

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## PRELUDE

*Gavotte from English Suite I*

J.S. Bach

## WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #450**

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

### CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We have gathered in God’s holy presence, who etches grace on our hearts.

**ALL: This is the company with whom God will transform us into disciples.**

We glorify our God, who yearns for justice,  
not just for a favored few, but for the least of our world.

**This is the moment when God will write compassion on our souls.**

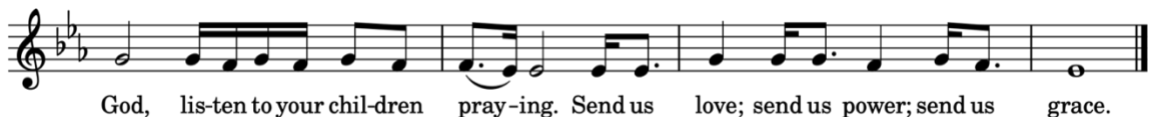
We give thanks to God for unceasing grace.

**This is the morning when God again breathes the Word of Life into  
our lives. Praise be to God!**

### RESPONSE IN SONG

“God, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Ken Medema



## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

ONE: Seeking to follow Jesus, we often wander down the wrong roads. Impatient with God's schedule, we rush off to do things our way. Let us confess our foolishness, that we might receive God's hope for our lives.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**You give your words, Author of Life, so we might be reformed,  
yet we have turned our intent to changing others.**

**You offer your words so we might be transformed,  
and yet we have conformed to our culture.**

**Your speak your words to lead us into new life,  
yet we hold our old ways tight to our chests.**

**Forgive us, God of Wonder. Do not remember our sins, but continue to touch us with your steadfast mercy. Show us how to be vigorous in living our faith, even as you were so bold in offering us your grace and joy in Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior.**

*(Silence is kept)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus reminds us that we have all we need to be resolute in faithfulness and service. God renews us, and steadfastly fills us with love and grace: Alleluia!

**We are forgiven people. May we live as sisters and brothers in Christ, God's children in word and deed, in hope and joy. Alleluia! Amen.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**      "God, Listen to Your Children Praying"      Ken Medema

## RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 121

ONE: I lift up my eyes to the hills.

**MANY: Where will my help come from?**

My help comes from the Holy One,

**The Maker of heaven and earth.**

God will not let your foot slip;

**The God who keeps watch over you will not slumber.**

The God who keeps watch over the people will neither slumber nor sleep.

**The Eternal One is your keeper;**

The Most High is your protection,  
**Close by, at your right hand.**  
The sun shall not strike you by day,  
**Nor the moon disturb you by night.**  
The Almighty will keep you from all harm;  
**God will keep safe your life.**  
The Holy One will keep watch over  
your going out and your coming in,  
**Now and forevermore.**

## **A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS**

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

*Hymnal, p. 35*

✘ **HYMN #175**

“Seek Ye First”

LAFFERTY

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

## **OFFERTORY**

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**

*The First Song of Isaiah*

Jack Noble White

✘ **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**

**Like your words, O God, the tangible gifts with which you have blessed us are not to be hoarded or hidden away for rainy days. Rather, we offer them so they might bring healing, hope, grace, and peace to all around us. May it be so! Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5  
Luke 18:1-8

*New Testament, p. 260*  
*New Testament, p. 99*

**SERMON**

“An Eye-Smacking Faith”

Pastor John A. Nelson

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

✕ **HYMN #12**

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

ST. DENIO

**BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

*Jesus, Meine Zuversicht*

Johann Ludwig Krebs



**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.

# 450 Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) E<sup>b</sup> (G) A<sup>b</sup> (D/F<sup>#</sup>) E<sup>b</sup>/G (A7) B<sup>b</sup>7 (D) E<sup>b</sup>

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;  
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

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

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) A<sup>b</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup> (F<sup>#</sup>m7) Gm7 (G) A<sup>b</sup> (A) B<sup>b</sup>

thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;  
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

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

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.  
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

## Seek Ye First

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God  
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;  
 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

and its righ - teous - ness,  
 seek, and you shall find;  
 but by ev - ery word

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.  
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.  
 that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4 emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

TEXT: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty, 1971, alt.; stanzas 2-3, anon.; Spanish trans. anon.;

Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee

MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1971

Text and Music © 1972 Universal Music - Brentwood Publishing/Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa dba CCCM Music  
 (admin. Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing)

LAFFERTY  
 Irregular

# Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise'. It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.  
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:  
In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.  
Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;  
We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.  
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

## Today's Worship Leaders

*Ushers:* Kevin Wolgemuth, Patricia Palmer

*Reader and Deacon:* Patricia Palmer

Flowers in the Meeting House are provided  
by Nancy Baker and Sara Wardell, to the glory of God.

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

**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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#### New additions:

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries:  
Global Ministries Mission Co-worker Lydia Yang,  
serving with the Presbyterian Church in the  
Republic of Korea.

Lee Collins, recovering from foot surgery • the  
community of Bristol, CT, grieving the deaths of  
Sgt. Dustin DeMonte and Officer Alex Hamzy.

#### Continuing concerns:

Margaret Haubrich, in memory care • 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 •  
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 40,694 beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last four weeks, including 11,558 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.

### Thanksgivings

Asa Duncan Offensend, grandson of Janet and David, born October 12<sup>th</sup>

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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, 16 OCTOBER

9:45AM Online fellowship  
10AM Worship  
*followed by fellowship & refreshments  
in the Parish Hall*  
11:30AM Trustees meeting

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### MONDAY, 17 OCTOBER

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

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### TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER

5:15PM Hand Bell Choir

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### WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER

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

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### THURSDAY, 20 OCTOBER

7PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY,

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

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