

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Welcome Back Sunday!

18 September 2022 • 10AM

*Whoever you are,
wherever you are on life's journey —
you are welcome here.*

We worship today with the oceans of Earth, created by God as an expression of God's providing and infinite liveliness. We join the Psalmists and call the sea to roar with songs of praise. We sing with the seven seas and celebrate with wondrous creatures of the watery deep.

With the Christ of all Creation, we groan with all things that suffer from our humanity's reckless poisoning of that which God made, and we renew our reverence for the fullness of life.

PRELUDE

Fugue in g minor "Little"

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

⌘ **HYMN #32**

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

ELLACOMBE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In the name of the Spirit of God who hovered over the primal waters, in the name of the Word of God, which parted the waters for Earth to appear, in the name of the Wisdom of God, who filled the deep with amazing designs, Amen!

MANY: Holy! Holy! Holy! The oceans are filled with God's presence.

Christ, we come into your presence, today, to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Earth is filled with your presence.

RESPONSE IN SONG**“Creation Introit”**

NICÆA



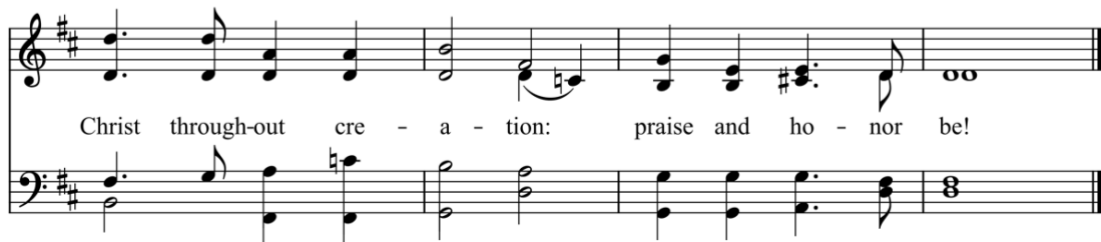
Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Cre - a - tor God Al - migh - ty!



O - cean, storm, and reach of stars are full of life from Thee.



Earth and air and all that breathes: each re-veals Thy glo - ry.



Christ through-out cre - a - tion: praise and ho - nor be!

REMEMBERING

One: In the beginning, with a word, God gathered the waters. Take a moment, now, and recall a time when you saw or heard or felt or tasted or touched the waters of the ocean ... (*silent reflection*). We remember the sea with amazement.

We have an image of the splash of waves on our feet, the sand between our toes, and the mystery of an endless horizon stretching out across the ocean.

We imagine and rejoice.

**Thank you, God, for the oceans,
living waters that are part of our life on Earth.**

CONFESSION

We also remember and confess that we have become alienated from Earth and viewed this planet as disposable, a source of endless resources, a mere stopping place in route to heaven.

**We are sorry.
We have polluted Earth's waters with toxins,
We have killed millions of species in the ocean.
We have turned our greed into global warming.
We have helped cause arctic regions to melt.
We have devalued human life.
We have loved progress more than the planet.
We are sorry. We are sorry.**

We are sorry.

We are sorry. We are sorry.

ABSOLUTION

Christ hears your confession and forgives your sins against the ocean.

**Christ, teach us to love the seas
as a precious part of our planet home.**

I speak for Christ: I invite you to celebrate Earth as your home and to preserve the waters of life in God's sanctuary.

Shalom! Shalom! Earth is our home!

As we celebrate our seas.

Christ, have mercy.

As we connect with our oceans.

Christ, have mercy.

As we care for the water of life.

Christ, have mercy.

RESPONSE IN SONG (p. 2)

“Creation Introit”

NIC/AE

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✘ HYMN #30

“O God, in a Mysterious Way”
All attending Church School may leave as we sing the hymn.

