

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

“Blessed are They”
from *Eine Deutsches Requiem*

Johannes Brahms

WELCOME

⊗ **HYMN #395** “Blessed Jesus, At Thy Word”
(⊗ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: If we take the wings of the morning,

ALL: Even there your hand shall lead us, and your right hand hold us fast.

Each day and each night, we remember your love.

You are our health and our life and our peace.

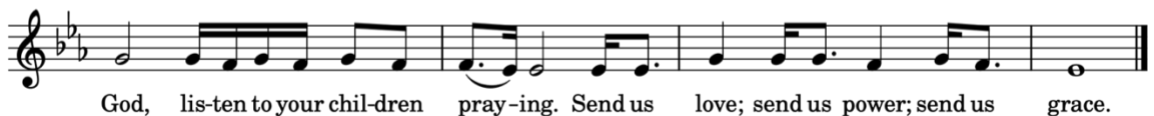
You are the love that brings each creature to life,

And you are the warmth of the rising sun that sustains all life.

Speak to us during this sacred hour, O Lord,

That we may draw closer to you as you draw close to us.

RESPONSE IN SONG “God, Listen to Your Children Praying” Ken Medema



UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

God of life and death, you know what is in our hearts and minds, and you do not judge; you awaken us. You redirect us. If we are attending, the way is revealed where we have been untrue to ourselves, to our dear ones and to our highest ideals.

For those times when we have been too busy, too bored, too distracted, or too lukewarm, we are sorry.

We ask for release from our self-condemnation.

(Prayer in silence)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Sisters and brothers, the power of Resurrection is at work in us and around us. The former ways and habits of our lives are released by God's will; God is yet creating us and the world. We receive Grace in the secret place in our hearts, where there are no words. For the forgiveness of God is too marvelous for words. Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG "God, Listen to Your Children Praying"

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ONE: God be with you.

MANY: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Holy One.

This is the joyful feast of the people of God.

Let us rejoice and be glad.

Creator God, we bless you and praise you: you spoke and the Earth was formed; you drew a breath and the sea rose.

All of creation sings your praises.

From the dust of the Earth, you created our bodies. You gave us our senses and blessed us with the power of reason and compassion. You called prophets and teachers to show the way to union with the mystery of grace. Yet we turned against you and one another.

Have mercy on us, Mighty God.

And so you sent us your son, our brother Jesus, to show us how to love you. He announced good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed.

Through all his life and death, he reconciled us to you and to our neighbors, and invited us into the realm of heaven.

On the night he was arrested, in company with his good friends, Jesus took the bread of Passover. After giving you thanks, he broke it and said,

“Take. Eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this, remembering me.”

After supper, he took a cup of wine, thanked you, and said,

“Drink this, all of you. This is the new covenant, sealed in my blood; whenever you drink it, do this, remembering me.”

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

Hymnal, p. 35

✠ **RESPONSE IN SONG**

GREATOREX

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end: Amen; Amen.**

✠ **PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

Come, Holy Spirit. Continue to pour out your life-giving, healing power on us, and on this meal that nourishes us. As we share this food and drink, may we become, for each other, the hope that Jesus has awakened in us. In this meal we celebrate the promised banquet when all shall be fed abundantly, and all shall drink from the river of the water of life. Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

We celebrate an open communion and welcome every person to the table. We understand the sharing of the bread and the cup in Jesus’ name to be a reenactment of an ancient vision of God’s feast for all people. You need not be a member of our church, or any church, to participate in this feast of grace: all that is needed is that you desire the nurture God is offering.

As communion is served we hold the bread until all have received, to signify our unity in Christ.

*We drink the cup as we are served, to signify our personal relationship with Christ.
(We use gluten-free bread and unfermented grape juice, to extend a wider welcome.)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ONE: Eternal and gracious One, though we live in a world of need,

**ALL: here we have tasted your goodness
and hungered for a world more just.**

Though afflicted by brokenness and division,

here we have heard your call to be a people of healing community.

Though daily we touch our limits,

here we have received the fullness of your grace.

Abide among us, O God,

in faith, in hope, and in love. Amen.

✘ HYMN #700

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

SPIRITUAL

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

God Be In My Head

Robert Benford Lepley

✘ 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

**Bless our offering, O God. We but return a portion of that which you
have given us. May our seeking and our serving illumine paths and
uplift the hearts of many. Guide us in your wisdom to use these gifts to
manifest love that has no boundary. Amen.**

EPISTLE READING

I Corinthians 2:1-9

² ¹⁻² You'll remember, friends, that when I first came to you to let you in on God's sheer genius, I didn't try to impress you with polished speeches and the latest philosophy. I deliberately kept it plain and simple: first Jesus and who he is; then Jesus and what he did—Jesus crucified.

³⁻⁵ I was unsure of how to go about this, and felt totally inadequate—I was scared to death, if you want the truth of it—and so nothing I said could have impressed you or anyone else. But the Message came through anyway. God's Spirit and God's power did it, which made it clear that your life of faith is a response to God's power, not to some fancy mental or emotional footwork by me or anyone else.

⁶⁻¹⁰ We, of course, have plenty of wisdom to pass on to you once you get your feet on firm spiritual ground, but it's not popular wisdom, the fashionable wisdom of high-priced experts that will be out-of-date in a year or so. God's wisdom is something mysterious that goes deep into the interior of divine purposes. You don't find it lying around on the surface. It's not the latest message, but more like the oldest—what God determined as the way to bring out the best in us, long before we ever arrived on the scene. The experts of our day haven't a clue about what this eternal plan is. If they had, they wouldn't have killed the Master of the God-designed life on a cross. That's why we have this Scripture text:

No one's ever seen or heard anything like this,
Never so much as imagined anything quite like it—
What God has arranged for those who love him.

