAY, 15 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.*

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