# The Congregational Church of Salisbury UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Irish Interlude on Kingsfold

Philip Lehenbauer

## WELCOME

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

# 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,

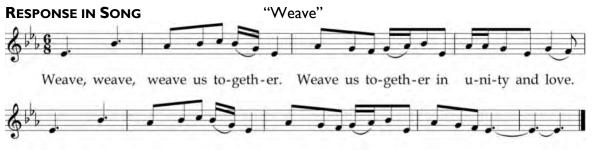
We're glad to come together. In solidarity with those who struggle,

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.



Weave, weave, weave us to-geth-er. Weave us to-geth-er, to-geth-er in love.

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# 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)

<b>ጅ Нүм</b> #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.

Hymnal, p. 35

Cantate Domino Giovanni Croce MUSICAL OFFERING 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. 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		
<b>Ϸ Ηγϻ</b> ν #741	"Guide My Feet"	

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

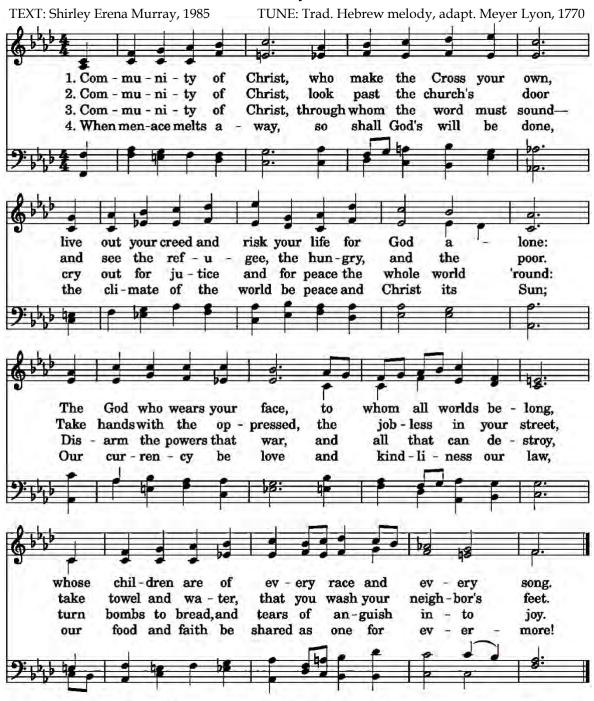
POSTLUDE

Prelude on Londonderry Air

Noel Rawsthorne



# Community of Christ



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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.



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.



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

 IOAM Worship followed by fellowship & refreshments in the Parish Hall
II:30AM Board of Trustees meeting

#### MONDAY, 20 MARCH

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

#### **TUESDAY, 21 MARCH**

10AMTai Chi class4PMCentering Prayer (via Zoom)5:15PMHandbell Choir rehearsal

#### WEDNESDAY, 22 MARCH

- IIAM Chapel service @ Noble Horizons I2:30PM Staff Meeting
- 4PM Women's Bible Study

#### THURSDAY, 23 MARCH

I 1:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club4PMStrategic Visioning Team5:30PMChoir Rehearsal5:30pmProject 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.





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