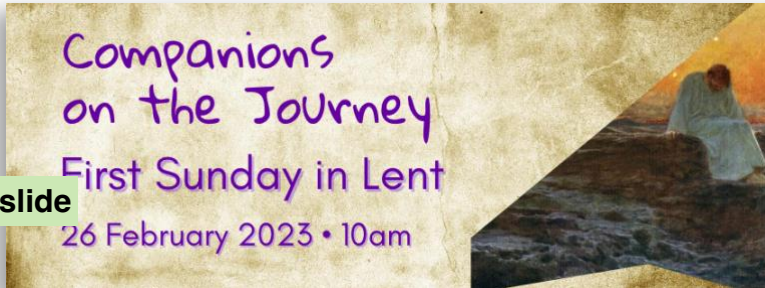


The Congregational Church of Salisbury  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



“Begin” Title slide

**C1-center**  
**HYMN SING**

**C2-organist**

**C1-center**  
**WELCOME**

**C2-choir**

⌘ **HYMN #840**

“It Is Well With My Soul”

VILLE DU HAVRE

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

**C1-center**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Jesus of the temptations,  
you enter the wilderness of our hungers,  
our longing for power, our eagerness to test God:

**ALL: be with us on our journey to Jerusalem, we pray.**

Jesus of hopes,  
you set aside your glory, choosing to cradle us in your scarred hands:

**hold us in your tender embrace, we pray.**

Jesus of the Feast,  
you are broken so we might be healed,  
you pour out yourself so we might be drenched in your grace:

**feed us from the simple gifts of creation, we pray.**

## C2-choir

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

K. MEDEMA



God, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. God, send your Spir-it in this place.



God, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

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## C1-center

### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We are easily seduced by the temptations all around us. But if we are willing to trust God and offer our confessions, God is quick to forgive us and fill us with hope. Join me, as we pray together, saying,

### UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**Led by the crafter of lies, we wander into wastelands of wrong-doing.  
We hunger for more and more, and feel emptier and emptier.  
By action and inaction, we give ourselves over to the false gods  
of success, independence, and resignation to the ways of the world.**

**Have mercy on us, God of love,  
and forgive us for the power we give to temptation in our lives.  
Help us to become as vulnerable, trusting, and free as Jesus.  
For in that vulnerability,**

**we find the humility to trust you in all things;  
in that trust, we discover the grace  
which releases the grasp of the shrewd one;  
in that freedom, we can leave our badlands behind,  
in order to follow Jesus in this life, and into the next.**

*(Silence is kept)*

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Be glad and rejoice! Give thanks with shouts of joy! Grace abounds for everyone.  
**With glad cries of deliverance, we offer our thanks to God who loves  
us and forgives us. Amen.**

## C2-choir

### RESPONSE IN SONG

“God, Listen to Your Children Praying”

K. Medema

## C1-pulpit

### RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 32

ONE: Joyful are those whose arrogance is forgiven,  
whose error is erased.

**ALL: Joyful are those whom the Most High forgives,  
and holds blameless, in whose spirit there is no denial of the truth.**

While I kept silent and did not face the truth,

**My body wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.**

Day and night Your hand was heavy upon me,  
grasping my deception;

**My strength dried up as if by the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my offense to You,  
and I did not cover up my culpability;

**I said, "I will confess my unfaithfulness to the Holy One,"  
and You forgave the guilt of my failure.**

Therefore let all who are faithful pray to You;

At times of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

**You are my shelter;**

**You protect me from woe;**

**You surround me with songs of deliverance, redemption songs.**

Let me instruct you, my children, and teach you the way you should go;

Let me counsel you with my eye upon you.

**Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
who must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
or it will not stay near you.**

Many are the torments of those who forsake the ways of the Holy One,

**But steadfast love surrounds those who put their trust in the Most High.**

## C2-chairs R

### A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

## C1-chairs R

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

Hymnal, p. 35

## C2-choir

### ✠ HYMN #167

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

AUS DER TIEFE RUF E ICH

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

**C1-center**  
**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**

**C2-choir** *Our church welcomes every size gift, and thanks you for your generosity.*

**MUSICAL OFFERING** "Since by Man Came Death" G.F. Handel  
from *Messiah*

✠ **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.**

**C1-center**

✠ **UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of nurture and nourishment, of presence and power, we offer  
these gifts and the service of our lives, asking your blessing on them.  
May they give sustenance and encouragement to neighbors near and  
far. As we enter into our Lenten journey, may we be open to the Holy  
Spirit to follow you wherever you lead us: Amen.**

**C2-pulpit**

**MODERN TESTIMONY**

**C1-pulpit**

from *The Gift of Years*

Joan Chittister, OSB

**GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 4:1-11

*New Testament, p. 3*

**SERMON**

"Wilderness Companion"

Pastor John A. Nelson

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**C2-choir**

✠ **HYMN (p. 5)**

"O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"

DEO GRACIAS





## 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: Sarah Morrison and Sharon Tingley*

*Reader: Bob Maxwell • Deacon: Kathy Mera*

*Fellowship time hosts: Janet Kaufman*

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.)

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#### New additions:

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries: for our neighbors of the Marshall Islands, confronting an existential threat from the effects of climate chaos, as well as suffering the effects of radiation exposure from US nuclear testing, 1946–1958.

#### 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.

Kiau Loi, recovering from stroke • Annie Stuto, recovering from heart surgery • Toby Reifsnyder, recovering from heart attack and surgery

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

Art Eddy

Families and friends of more than 47,931 beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last four weeks, including 12,099 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.

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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, 26 FEBRUARY

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

11:30AM Board of Religious Education  
3PM Annual Student Recital

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### MONDAY, 27 FEBRUARY

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

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### TUESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY

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

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### WEDNESDAY, 1 MARCH

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

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### THURSDAY, 2 MARCH

4PM Board of Christian Action meeting  
5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY, 3 MARCH

8:45AM Men's Bible Study  
12noon Meetinghouse Music & Meditation



*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-Thursday