

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Partita in c minor – Prelude

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

⌘ **HYMN #407**

“Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers”

Verses 1, 2, 4, 5

GRÄFENBERG

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In this season of discipleship, God calls us to leave our comfortable lives,

**ALL: to journey, like Abraham and Sarah,
into that unknown, yet strangely certain, country called faith.**

On sleepless nights, in fear’s shadows,
we toss and turn with doubt’s questions,

**hoping, like Nicodemus, to find Jesus
and to listen willingly to his responses.**

Reluctant to deny ourselves, convinced
that everything, every thing, depends on us,

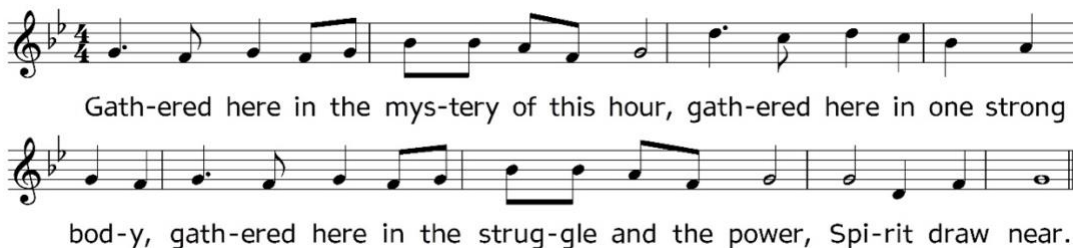
**we struggle to affirm that everything, every thing, is in God’s hands,
and we can let go of all to which we cling.**

In all our wildernesses we seek to follow Jesus,

**wherever he may go, wherever he may lead,
daring to trust in the promise of the journey.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Gathered Here”



Gath-ered here in the mys-tery of this hour, gath-ered here in one strong
bod-y, gath-ered here in the strug-gle and the power, Spi-rit draw near.

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A PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

ONE: Holy God, Maker of all

ALL: Have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, Breath of life

Have mercy on us.

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

(Prayer in silence)

Before God, with the people of God,

I confess to my brokenness:

to the ways I wound my life,

the lives of others, and the life of the world.

**May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Amen.

**Before God, with the people of God,
we confess to our brokenness:
to the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.**

May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

With the whole church,

**We remember that we are forgiven by God,
befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere,

**We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

With all creation,

**We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life: the
unfolding purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

✠ HYMN #509

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

HOLY MANNA

OFFERTORY

ONE: “God so loved the world” that God gave us Jesus. In response to that love, we bring our tithes and offerings: tokens of our gratitude for all that God has given, and all that God is doing in this world that God continues to love so much. 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 So Loved the World

John Stainer

✠ 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

**Generous God, here we remember with awe and amazement that
you trust us enough to place your blessings in us. May we be faithful in
offering them back to you: sending company to the lonely,
nourishment to the hungry, hope to the despairing, home to the
wandering. We ask in Jesus' name: Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 12:1-4
John 3:1-17

Testament, p. 12
New Testament, p. 114

SERMON

“A Companion in Search”

Pastor John A. Nelson

We Feast at God’s Table

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy shaper of this rich reality,
we give you thanks for the way you form us into vessels of your healing.

**Holy light of new beginnings, we give you thanks for your presence
among us as Love’s Own Self, leading us into fullness of life.**

Holy comforter of those in pain, we give you thanks for the unfailing power of your
Spirit, pruning us to bear the fruits of hope.

**We give you thanks for your Church: a community which abides in
grace and believes in hope and healing for our fractured world.**

PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD’S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

Hymnal, p. 35

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of life,
to drink the cup of the new covenant.

Jesus said, I am the bread of life.

You who come to me shall never hunger,

You who believe in me shall never thirst.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus took the Passover bread,
and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said,

This is my body, broken for the healing of the world.

Whenever you eat it, do so remembering me.

After supper, Jesus took wine of Passover, gave thanks to God, and poured it, saying,

This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you and for all.

Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.

O Holy One, send down your Spirit that these gifts of bread and cup may be for us the living presence Christ.

Unite us with Christ forever, and with the whole creation bring us to your eternal realm of *shalom*.

SHARING THE MEAL

We celebrate an open communion, and welcome every person to the table. We share the bread and the cup in Jesus' name as a reenactment of an ancient vision of God's feast for all people. We don't require you to be a member of our church, or any church, to participate with us in this feast of grace: all that is needed is that you desire God's nurture. We serve gluten free bread and grape juice, that all may eat freely.

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.

Embolden us to serve you, O God,

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

✘ HYMN #53

“O God, Who Gives Us Life”

NOËL

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

A Memorial Piece

Hubert Parry



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: Becky Belcher and Joanne Taber
Reader: Karin Noyes • *Deacon:* Lorna Edmundson
Fellowship time hosts: Sarah and Ron Collins

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from Lectionary Liturgies by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2022 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); 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

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 Jordan and for mission partners
Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees,
The Middle East Council of Churches,
The Orthodox Initiative.

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.

Lee Collins, foot surgery • Kiau Loi, recovering from stroke • Annie Stuto, heart 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 36,602 beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last four weeks, including 10,784 in the US.

We thank God for the gift of life, and pray for the Spirit's strong presence with all who grieve.

Thanksgivings

The Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer, being installed today as pastor and teacher of First Congregational Church of Bethel, UCC.

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!



Henry Ossawa Tanner, *Study for Christ and Nicodemus on a Rooftop*, ca. 1923, oil on wood panel, Smithsonian American Art Museum

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 5 MARCH

- 10AM Worship
*followed by fellowship & refreshments
in the Parish Hall*
- 11:30AM Church Council meeting
- 3PM Chorus Angelicus Concert

MONDAY, 6 MARCH

- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 7 MARCH

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

WEDNESDAY, 8 MARCH

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

THURSDAY, 9 MARCH

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

FRIDAY, 10 MARCH

- 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