

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



6th Sunday
after the
Epiphany

12 February 2023
10am



PRELUDE

Trio sonata in d minor, 1st mvmt

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

⌘ **HYMN #463**

“How Firm a Foundation”

Verses 1, 3, 5

FOUNDATION

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We are called to turn the other cheek,

**ALL: so we will seek to be vulnerable
in our lives of faith and service.**

We are called to go the extra mile,

**so we will walk with those around us
in the journeys of hope as well as fear.**

We are called to love those who make that so hard,

**so we will rely on the One who loves us
to fill us with that special grace.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Sanctuary”

J. Thompson, R. Scruggs



Lord, pre-pare me to be a sanc-tu - ar-y, pure and ho-ly, tried and



true. With thanks-giv-ing, I'll be a liv-ing sanc-tu - ar-y for you.

Words and Music by John Thompson and Randy Scruggs. © 1982 Whole Armor/Full Armor Music, admin. by The Kruger Organization. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725033.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Because we belong to God, we can turn our gaze away from all that tempts us, and see the One who loves us always. Let us turn our hearts towards God, as we speak of our foolishness and failures. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**We may try to trick ourselves, but we cannot fool you, Wise God.
We hold onto grudges as if they were the most precious of jewels.
We steal another's identity when we ridicule who they are,
and we take credit for what we have achieved
without a nod toward you, who made us and blessed us.**

**Yet as often we hurt you, God of grace,
you show us your merciful nature.**

**As you seek to teach us your ways,
may we pay close attention.**

**As you love us despite our foolish choices,
may we be more compassionate toward others.**

**As we seek to follow Jesus,
may we be willing to go as far as he will take us,
even into that place of hope and peace,
which is the realm of your heart.**

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: This is the good news: we belong to Christ. He is the Love who comes bringing life and hope to all.

ALL: Because we belong to Christ, we belong to God. The Holy One is also the Merciful One, who pours out grace and fills us with mercy.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Sanctuary”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 119:33-40

ONE: Teach me, O God, the way of Your intentions,

ALL: And I will observe it to the end.

Give me understanding,

**That I may keep Your whole teaching
and follow it with my whole heart.**

Lead me in the path of Your wisdom, for I delight in it.

Turn my heart to Your intentions, and not to selfish gain.

Turn my eyes away from worthless things;

Give me life in Your ways.

Fulfill Your promise, to Your servant,

Your promise for those who put their trust in You.

Turn away the disgrace that I dread,

For You are just and good.

How I have longed for Your instruction;

In Your faithful compassion give me life.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✕ HYMN #377

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

HOUSTON

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

OFFERTORY

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

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 our neighbors in Turkey and Syria, recovering from the devastation of the February 6 earthquake.

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 Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee*

Jean Berger

✠ 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 our creator, take these gifts and breathe life into them.
We pray the offerings of our hands will bring relief and solidarity to
the lives of your children. We pray the offerings of our hearts will
bring comfort and strength to our neighbors. We pray your Spirit will
make our generosity ever bolder and more exuberant — and we ask it
all in the name of Jesus, Love’s Own Self: Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Matthew 5:38-48

*Old Testament, p. 132
New Testament, p. 6*

SERMON

“Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept It”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Praise the Lord With Drums and Cymbals

Sigfrid Karg-Elert



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: Janet Kaufman and Kevin Wolgemuth • Reader and Deacon: Kathy Mera

Flowers have been placed in the Meeting House
by Anne Williams, in honor of Amanda Paley.

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 Asst.: 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



The Sermon on the Mount,
Dieudonne Pluviose (Haiti)

463 How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

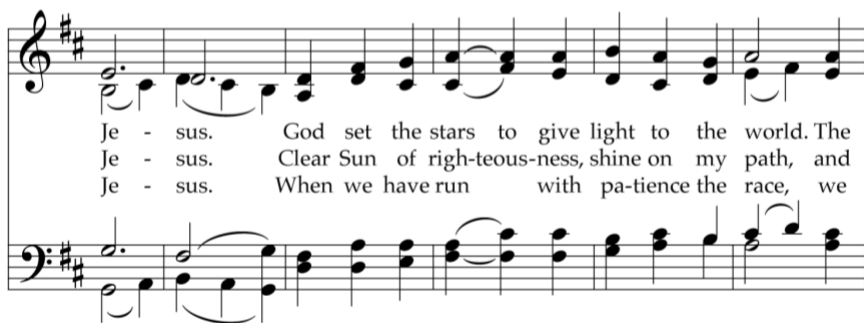
to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at
3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with



Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain



star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
shall know the joy of Je - sus.



all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

The author-composer of this unrhymed hymn regards it as a meditation and prayer deeply rooted in many scriptures, most connected with the theme of light: Genesis 1:17; Psalm 139:12; Isaiah 60:19; Malachi 4:2; John 14:8; Ephesians 5:8; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 John 1:5; Revelation 21:23.

light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

742 We Will Walk with God

Sizohamba naye

We will walk with God, my broth - ers; we will walk with God.
Si - zo - ham - ba na - ye, wo wo wo, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.

We will walk with God, my sis - ters; we will walk with God.
Si - zo - ham - ba na - ye, wo wo wo, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.

We will go re - joic - ing till the king - dom has come.
Ngom - hla wen - ja - bu - la, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.

We will go re - joic - ing till the king - dom has come.
Ngom - hla wen - ja - bu - la, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.

With its themes of commitment and sending, this energetic song from Swaziland works well for ending a time together, either an occasion of worship or some other gathering. The simple tune does not require supporting instruments but invites percussion and improvisation.

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:

For the survivors of the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria; for those working in rescue, relief, medical, and trauma care; for the thousands who are mourning the deaths of beloveds.

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries: for the people of Ghana; for the Christian Council of Ghana, working to support women leaders on gender-based violence and the promotion of human rights.

Continuing concerns:

Kiau Loi, recovering from stroke • Bill Hayhurst, recovering from heart surgery • Annie Stuto, recovering from heart surgery • Toby Reifsnyder, 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 132,368 beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last four weeks, including 14,359 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.

Thanksgiving

Prayers of gratitude and wonder, for the arrival of Julian Wilder Noyes, born to Naomi and Nick Noyes on February 7th.

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, 12 FEBRUARY

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

11:30AM Music Committee meeting

MONDAY, 13 FEBRUARY

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY

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

WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY

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

THURSDAY, 16 FEBRUARY

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY

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.

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