



The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Congregation



Easter Sunday • 9 April 2023 • 10:00AM

HAND BELL CHOIR PRELUDE

“Hail Thee, Festival Day”

arr. Wagner

“Easter Rondo”

arr. Helman

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

arr. Helman

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today: Prelude on Llanfair”

Williams, arr. Dobriski

ORGAN PRELUDE

Concerto in G major, 1st movement

G.F. Handel

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN** (p. 2)

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

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

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day,
2. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing,
4. Soar we now where Christ has led,

All cre - a - tion, join to say:
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Fol - lowing our ex - al - ted Head,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Once he died our souls to save,
Made like him, like him we rise,

Sing, ye heavens, and earth, re - ply:
Christ has o - pened pa - ra - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: This is the day —

**ALL: when hope tiptoes us awake;
light guides us through the shadows.**

This is the day the Lord —

**plants joy in our winter hearts;
drowns out despair's cries with delight.**

This is the day the Lord has made:

**grace does cartwheels in graveyards;
resurrection wonder outshines the brightest sun;
an empty tomb fills us with good news:**

This is the day: Resurrection Day!

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

verse 4

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We are Easter people — yet we also know how often we live in the shadows, too weary or fearful to follow the light. Let us confess how we have wandered off of God's way, as we pray together:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**We come on this day, Dispeller of fears,
walking through the shadows of our lives.**

**Too often, we believe our foolishness is hidden from You; too often,
we stand before the open door of hope, wondering if we dare enter.**

**Yet you come, Joy of our hearts, persistent
as the women at the tomb, to open the gates of wonder,
so we might walk in the gardens of hope;**

**You come to open the gates of grace,
so we might plant peace in the wilderness of the world;**

**You come to open the gates of resurrection,
so we might once more know our Teacher and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: This is the day of resurrection and new life: the day God offers us steadfast hope and love which will never end!

We will sing and dance on this day! We will rejoice and give thanks to the God who saves us. Alleluia! Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

ONE: God Most High is my strength and my song;

ALL: The Holy One has become my deliverance.

Glad songs of triumph resound in the tents of the faithful,

“The right hand of the Almighty does valiant deeds;

The right hand of the Holy One is exalted;

The right hand of the Holy One does valiant deeds.”

I shall not die,

But I shall live, and recount the deeds of the God of Deliverance.

The Almighty has taught me rigorously,

But has not given me over to death.

Open to me the gates of good will,

That I may enter through them and give thanks to God the Almighty.

This is the gate of the Holy One;

Those who walk in God’s ways shall enter through it.

I thank You that You have answered me

and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Holy One’s doing;

It is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Holy One has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

Hymnal, p. 35

✠ **HYMN #236**

“The Strife Is O’er”

VICTORY

All attending Church School may leave as we sing the hymn.

OFFERTORY

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

Jennifer Kronholm-Clark

*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. Today we share gifts with the **Salisbury Housing Trust** and the **Salisbury Housing Committee**, both strengthening our community through affordable housing.*

ONE: Christ is risen – Alleluia! God has kept the promise of victory over death and division — Alleluia and Amen! New life is ours, and hope is ours as well. Let us respond to God’s great gifts in our life together by sharing what we have been given: returning tokens of our gratitude to the source of all that is good and all that is life.

**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:

“Easter” from *Five Mystical Songs*

TEXT: G. Herbert

Steve Hoagland, soloist

MUSIC: R. Vaughan Williams

*Rise heart; thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise
Without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise
With him may'st rise;
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,
His life may make thee gold, and much more, Just.
Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part
With all thy art.
The cross taught all wood to resound his name
Who bore the same.
His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key
Is best to celebrate this most high day.
Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song
Pleasant and long:
Or since all music is but three parts vied,
And multiplied;
O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part,
And make up our defects with his sweet art.*

✘ **EASTER DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God the source of life and breath;
 Praise Christ, now risen, conquering death!
 Praise Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove;
 One God, revealed in truth and love.**

✘ **UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of awesome power, God of steadfast presence:
 we thank you this day for the gift
 of life resurrected, of love renewed.
 The One who was dead comes to life!
 We praise you for the bounty you have placed in our care —
 and we return gifts here with our prayers
 for the healing of creation and all that lives.
 Bless us to your service, and bless this offering
 to your vision of justice and joy, wholeness and harmony.
 We ask it in Jesus' name; Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 31:1-6
 Matthew 28:1-10

*Old Testament, p. 897
 New Testament, p. 41*

SERMON

“Rise, Alleluia!”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN #238**

“Thine Is the Glory”

JUDAS MACCABEUS

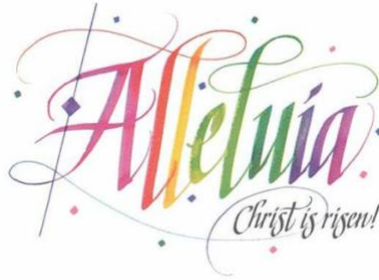
BENEDICTION

*All who wish to join in singing the “Hallelujah Chorus”
 are welcome to make their way to the choir loft.*

POSTLUDE

“Hallelujah Chorus” from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel



Today's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Deborah Moore, Sarah Morrison, Joanne Taber, Kevin Wolgemuth

Reader: Anne Williams • *Deacon:* John Estabrook

Guest musicians:

Liz Handman *violin 1*, Jules Chetcuti *violin 2*, Meg Hill *viola*, Allen Ballinger *cello*

Steve Hoagland, *baritone*

Special thanks to Rosanne Lamson, for the festive display of Easter flowers.

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.

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 Asst.: Jennifer Kronholm-Clark

Holding the Parts Together

Administrative Assistant: Loriann Chevremont
Stewardship & Database Mgr: Kelly Rybczyk
Sexton: Richard Tietjen

Church Officers: Betsy Beck, *moderator*;
Jennifer Weigel, *treasurer*;
Jennifer Oberto, *clerk*

Pastor and Teacher: The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

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).



Please Recycle this Bulletin!



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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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-Friday