

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## HYMN SING

## WELCOME

⌘ **HYMN #22** "God of the Sparrow"

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

ROEDER

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We invite our animal family to worship with us,

**MANY: All our kin living on this planet,  
from the busiest bee to the tallest giraffe.**

We remember our animal relatives who have become extinct,

**Dinosaurs, dodos, and Texas grey wolves,  
Oregon bison and the woolly mammoth.**

We join our brothers and sisters in praising God,

**Gliding eagles and watchful cougars,  
Gorillas in the mist and polar bears in the snow.**

We summon the kin we have come to love,

**The stray cat and the backyard dog,  
the goat, the pony, and the neighbor's lamb.**

All our animal family in all the world,

**Raise your voices to the skies in a family festival of praise!**

Sing, family, sing!

**A song of praise to the Creator, from all creatures!**

**RESPONSE IN SONG**

“Creation Introit”

NIC/AE

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: Think, now, of animals you have loved or with whom you felt a spiritual kinship. Remember the sight of a wild creature — great blue herons, folded and gliding, a mole startled by light, a turtle slowly blinking ... (*silent reflection*). Remember, as well, those of our kin who are endangered, those who have had their homes destroyed, and those who have become extinct through human domination and exploitation.

**We hear creation groaning.  
We hear fellow creatures crying out in pain.  
We hear members of our animal family weeping.**

### **CONFESSION**

We share the sorrow of our animal family.

**We share the sorrow. We share the memory.  
We acknowledge the problem of human greed:  
that our species' relentless drive to occupy more space  
and indulge an unsustainable way of life  
has devastated habitats and destroyed entire species.  
We are sorry. We are sorry.**

We are sorry.

**We are sorry. We are sorry.**

### **ABSOLUTION**

Christ, who was deeply grieved in Gethsemane,  
knows your sorrow and shares the suffering of all creatures.

**Christ, teach us compassion  
for the life around us that suffers.**

I speak for Christ: I affirm your compassion.

Come now, embrace those in pain, and care for those in danger.

**Shalom! Shalom! We embrace those in pain.**

As we come home to Earth.

**Christ, have mercy.**

As we share Earth with our kin.

**Holy One, have mercy.**

As we care for creatures in danger.

**Christ, have mercy.**

**RESPONSE IN SONG** (p. 2)

“Creation Introit”

NIC/EA

**PSALTER:** Psalm 29

ONE: Ascribe to the Almighty, O heavenly beings,

**ALL: Ascribe to the Almighty and to none other,**

Ascribe to the One God splendor and strength.

**Ascribe to the Holy One the wonder of God's renown;**

Bow down before the Most High,

**Who is Holiness and Splendor.**

The voice of the Most High is over the waters;

**The God of glory thunders,**

**The Almighty, over mighty waters.**

The voice of the Holy One is power;

**The voice of the Holy One is magnificence.**

The voice of the Holy One breaks the cedars;

**The Holy One shatters the tallest cedars.**

And makes the mountain range skip like a calf,

**And the northern region cavort like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the Most High flashes forth flames of fire.

**The voice of the Most High convulses the wilderness;**

The Most High convulses the wilderness of the battlefield.

**The voice of the Almighty causes the oaks to whirl,**

And strips the forest bare;

**So that in God's temple all say, "Glory!"**

The One God sits enthroned over the flood;

**The One God sits enthroned and reigns forever;**

The Almighty pours out strength to the people!

**The Almighty blesses the people with peace!**

## **A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS**

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

*Hymnal, p. 35*

✠ **HYMN** (p. 5)

**"All That's Good, and Great, and True"**  
*All attending Church School may leave as we sing the hymn.*

ORIENTIS PARTIBUS

1. All that's good, and great, and true,  
 2. Not a flock that doth not sing  
 3. Make of us Thy crea - tures' friends,  
 4. May we all, with songs of praise,

All that is and is to be, Be it old or  
 Sweet - est prai - ses to Thy name; Not an in - sect  
 Mind - ful of the world we share; True to Thy cre -  
 Whilst on earth Thy name a - dore, 'Til with an - gel

be\_\_ it new, Comes, O Ho - ly One, from Thee.  
 on\_\_ the wing But Thy won - ders doth pro - claim.  
 a - tive ends, Guard - ing all life ev - ery - where.  
 choirs we raise Grate - ful songs for - ev - er - more.