DUNDEE

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. This week, we share our gifts with **Greenagers**.*

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

Deep Peace

Bill Douglas

✘ 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

Mighty Creator, all things belong to you: we are your stewards. We pray that these gifts, which you placed in our hands that we use them faithfully, will now be a blessing to your world. May the giving multiply, as though one drop in your vast oceans, to cover the world with care. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 104:1-9, 24-26
Job 38

*Old Testament, p. 682
Old Testament, p. 595*

SERMON

“Deepening Wisdom”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN #19**

“God of Great and God of Small”

BENEDICTION and **SUNG AMEN**

POSTLUDE

Toccata in E minor

Pachelbel

**ON TO THE PARISH HALL FOR
DEACONS’ FEAST & FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS!**



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.

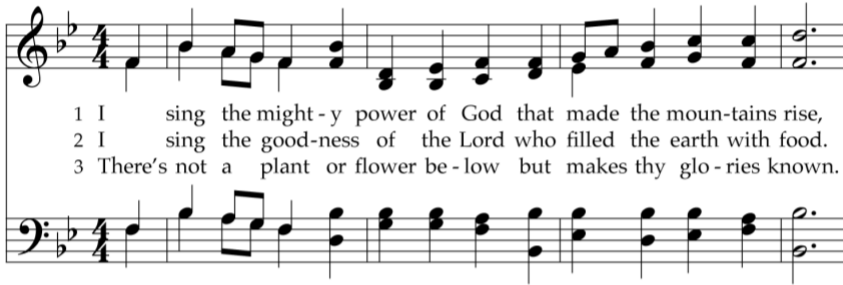
*We seek to love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds and love our neighbors as ourselves. This Church is **Open** to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment regardless of race, ancestry, class, gender identity, physical and mental ability or sexual orientation. We **Affirm** 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.*

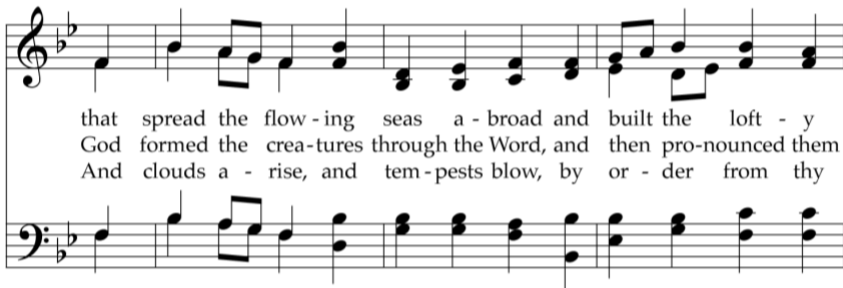
*Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here!*

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.

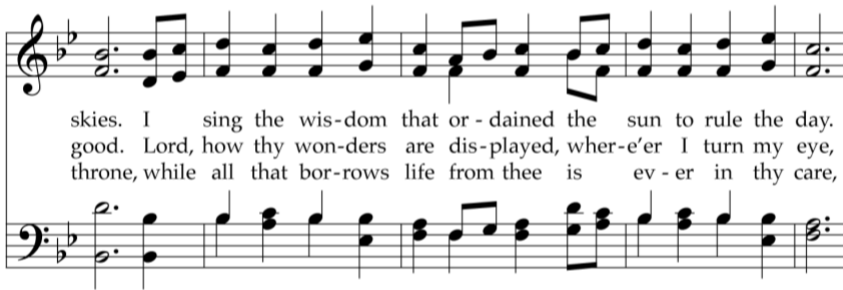
32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God



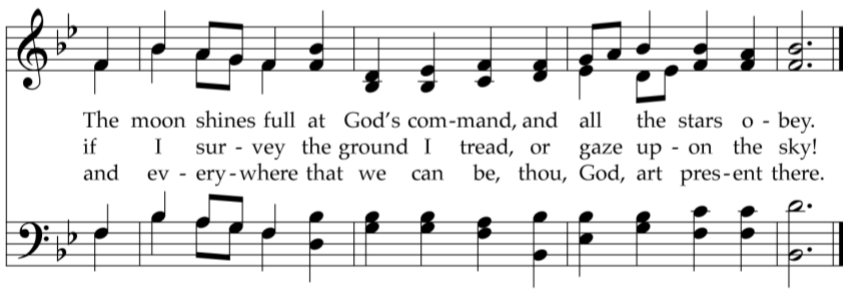
1 I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
3 There's not a plant or flower be - low but makes thy glo - ries known.



that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the loft - y
God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them
And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy



skies. I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day.
good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,
throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,



The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
and ev - ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

With minimal revision this text brings together six of the eight four-line stanzas in an 18th-century hymn written for children and originally headed "Praise for Creation and Providence." The anonymous German tune provides a fitting sense of breadth and wonder.

