

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**PRELUDE**

*Fugue in D Minor*

J.S. Bach

**WELCOME**

✘ **HYMN #17**

“Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!”

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We invite all creation to worship with us. We invite glittering galaxies high above  
**to radiate the splendor of God’s presence.**

We call distant domains of space to celebrate with us.

**We invite nebula, nova, and red giant stars  
to thank God for their formation in the universe.**

We summon that domain of stardust called Earth,

**To pulse with the rhythm of God’s presence  
and celebrate God’s glory in this planet garden.**

We invite millions of living species to dance with life,

**The turtle, the toad and the elephant,  
the earthworm, the ant and the dragonfly.**

We invite every creature in the web of creation

**To consciously connect with others  
in this cosmic community called the universe.**

Dance, creation, dance!

**Sing with God’s life and cosmic energy!**

## RESPONSE IN SONG

## “Creation Introit”

NIC/EA

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

Take a few breaths of silence, now, to recall a moment when you were especially aware that you are intricately connected with a vast world of time and space.

**(silent reflection)**

We are conscious of our place in the universe.

**We remember moments of wonder,  
sensing the infinite world of space,**

**connecting with endless networks in time  
and feeling the mystery of our connection to the universe.**

We remember and rejoice.

**Thank you, God, for making us aware  
of our place in your web of creation.**

## **CONFESSION**

Having remembered our intimate connectedness with God's creation, we also remember and confess that we have often been selfish, polluting our atmosphere and ignoring the needs of others — human and non-human alike — with whom we are bound in that part of the web of creation called Earth.

**We are sorry. We have polluted the atmosphere;  
we have turned our greed into global warming;  
we have littered Earth's orbit with space debris;  
we have created a way of life that does most damage  
to those most impoverished and vulnerable;  
we have ignored our crucial connection  
with those parts of creation that sustain our being;  
we have loved progress more than the planet. We are sorry.**

We are sorry.

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

## **ABSOLUTION**

Christ hears your confession and forgives your sins against creation. I speak for Christ: celebrate Earth as your home: one precious part in the web of creation.

**Shalom! Shalom! Earth is our home!**

As we celebrate our place in all creation:

**Christ, have mercy.**

As we connect with our worlds in all creation:

**Teacher, have mercy.**

As we care for the portion of creation we call home:

**Christ, have mercy.**

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

“Creation Introit”

NICÆA

**PSALTER: Psalm 148**

ONE: Hallelujah!

Give honor to the Holy One from the heavens;

**ALL: Give honor to God in the heavens of the heavens!**

Honor the Holy One, all you angels of God;

**Honor the Holy One, all you heavenly multitude!**

Honor the Holy One, sun and moon;

**Honor the Holy One, all you shining stars!**

Honor the Holy One, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!

**Let them honor the Holy One's purposes,  
For God willed it and they were created.**

The Almighty established them to endure forever;

**The Author of Life gave a decree that will never pass away.**

Honor the Holy One all who are on the earth,  
**you sea monsters and all ocean depths,  
fire and hail, snow and mist,  
stormy wind that blows God's will!**

You mountains and all hills,

Fruit trees and all cedars!

**Wild animals and tame,  
Creeping things and winged birds!**

All monarchs of the earth and all peoples,

The rulers and the mighty of the earth!

**Young men and young women alike,  
Old people and children together!**

Let them honor the Holy One's purposes,

**For God's renown alone is exalted;**

God's splendor is greater than earth and heaven.

**The Holy One has raised up the people to dignity,**

God's people,

Who are close to the Almighty.

**Hallelujah!**

**A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS**

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

*Hymnal, p. 35*

⌘ **HYMN #26**

“Earth and All Stars”

EARTH AND ALL STARS

*All attending Church School may leave as we sing the hymn.*

**OFFERTORY**

**THE LIGHT OF SERVICE**

Jano Fairservis

*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 **Union of Concerned Scientists**.*

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**

*Laudate Dominum*

W.A. Mozart

Jennifer Oberto, soprano

⌘ **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**

**God of every time and all space, we remember that everything that we call “ours,” belongs to you. We, your stewards, now return a portion of the blessings you have placed into our care. Bless them, we pray, that everything we give may bring your light to our neighbors near and far. We ask it in Jesus’ name: Amen.**

**MODERN TESTIMONY**

Ilia Delio, OSF

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Colossians 1:15-20

*New Testament, p. 244*

**SERMON**

“The Whole Point”

Pastor John A. Nelson

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

✕ **HYMN #23**

“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

PLEADING SAVIOR

**BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

*I Vow to Thee My Country (Jupiter)*

Gustav Holst,  
arr. Machella



## 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).**

# Sing Praise to God, You Heavens! 17

(Psalm 148)