WORDS: Godfrey Thring, 1863, adapted.

## OFFERTORY

### THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

Patricia Palmer

*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 gifts with the **CROP Hunger Walk**, which culminates today.

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

#### ✠ 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

**Mighty Creator, all things belong to you: we are your caretakers. We  
pray that these gifts, which you entrusted to us to use and to share,  
will be a blessing to your world. We pray every good gift multiplies,  
bringing wholeness and hope to your creation. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**MODERN TESTIMONY**                      from *The Hours of the Universe*                      Ilia Delio, OSF

**SCRIPTURE READING**                      Job 39                      *Old Testament, p. 597*

**SERMON**                      "Two Million and Counting"                      Pastor John A. Nelson

### PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ **HYMN #373**                      "O Day of Peace"                      JERUSALEM

### BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

**POSTLUDE**                      *Ballo della Bataglia*                      Bernardo Storace

# 22

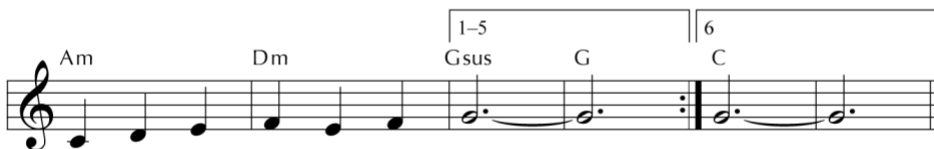
## God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the  
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the  
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the  
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the  
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the  
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the



swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe  
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe  
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace  
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care  
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love  
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy



How does the crea - ture say Praise  
 How does the crea - ture cry Save  
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks  
 How does the crea - ture say Life  
 How does the crea - ture say Peace  
 How do your chil - dren say Home

Though a lack of punctuation makes this text appear freeform and the flowing tune enhances a sense of movement, each stanza here is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world.

## O Day of Peace



1 O day of peace that dim - ly shines through all our  
 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the



hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and  
 fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly



love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of hate  
 graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e - mies



fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re - lease, till by God's  
 shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac - cord; the hope of



grace our war - ring world shall see Christ's prom - ised reign of peace.  
 peace shall be ful - filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This text on peace was created to offer non-nationalistic words for a popular British tune. The first stanza depicts *pax*, a mode of peace focused on ending conflict, and the second (based on Isaiah 11:6–9) describes *shalom*, the condition of living in harmony and mutual good will.



## 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 & Joanne Hayhurst*

*Reader: Karin Noyes • Deacon: Lorna Edmundson*

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

**Sunday School Coordinator:**  
Holly Tierney  
**Sunday School Assistant:**  
Jennifer Kronholm-Clark

## 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, 25 SEPTEMBER

10AM Worship  
*followed by fellowship & refreshments  
in the Parish Hall*  
1:30PM CROP Walk at HVRHS

---

### MONDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER

10A-3P Treasure Trove drop-off

---

### TUESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER

10A-3P Treasure Trove drop-off  
4PM Centering Prayer via Zoom —  
contact Eileen Epperson  
([eppervesce@aol.com](mailto:eppervesce@aol.com)) for link  
5:15PM Hand Bell Choir rehearsal

---

### WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER

10A-3P Treasure Trove drop-off  
12:30PM Staff Meeting  
4PM Women's Bible Study

---

### THURSDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER

10A-3P Treasure Trove drop-off  
7PM Choir Rehearsal

---

### FRIDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER

10A-3P Treasure Trove drop-off  
8:45AM Men's Bible Study

---

### NEXT SUNDAY, 2 OCTOBER

*Season of Creation, week 3: "Storm Sunday"*



***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](mailto:welcome@salisburyucc.org) • web: [salisburyucc.org](http://salisburyucc.org)

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