30 O God, in a Mysterious Way

1 O God, in a mys - te - rious way great won - ders you per - form.
2 Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of nev - er - fail - ing skill,
3 O fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take. The clouds you so much dread
4 Our un - be - lief is sure to err and scan your work in vain.

You plant your foot - steps in the sea and ride up - on the storm.
you trea - sure up your bright de - signs and work your sov - ereign will.
are big with mer - cy and shall break in bless - ings on your head.
You are your own in - ter - pret - er, and you will make it plain.

This classic text gains renewed energy and focus from its recasting here: despite our fear and confusion, we can trust that God's providential purposes will eventually be revealed. In its original source the tune printed here is one of twelve not assigned to a specific hymn.

God of Great and God of Small 19



1 God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
 2 God of land and sky and sea, God of life and des - ti - ny,
 3 God of si - lence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,
 4 God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,



God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things be - long,
 God of nev - er - end - ing power, yet be - side me ev - ery hour,
 God of day and dark - est night, God whose love turns wrong to right,
 God of now and days be - fore, God who reigns for - ev - er - more,

Refrain



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, praise be to your name.

Although it uses remarkably simple language, this text affirms a great mystery: beyond all our powers of explanation, God holds together all the opposites that seem to pull us in one direction or another. Yet God is present to them all and also to us; for that we give praise.

TEXT: Natalie Sleeth, 1973
 MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth, 1973; arr. Beverly A. Howard, 2012
 Text and Music © 1973 Carl Fischer, Inc.

GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL
 7.7.7.7 with refrain

Kindly set phones to silent (unless you're expecting a call from Jesus).

Today's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Becky Belcher & Joanne Taber

Reader: Charlie Noyes • *Deacon:* Lorna Edmundson

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

Church School Coordinator:
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.)

New additions:

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries: for the peoples of Israel/Palestine, for the many communities of faith devoted to building communities of non-violence, for an end to heartbreaking conflict, and for the Rev. Victor Makari, Global Ministries Mission Co-worker serving the Diyar Consortium in Israel/Palestine.

Continuing concerns:

Linda Estabrook, recovering from a hip fracture • Baby Sid, grandson of Susie Belcher, born with esophageal atresia, 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 • for an end to gun violence • 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

Roberta “Bobbie” Edmundson Rose •
Mary Theresa Feen • Families and friends of more than 55,570 beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last four weeks, including 12,879 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.

Friends and family now serving our country in the armed forces • All those serving or living in war or conflict zones around the world.

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!

CROP HUNGER WALKS are community-based fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States, created to support the global mission of Church World Service, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. After a CROP Hunger Walk ends, 25% of the funds raised is returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts.



This year is the 39th annual CROP Walk since Pastor Dick and Joanne Taber brought the event to Northwest Connecticut (and neighboring areas of Massachusetts and New York). Please speak with Pastor John if you can lend a hand (or feet, as the case may be). And register on the Salisbury UCC team at:

<http://tiny.cc/salisburyucc-crop>.

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER

- 10AM Worship
*followed by fellowship & refreshments
in the Parish Hall*
- 10:45AM Deacon's Feast &
Fellowship time &
Community Conversations
- 12NOON Trustees meeting

MONDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER

- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER

- 4PM Centering Prayer via Zoom —
contact Eileen Epperson
(eppervesce@aol.com) for link

WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER

- 12:30PM Staff Meeting
4PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER

- 7PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER

- 8:45AM Men's Bible Study



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