But you've seen and heard it because God by the Spirit has brought it all out into the open before you.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:13-16

*New Testament, p. 5***SERMON:** "Bringing Out the God-Colors"

The Rev. Dr. Eileen L. Epperson

PASTORAL PRAYER⊗ **HYMN #757**

"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

KINGSFOLD

COMMUNAL BENEDICTION (UNISON)

This day and this night, may we know, O God,
The deep peace of the running wave
The deep peace of the flowing air
The deep peace of the quiet earth
The deep peace of the shining stars
The deep peace of the Son of Peace.

SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C Major

J.S. Bach



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).

395 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Glo - rious Lord, your - self im - part, Light of Light, from

gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed, till your Spir - it breaks our night,
 God pro - ceed - ing. Touch our lips and ears and heart;

and in glow - ing faith be near you. By your gos - pel
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your

true and ho - ly, teach us, Lord, to love you sole - ly.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 church now rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

Originally conceived to be sung before the sermon, this hymn assumes a congregation that assembles regularly, and it needs to be placed near the beginning rather than the end of worship. The simple repetitive tune reinforces the text's sense of receptivity and expectation.

700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

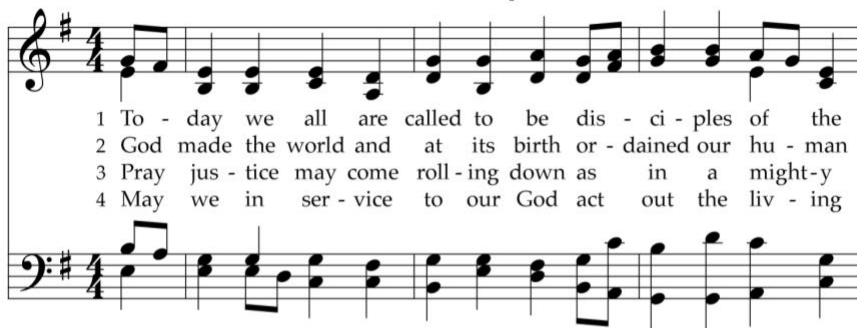
where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (an - y - time!)
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na

live so (live so)
 work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 pray so (pray so)
 sing so (sing so)

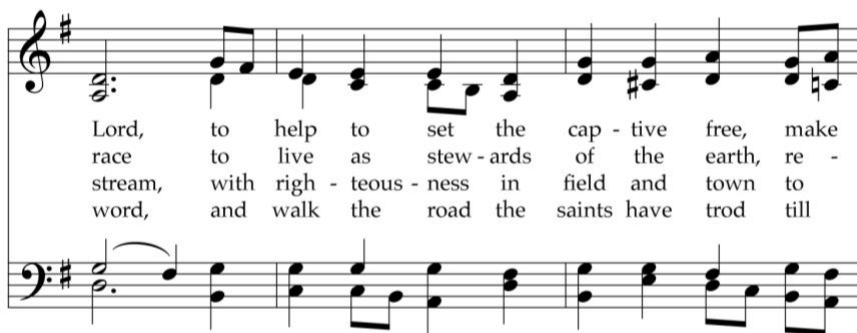
where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (my Lord,) (an - y - time!)

This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.

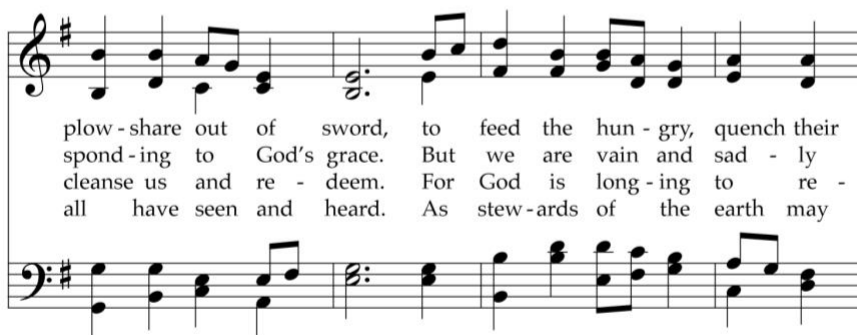
757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples



1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing



Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
word, and walk the road the saints have trod till



plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

Today's Worship Leaders

Guest Minister: The Rev. Dr. Eileen L. Epperson

Ushers: Joanne Hayhurst, Joanne Taber

Reader: Janet Accardo • *Deacon:* Kathy Mera • *Fellowship host:* Barbara Collins

Flowers have been placed in the Meeting House by Janet Kaufman,
in memory of Ann and Leonard Kaufman.

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 mission partners in Costa Rica: Mi Tía Childcare Center; Presbyterian Evangelical Church of Costa Rica; Latin American Biblical University

Kiau Loi, recovering from stroke

Continuing concerns:

Bill Hayhurst, recovering from heart surgery; Annie Stuto, recovering from heart surgery •

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 134,985 beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last four weeks, including 15,068 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!

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 5 FEBRUARY

10AM Worship
*followed by fellowship & refreshments
in the Parish Hall*
11:30AM Church Council meeting

MONDAY, 6 FEBRUARY

8AM Corner Food Pantry Board meeting
11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY

10AM Tai Chi class
4PM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)

WEDNESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY

12:30PM Staff Meeting
4PM Women's Bible Study
6PM Board of Deacons meeting

THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club
4PM Strategic Visioning Team
5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 10 FEBRUARY

8:45AM Men's Bible Study



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-Thursday