1 Sing praise to God, you heav-ens! Sing praise, each shin-ing light!  
2 Sing praise, O earth, sing prais-es! Sing prais-es, hill and plain,  
3 Sing prais-es, all you crea-tures in whom God takes de-light:  
4 Sing prais-es now, God's peo-ple; your gift of speech em-ploy

Sing, plan-ets in your or-bits; sing, stars all burn-ing bright!  
you moun-tains thrust-ing sky-ward, you val-leys ripe with grain!  
you whales that roam the o-ceans, you ea-gles in your flight!  
to praise the Lord, your Mak-er, with thank-ful-ness and joy!

Sing praise, you winds and tem-pests, you driv-ing rain and snow!  
Sing praise, each fra-grant flow-er; your fair-est hues dis-play.  
Sing praise, you sheep on hill-sides, you cat-tle in the stall!  
Sing with the whole cre-a-tion; a cos-mic cho-rus raise:

Sing, clouds that race and bil-low and shad-ow earth be-low!  
Sing praise, you trees of au-tumn in glow-ing, glad ar-ray!  
Though word-less, sing your prais-es to God who made you all!  
"To God a-lone be glo-ry and ev-er-last-ing praise!"

This paraphrase of Psalm 148 reflects the spirit of praise linking Psalms 146–150. Of the two great themes found in these final five psalms—creation and deliverance—this psalm focuses on the former. The opening praise “from the heavens” is matched by praise “from the earth.”

## Earth and All Stars!

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!  
 2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals! Sing to the  
 3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!  
 4 Knowl - edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!

Lord a new song! Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing  
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming  
 Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing  
 Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing

snow - storm!  
 cel - los! Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done  
 work - ers!  
 mem - bers!

mar - vel - ous things. We too sing prais - es with a new song!

This lively text was written for the 90th anniversary of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Echoing Psalm 98, it is a prime example of a 20th-century hymn style based on phrases rather than complete sentences. The exuberant tune was created expressly for these words.



# God, You Spin the Whirling Planets 23

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D) (G)  
 E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

1 God, you spin the whirl-ing plan - ets, fill the seas and  
 2 You have called us to be faith - ful in our life and  
 3 God, your word is still cre - at - ing, call - ing us to

(D) (A) (D) (Bm) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D)  
 E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> Cm A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

spread the plain, mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, call forth  
 min - is - try. We re - spond in grate-ful wor-ship joined in  
 life made new. Now re - veal to us fresh vis - tas where there's

(G) (D) (A) (D) (G) (D) (A)  
 A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>

sun - shine, wind, and rain. We, cre - at - ed in your im - age,  
 one com - mu - ni - ty. When we blur your gra - cious im - age,  
 work to dare and do. Keep us clear of all dis - tor - tion.

(D) (Bm) (F#m) (G) (A) (D) (G)  
 E<sup>b</sup> Cm Gm A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

would a true re - flec - tion be of your jus - tice,  
 fo - cus us and make us whole. Healed and strength - ened  
 Pol - ish us with lov - ing care. Thus, new crea - tures

(D) (G) (A) (D) (G) (Em) (D) (A) (D)  
 E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> Fm E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

grace, and mer - cy and the truth that makes us free.  
 as your peo - ple, we move on - ward toward your goal.  
 in your im - age, we'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery - where.

This text was written for the 1979 National Meeting of United Presbyterian Women, whose theme, "In the Image of God," is variously considered here as reflection, focus, distortion, and polishing for clarity. The words are well set to an anonymous 19th-century American tune.

## Today's Worship Leaders

*Ushers:* Sarah Morrison & Joanne Taber

*Reader:* Lorna Edmundson • *Deacon:* Janet Kaufman

Flowers have been placed in the Meeting House by Nancy Baker and Sara Wardell, in honor of Fall Festival weekend and to the glory of God.

Today's service is adapted from materials sponsored by Norman Habel and the Justice and International Mission unit within the Commission for Mission of the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. Used with 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

## 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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#### Continuing concerns:

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

Families and friends of more than 42,833 beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last four weeks, including 12,206 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!

## This Week at Salisbury UCC

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### SUNDAY, 9 OCTOBER

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

11:30AM Music Committee

ALL DAY **FALL FESTIVAL**

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### MONDAY, 10 OCTOBER

*INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY – OFFICE CLOSED*

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

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### TUESDAY, 11 OCTOBER

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

5:15PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

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### WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER

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

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### THURSDAY, 13 OCTOBER

7PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY, 14 OCTOBER

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.*

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