

The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

“Allemande” from *Partita I*

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

⌘ **HYMN #404**

“What Is This Place”

KOMT NU MET ZANG

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: If your clothes are fine and you have lots of gold rings, you’re welcome here.

**ALL: If your clothes are well-worn and you don’t have a place to sleep,
you’re welcome here.**

If you’re feeling alone and you have no one you can call a friend,
you’re welcome here.

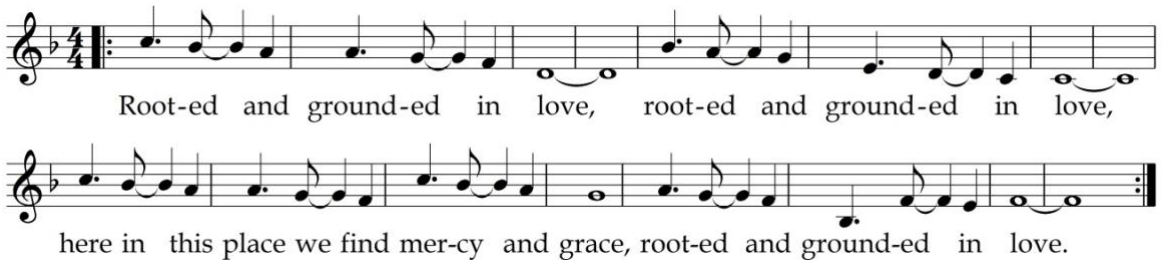
**If your soul is hurting and you need some comfort and peace,
you’re welcome here.**

Leader: If you’re filled with anxiety and you seek renewal, you’re welcome here.

**All: Welcome, everyone, to this house —
where we give praise to the One who welcomes each of us by name,
to be transformed by the power of grace.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Rooted and Grounded”



Root-ed and ground-ed in love, root-ed and ground-ed in love,
here in this place we find mer-cy and grace, root-ed and ground-ed in love.

Copyright © 2011 Barbara Hamm. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725033.

A LITANY FOR LABOR DAY

ONE: Let us offer our prayers to God, who pronounced all creation good, who toiled on earth as one like us, and who calls us to a special concern for all who live and work in conditions of hardship or oppression:

ALL: For the healing of your world, God, bless all who labor.

For those who are unemployed or underemployed, or have lost their jobs because of stressed economic conditions, let us pray:

For the healing of your world, God, bless all who labor.

For those who work in hazardous conditions with insufficient protection, let us pray:

For the healing of your world, God, bless all who labor.

For all who balance job commitments with the needs of self and family, let us pray:

For the healing of your world, God, bless all who labor.

For migrant workers, let us pray:

For the healing of your world, God, bless all who labor.

For all employers who strive to provide a just work environment:

For the healing of your world, God, bless all who labor.

For those facing discrimination, harassment, or abuse in the workplace, let us pray:

For the healing of your world, God, bless all who labor.

For those who find fulfillment and joy in work:

For the healing of your world, God, bless all who labor.

Loving God, in your own person you gave us an example to love one another as you love us. Inspire in us a deep resolve to labor for your realm here on earth – a world of justice and peace, kindness and compassion, grace and mercy.

For the healing of your world, God, bless all who labor. Amen.

OFFERTORY

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

*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 **CROP Walk**, which strives to end hunger in our world, one step at a time.*

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

Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring

J.S. Bach

✠ **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**

All that we call “ours” comes from you, Holy One: we are stewards of your bounty. Here we return a portion and ask your blessing: may our offerings be used to sow your justice, to feed the hungry, and to bring hope to neighbors near and far. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Philemon 1-21

*Old Testament, p. 233
New Testament, p. 263*

SERMON

“Usefulness”

Pastor John A. Nelson

We Feast at God’s Table

INVITATION

RESPONSIVE COMMUNION PRAYER

ONE: This is the joyful feast of the people of God.

ALL: Let us rejoice and be glad.

Creator God, we bless you and praise you: You spoke and the Earth was formed;
You drew a breath and the sea rose.

All of creation sings your praises.

From the dust of the Earth, you created our bodies. You gave us our senses and blessed us with the powers of thought and compassion and love — yet often we have turned against you and one another.

Have mercy on us, Mighty God.

And so you sent us your son, our brother Jesus, to show us how to love you. He announced good news to the impoverished, release to the captives, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed.

Through all his life and death, he reconciled us to you and to our brothers and sisters.

On the night he was arrested, in company with his good friends at the Passover meal, Jesus remembered your liberation of those who were in bondage. At that freedom feast Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to you, the source of all nourishment, and said,

“Take. Eat. This is my body, which is given for you.

Do this, remembering me.”

After supper, he took a cup of wine and said,

“Drink this, all of you. This is the new covenant, sealed in my blood; whenever you drink it, do this, remembering me.”

Remembering Jesus, we ask you to send the power of the Holy Spirit upon this bread and this cup, that these gifts may be for us the sacrament of your healing presence among us in a broken and bleeding world. Feed us with your power; fill us with your peace; lead us, reconciled and redeemed, into the world to work for the liberation and reconciliation of all peoples.

In the name of God —

**Creating, Redeeming, and Sanctifying —
we pray: Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts*)

✘ **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.**

SHARING THE MEAL

We celebrate an open communion, welcoming 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 in this feast of grace: all that is needed is that you desire God's nurture.

We will hold the bread until all have been served and eat together, signifying our unity in Christ. We will drink the cup as we receive it, signifying our personal relationship with Christ. (The bread is gluten-free and the cup is non-alcoholic, as we strive to welcome all.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 again your call
to be a people of grace-filled community.**

Though daily we touch our limits,

here we have received the fullness of your grace.

Send us forth, O God,

in faith, in hope, and in love. Amen.

✘ **HYMN #767**

“Together We Serve”

SAN ANSELMO

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Toccata in D

Jacques Lemmens

✘ HYMN

“Your Love, O God”

GUDS KÄRLEK

1. Your love, O God, is broad like beach and mead-ow,
 2. We long for free - dom where our tru - est be - ing
 3. But there are walls that keep us all di - vi - ded;
 4. O - judge us, God, and in your judg - ment free us,

wide as the wind, and our e - ter - nal home.
 is giv - en hope and cour - age to un - fold.
 we fence each oth - er in with hate and war.
 and set our feet in free - dom's o - pen space;

You leave us free to seek you or re - ject you,
 We seek in free - dom space and scope for dream - ing,
 Fear is the brick - and - mor - tar of our pris - on,
 take us as far as your com - pas - sion wan - ders

You give us room to an - swer “yes” or “no.”
 and look for ground where trees and plant can grow.
 our pride of self the pris - on coat we wear.
 a - mong the chil - dren of the hu - man race.

Your love, O God, is broad like beach and mead-ow,
 wide as the wind, and our e - ter - nal home.

The image shows a two-staff musical score in G major (one sharp). The top staff is the treble clef and the bottom staff is the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' and a bracket above it in the first line.

Words © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, 380 S Main Pl, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
 All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725033.

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: Deborah Moore and Joanne Taber
Reader: John Estabrook • *Deacon:* Theresa Carroll

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2022 (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

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER

10AM Worship
11:30AM Church Council meeting

WEDNESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER

12:30PM Staff Meeting
5:30PM Board of Christian Action meeting

MONDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER

Church offices closed for Labor Day
11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club



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