



The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Transfiguration Sunday

19 February 2023 • 10am

PRELUDE

Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

WELCOME

✕ **HYMN #66**

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

PENTECOST

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: It is good to be here in this sacred space,

ALL: in the shelter of God’s love and hope.

It is good to be here with folks we know well, as well as with new friends,
joining with all of God’s beloved children.

It is good to be here, where we can hear God’s voice,
calling us to be eyewitnesses to the Spirit’s presence.

RESPONSE IN SONG “We Are Standing on Holy Ground”

We are stand-ing on ho-ly ground, and I know that there are an-gels
all a - round; let us praise Je - sus now;
we are stand - ing in God's pres - ence on ho - ly ground.

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CALL TO RECONCILIATION

ONE: We wait for God to show up, and while waiting, do not notice the words we might have spoken, the good we could have done. Let us confess to our God, who waits to surround us with grace and hope, as we pray together, saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**Our judgment often becomes clouded by our foolishness,
Sheltering God, and so we make many wrong choices.**

We let fancy philosophies draw us away from your grace.

The worrisome words of pundits can lead us into valleys of despair.

Our fears can convince us that neighbors are conspiring against us.

**You can take all our foolishness, Creative God, and make us wise
enough to see you among us. You take the shards of our broken lives
to recast us into a faithful people. You speak gently to us, so we can
listen to your dreams of our seeing each person as your beloved —
even as Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior, sees us through such
eyes of grace.**

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

ONE: On mountaintops and in valleys, in moments when our lives are shrouded and as well as when we reflect Christ's light, God is with us, declaring we are the beloved!

**ALL: In this moment, in every moment, may we glimpse the grace of
God which comes and transfigures our lives. Thanks be to God, we are
forgiven! Amen.**

RESPONSE IN SONG “We Are Standing on Holy Ground”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 2

ONE: Why do the nations conspire?

MANY: Why do the peoples plot in vain?

The rulers of the earth take their stand,
massing their grand schemes against the ways of holiness.

“We are accountable to no one,” they boast.

God laughs.

The Almighty will speak in wrath, terrifying them with fury, asking,

“Who is enthroned over creation? Who reigns over time and space?”

“Who can promise you an inheritance of nations,
or possession of the earth, except I?”

**“Who has real authority on earth except those to whom I grant it,
to whom I say:**

“You are my offspring, embodiment of My nature;
today I have begotten you.

**“Ask of me,
and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession,
yours to manage and dispose of.**

“Who can say this except I?”

Do not be foolish, you despots.

Be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Your lives depend upon One who is greater than you.

Seek God’s wisdom, follow God’s way.

All else is vain and lacking in purpose.

Your arrogance will kindle the Holy One’s wrath.

Happy are all who entrust their lives to the Most High.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

Hymnal, p. 35

✠ **HYMN #343**

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”
verses 1, 2, 5, 6

GERMANY

All attending Sunday 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.

ANTHEM

“Why Do the Nations Rage?”
from *Oratorio de Noël*

C. Saint-Saëns

*Quare fremuerunt gentes,
et populi meditati sunt inania?*

*Gloria Patri, gloria Filio,
gloria Spiritui Sancto;*

*Sicut erat in principio, et nunc,
et semper in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.*

*Why do the nations rage,
and the people imagine a vain thing?*

*Glory to the Father, glory to the Son,
gloria to the Holy Spirit*

*As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be. Amen.*

✠ 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

**Let us not keep our treasures stored in the mountaintops of our fears
of how others might use them, but pour them out so they might be
used to transform all those who find themselves in the valleys of
hunger, of loss, of loneliness, and of injustice. This we ask in the name
of your Beloved: Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 24:12-18

Old Testament, p. 87-88

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 17:1-9

New Testament, p. 22-23

SERMON

“Beyond Fear”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ HYMN #761

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

BEECHER

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Sun Dance

Bob Chilcott



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).

66

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my

heart I will pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the

Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will pray. *Fine*

1 Up - on the moun - tain, when my Lord spoke, out of God's
2 Jor - dan Riv - er, chil - ly and cold, it chills the

mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a - round me, it looked so
bod - y but not the soul. There is but one train up - on this

to Refrain
fine, till I asked my Lord if all was mine.
track. It runs to heav - en and then right back.

Like many African American spirituals, this one mixes the language of biblical narrative with veiled but effective allusions to the hope of escape from slavery, either by crossing rivers into free states or by participating in organized efforts like the Underground Railroad.

Where Cross the Crowded 343 Ways of Life

1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man
 4 The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the

cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of
 thresh - olds fraught with fears, from paths where hide the
 grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from
 fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -

self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
 sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.
 tudes to view the sweet com - pas - sion of your face.

- 5 O Master, from the mountainside,
 make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
 among these restless throngs abide;
 O tread the city's streets again;
- 6 Till all the world shall learn your love,
 and follow where your feet have trod;
 till glorious from your heaven above
 shall come the city of our God.

Because dense populations always result in concentrated hardships, this vivid yet timeless evocation of urban need connects to our own day as well as to Jesus' lament over Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37/Luke 13:34). This tune was the first used with this text and is now customary.

Called as Partners in Christ's Service 761

1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life

we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol - low, nev - er fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor - er, all God's peo - ple, young and old,
 Words of com - fort, words of vi - sion, words of chal-enge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv - ing, our com-pas-sion to in - crease,

e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
 blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.
 bring new power and strength for ac - tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 mes - sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.

Today's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Sarah Morrison and Kevin Wolgemuth
Reader: Kevin Wolgemuth • *Deacon:* Kathy Mera

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 mission partners in Thailand, including the Church of Christ in Thailand and McGilvary College of Divinity.

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

Continuing concerns:

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.

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

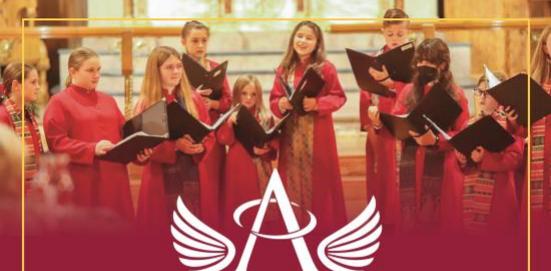
Families and friends of more than 65,244 beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last four weeks, including 13,010 in the US

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!



CHORUS ANGELICUS

Junior *and* Senior Choirs

Sun. March 5 at 3 p.m.

Free • Donations Appreciated

 The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An Open and Affirming Congregation
www.SalisburyUCC.org • 860-435-2442

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 19 FEBRUARY

- 10AM **Worship**
*followed by fellowship & refreshments
in the Parish Hall*
- 11:30AM Board of Trustees meeting

MONDAY, 20 FEBRUARY

- Church offices closed – Presidents' Day*
- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY

- 10AM Tai Chi class
- 4PM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
- 5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY

- 11AM Chapel Service, Noble Horizons
- 12:30PM Staff Meeting
- 4PM Women's Bible Study
- 5:30PM **Ash Wednesday worship**
- 6:15PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, 23 FEBRUARY

- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club
- 4PM Strategic Visioning Team
- 5:30PM Project SAGE Board

FRIDAY, 24 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.

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email: welcome@salisburyucc.org • web: salisburyucc.org

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