

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Irish Interlude on Kingsfold

Philip Lehenbauer

WELCOME

✠ **HYMN** (p. 5) "Community of Christ"
(✠ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

LEONI

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In hope, in longing,

ALL: We're glad to come together.

In trust, in community,

We're glad to come together.

In many moods, in many shapes and sizes,

We're glad to come together.

In peace, in joy,

We're glad to come together.

In solidarity with those who struggle,

We're glad to come together.

In resistance to those who dominate,

We're glad to come together.

In memory of Jesus, who lived with compassion,

**We're glad to come together into God's presence,
with awe and praise.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Weave”



Weave, weave, weave us to-gether. Weave us to-gether in u-ni-ty and love.



Weave, weave, weave us to-gether. Weave us to-gether, to-gether in love.

WORDS and MUSIC: Rosemary Crow, 1979. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725033.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

One thing we know, Listener to our hearts:

**you are the One who journeys with us
in these days of confusion,
and who waits for us at
our final destination.**

One thing we know, Healer of our lives:

**when we find ourselves
in valleys veiled in shadows,
you are walking alongside us
even though we may never notice.**

One thing we know, Comforter of our souls:

**when we are weakened
by the burdens of our lives,
when fears disrupt our lives,
you come to us, to rest
your strengthening peace upon us.**

One thing we know, God in Community, Holy in One:

**once we could not see you in every moment,
but now our eyes are opened wide
as we sing out your vision and our hope,**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Weave”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 23

ONE: God is my shepherd: I have everything I need.

**ALL: The Most High makes me lie down in green pastures;
leads me to water in places of repose;**

God refreshes my soul.

**God guides me on the paths of righteousness,
as befits the Holy name.**

Though I walk through the valley of deepest gloom,
or stand in the shadow of death,

I am not afraid, for You are with me.

Your rod, Your staff — they comfort me.

You spread a full table before me, even in the midst of fearful pain;

You feast me with your abundance and honor me as Your chosen one,

Anointing my head with sweet oil, filling my cup to the brim.

Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life,

And I will live in God's radiance forever and ever.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✕ HYMN #452

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

OPEN THE EYES

All attending Sunday 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 **nOURish BRIDGEPORT**.*

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

Cantate Domino

Giovanni Croce

✘ **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 of all creation, God of Living Water, God of new sight,
all that we have is yours. We pray you will bless our care of your gifts.
We pray you will bless every person touched by these offerings.
We pray that the mystery and wonder of Christ will reach through us
to your beautiful, broken world with healing power.
We ask it all in Jesus' name: Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 42:1-21
John 9:1-41

*Old Testament, p. 48
New Testament, p. 125*

SERMON

“I Want to See You”

The Rev. Sara D. Smith

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN #741**

“Guide My Feet”

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Prelude on Londonderry Air

Noel Rawsthorne



Community of Christ

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1985

TUNE: Trad. Hebrew melody, adapt. Meyer Lyon, 1770

1. Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the Cross your own,
2. Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church's door
3. Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—
4. When men-ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,

live out your creed and risk your life for God a lone:
and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.
cry out for ju - tice and for peace the whole world 'round:
the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;

The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,
Take handswith the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,
Dis - arm the powers that war, and all that can de - stroy,
Our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,

whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.
take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.
turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.
our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more!

452 Open the Eyes of My Heart

D A/C#

O-pen the eyes of my heart, Lord. O-pen the eyes of my heart;

G/B G D

I want to see you; I want to see you;

1 2
Dsus D A Bm

to see you high and lift - ed up,

G A

shin-ing in the light of your glo - ry. Pour out your

Bm Em7 D/E A

pow-er and love as we sing "Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly."

D A/C#

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.

Bm G Em/D D

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, I want to see you.

The initial petition of this song is based on the language of Ephesians 1:18, while the second part draws on the account of Isaiah's vision in Isaiah 6:1-5. That event, in turn, is the basis of the threefold *Sanctus* that has become a traditional element in Christian worship.

Guide My Feet

741

1 Guide my feet while I run this race;
(yes, my Lord!)

The first system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The vocal line begins with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4 and B4, a quarter note C5, and a half note D5. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords in the right hand.

guide my feet while I run this race;
(yes, my Lord!)

The second system continues the melody with a half note G4, quarter notes A4 and B4, and a half note C5. The piano accompaniment maintains the harmonic support.

guide my feet while I run this race, for I

The third system continues with a half note G4, quarter notes A4 and B4, and a half note C5. The piano accompaniment continues with chords.

don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

The fourth system concludes the phrase with a half note G4, quarter notes A4 and B4, and a half note C5. The piano accompaniment ends with a sustained chord.

- 2 Hold my hand ...
- 3 Stand by me ...
- 4 I'm your child ...
- 5 Search my heart ...
- 6 Guide my feet ...

This African American spiritual is based on the imagery of "the race that is set before us" in Hebrews 12:1-2. Its call-and-response structure allows for the improvisation and addition of stanzas related to an athletic metaphor that is as vivid today as it was centuries ago.



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

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME BACK OUR GUEST PREACHER, THE REV. SARA D. SMITH, ESQ., pastor of United Congregational Church of Bridgeport, and CEO/President and founder of nOURish BRIDGEPORT, Inc., a volunteer-driven organization bringing hope through service and support programs. Rev. Sara believes deeply in the transformative power of God's love for all people. She often says, "If your faith means anything, it does something. It changes you, so you can change the world!"



Ushers: Kevin Wolgemuth, Joanne Taber
Deacon and Reader: Lorna Edmundson • Fellowship time host: Janet 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 the people of Sri Lanka, and for the church in Sri Lankan to be an active, wholesome, and transformative body of Jesus Christ.

Continuing concerns:

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, Deborah Merwin, Keith Blanton and others — prayers for healing and strength.

Family & Friends who have passed away

MingMing • Art Eddy

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

Thanksgivings

The safe arrival of William Robert Heck, grandson of Peggy and Dave. Hallelujah!

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, 19 MARCH

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

MONDAY, 20 MARCH

- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 21 MARCH

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

WEDNESDAY, 22 MARCH

- 11AM Chapel service @ Noble Horizons
- 12:30PM Staff Meeting
- 4PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, 23 MARCH

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

FRIDAY, 24 MARCH

- 8:45AM Men's Bible Study

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2023 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission.

Psalm adapted from *The Psalms in Worship*, Mary Susan Gast, © 2002; used by permission.



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