

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



When evil men and women plot,
good men and women plan.
When evil men and women burn and bomb,
good men and women must build and bind.
When evil men and women shout ugly words of hatred,
good men and women commit themselves to the glories of love.
Where evil men and women would seek
to perpetuate an unjust status quo,
good men and women must seek
to bring into being a real order of justice.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

PRELUDE

They Won't Go When I Go

Stevie Wonder

WELCOME

⊗ **HYMN #619** “Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”
(⊗ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

LAUDA ANIMA

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We wait patiently for our God.

MANY: We will sing, we will sing new songs
of the One who calls us here.

We will choose the God of grace over all things.

**We will sing, we will sing new songs
of the One in whom we can trust.**

We will tell of all God has done for us.

**We will sing, we will sing new songs
of the One whose salvation is for all.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“O Sing to Our God”

CANTAI AO SENHOR

O sing to our God, O sing God a new song, O sing to our God,
O sing God a new song, O sing to our God,
O sing God a new song, O sing to our God, O sing to our God!

Text: Brazilian folk song; trans. Spanish, 1982, and English, 1986, Gerhard M. Cartford. Music: Brazilian folk melody; arr. Gerhard M. Cartford, 1982. English and Spanish Trans. and Music Arr. © Gerhard M. Cartford (admin. Augsburg Fortress). All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725033.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

ONE: Clearly God wants to hear our prayers and forgive us, for God is willing to lean close to our hearts to listen to all that we do, all that we are: the ways we have shared blessing and the ways we have wandered from the ways of grace.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

M.L. King, Jr.

O thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being:

**We humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls
and minds and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us.**

We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ.

**We often give in order to receive,
we love our friends and hate our enemies,**

**we go the first mile but dare not travel the second,
we forgive but dare not forget.**

And so as we look within ourselves we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against thee.

But thou, O God, have mercy upon us.

Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be.

Give us the intelligence to know thy will.

Give us the courage to do thy will.

Give us the devotion to love thy will.

In the name and spirit of Jesus we pray: Amen.

(Prayer in silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Come, dear friends and receive God's grace; see all that God is doing to restore you and lead you to wholeness; follow Jesus, who leads you closer to God.

ALL: I will sing of God's forgiveness and love for me;

I will sing a new song of hope and wonder.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“O Sing to Our God”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 40:1-11

ONE: I anchored my hope in the Holy One;

ALL: God bent toward me and heard my cry.

The Almighty drew me up from the miry pit, out of the slimy mud,

Set my feet upon solid rock, making my legs steady,

And put a new song in my mouth,

A song of acclaim for our God.

Many will see and be in awe,

And put their trust in the Creator.

Joyful are those who make the Most High their trust,

Who do not turn to the wielders of earthly power,

Or to the followers of falsehood.

You, O God my God, have done so many wondrous deeds;

Your thoughts toward us are marvelous;

None can compare with You.

If I were to proclaim and tell of them all,
They would be more than can be counted.

You do not desire the rituals of sacrifice and offering;
But You have given me an open ear, that I may hear Your word.

Then I said, "Here I am, I offer myself to You;
In the scroll it is written of me that
I delight to do what pleases You, O my God;

Your teaching is within my inmost parts."
I have told the glad news of Your power and generosity
in the great congregation;

See, I have not restrained my lips,
As You well know, O Blessed One.
I have not hidden Your saving help within my heart,

I have spoken of Your faithful deliverance;
I have not concealed Your steadfast love from the great congregation.

Do not, O Author of Life, withhold Your compassion from me;
Let Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness keep me safe forever.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✘ **HYMN #835**

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

CLOSER WALK

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

OFFERTORY

ONE: "Come and see," said Jesus. Bring all of yourself and bear witness to the wonder of God-with-us, God-among-us, leading us into a life of wonder, intimacy, and joy. In gratitude for the God who guides us into a life of grace, we give tokens of praise from the bounty God has placed in our hands.

**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

Praise His Holy Name

Keith Hampton

✘ 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

God of our ancestors, God of new ways: may the gifts we offer bring comfort to those who grieve, hope to those who live on the streets of despair, peace to all the broken places, and grace to all who long to draw closer to you. We ask in Jesus' name: Amen.

MODERN TESTIMONY

from "Justice Without Violence"

Martin Luther King, Jr.

ANCIENT TESTIMONY

Isaiah 49:1-7

Old Testament, p. 830-831

SERMON

"Of Words and Weapons"

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ HYMN #755

"Alleluia! Laud and Blessing"

WEISSE FLAGGEN

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Come Sunday

Duke Ellington

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven 619

(Psalm 103)

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
 2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore - bears
 3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
 4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
 fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
 face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
 slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
 still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
 dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 103 (see no. 620) is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God, which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.

Just a Closer Walk with Thee 835

Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it,
 1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus,
 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I
 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for

Je - sus, is my plea, dai - ly walk - ing close to
 keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as
 fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den
 me will be no more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly

thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
 long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Ref.*
 shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Ref.*
 o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. *Ref.*

The chromatic musical style of this anonymous short hymn suggests that it probably dates from the early 20th century. It also seems to owe much of its popularity to radio broadcasts and recordings as well as to evangelistic meetings and singing conventions of that era.

755 Alleluia! Laud and Blessing

(Psalms 111 and 112)



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Laud and bless - ing to our God, whose Word is sure;
2 Al - le - lu - ia! God sus - tains us; match - less are the gifts we share:
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Ho - ly Par - ent, all your chil - dren now re - claim;



by whose grace we find re - demp - tion, in whose love we live se - cure.
light in dark - ness, hope in con - flict, an - swers to our deep - est prayer.
may our lives re - flect your jus - tice, heirs to your most sa - cred name.



Righ - teous - ness and rich com - pas - sion shall at - tend us all our days;
Ours to give as we are giv - en: arms to lift when oth - ers fall;
Fill our hearts with un - der - stand - ing, brace our weak - ness by your might;



may God's prom - ise to be faith - ful ech - o through our songs of praise!
im - ag - es of God's great good - ness, faith - ful ser - vants to God's call.
awe - some hon - or, born in wis - dom; your great glo - ry, our de - light!



Psalms 111 and 112 are appropriately brought together in this paraphrase. Both form acrostics: each poetic line begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet in order. In addition, both psalms begin with "hallelujah," and they share much vocabulary as well as a theme of praise.



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 Janet Kaufman

Reader: Barbara Collins • Deacon: Patricia Palmer

Fellowship time hosts: Betsy Beck

Flowers have been placed in the Meeting House by the Beck family in loving memory of Betsy's sister, Dorrie Fuchs (May 27, 1957 - January 10, 2015), whose joy and energy continues to be sorely missed.

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
Sexton: Richard Tietjen
Stewardship & Database Mgr: Kelly Rybczyk

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 people of El Salvador and for our mission partners, Emmanuel Baptist Church and the Lutheran Church of El Salvador.

Continuing concerns:

Toby Reifsnnyder, recovering from heart attack and surgery • Art Eddy

Margaret Haubrich, in memory care • all affected by gun violence, especially survivors, those tending to the traumatized, and those advocating for safety
• The people of Ukraine and all striving to end war
• All who serve or live in war or in conflict zones around the world.

For those in treatment for cancer — Jenny, Frank Swaye, David Douyea, MingMing, Deborah Merwin, Keith Blanton and others — prayers for healing and strength.

Family & Friends who have passed away

Ruth Tyrol • Tom Draper • Noble Richards

Families and friends of more than 56,389 beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last four weeks, including 12,198 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.

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!

