

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Organ Concerto in G minor, Larghetto e staccato

G.F. Handel

WELCOME

✘ HYMN #65

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

CWM RHONDDA

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The God whose name is love, and whose work is *shalom*:

**MANY: created and called us, to love one another
as sisters and brothers in Christ.**

In response to God’s call we gather for this holy time of worship:

**We gather as members of this family of faith
to practice holy care, to give thanks for God’s realm of grace,
to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ.**

We gather as members of families that we were born into,
and families that we have created.

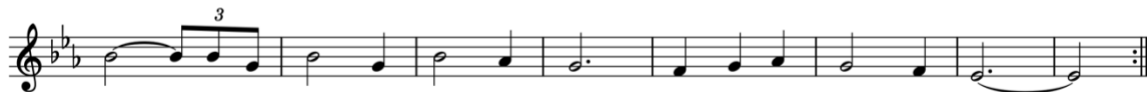
**We gather as members of the human family,
seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit
as we rejoice in God’s vision of the beloved community.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Lead Me, Guide Me”



Lead me, guide me a-long the way; For if You lead me, I can-not stray.



Lord, let me walk each day with Thee: lead me, O Lord, lead me.

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CALL TO RECONCILIATION

God would lead us to the places of hope and healing. We sometimes follow the ways of grace — yet often, we are led instead by weariness or anxiety, fear or fatigue. Let us confess our lives, as we draw near to the One who would restore us to wholeness. Join me as we pray together, saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

The wrong paths to foolish lives and repeated mistakes? We know all too well where they are, Gate of our lives. Stirring up the waters with trouble comes all too easily to us, we confess. Locking the doors of our hearts, so we don't have to love others, easily becomes second nature.

Forgive us, you who are Goodness and Mercy.

May our hearts overflow with hope for others, as you anoint us with blessing. May we share from our abundance with all who hunger for fullness of life. May we follow Christ Jesus, our Teacher and Savior, to places of service and life with you, forever.

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our Comforter leads us to that place where God's Table is spread with forgiveness and overflowing with grace. Here, we are called to life and love.

We will live as God's people: forgiven to serve, blessed to share, loved so we might care. Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 23

ONE: The Almighty cares for me,

MANY: I am never in want.

God shepherds me into green pastures, to eat,
And guides me beside quiet waters, where I can drink.

God renews my life.

The Holy One leads me along paths that are free from danger;

It is God's very nature to keep me safe.

Even when I pass through death's bleak landscape, I will not fear;

For You are with me;

The signs of Your strength and guidance bring me comfort.

You prepare a feast for me in full view of my enemies;

You anoint my head tenderly with fragrant oil;

You fill my cup to overflowing.

Surely God's goodness and love shall follow me all the days of my life,

And I shall dwell in the household of the Most High my whole life long.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✕ HYMN #802

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

ST. COLUMBA

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

OFFERTORY

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

Louise Brown

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 Bach With Verse.

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.

ANTHEM

✘ 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, all that we have comes from you; we are stewards of your generosity. As we bless these gifts in your name, we pray for Mercy and Goodness in the lives of all who long for rest, who hunger for hope, who thirst for living waters, and who may yet be part of your community of grace and peace. Amen!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 2:42-47
I Peter 2:19-25

Testament, p. 145
New Testament, p. 283

SERMON

“Cracked and Sprung”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ HYMN #733

“We All Are One in Mission” ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C Major

J.S. Bach



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: Janet Kaufman, Joanne Taber

Reader: Janet Offensend • *Deacon:* John Estabrook

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

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

802 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

(Psalm 23)

1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth, and where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me; thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still, thy cross be - fore to guide me.

- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Since its creation in the mid-19th century, this text has been one of the favorite paraphrases of Psalm 23 in the English-speaking world. That popularity increased in the early 20th century when *The English Hymnal*, 1906, first joined these words to this flowing Irish melody.

733 We All Are One in Mission

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
 2 We all are called for ser - vice to wit - ness in God's name.
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent; our pur - pose is the same:
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing word.

A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so ev - ery folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

A Lutheran pastor wrote this text in response to a bishop's letter that said, "Our mission is to touch the lives of others with Christ's love." This theme is made stronger by recognizing that shared purposes do not require the denial of diversity but are enriched by it.

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC
2023 Spring Concert

Luminous Voices

The Salisbury UCC Choir
Guest Musicians
and Soloists



Jimi James **BARITONE**
Jennifer Oberto **SOPRANO**

Mendelssohn
HEAR MY PRAYER

Vaughn Williams
FIVE MYSTICAL SONGS

Gjeilo
LUMINOUS NIGHT OF THE SOUL

Saturday, May 6 • 3pm

30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT

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 concerns:

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries: for the peoples of the Korean peninsula, living still in the shadows of war and extreme militarization, and for mission partners: the National Council of Churches in Korea; the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea; and Hanshin University

Continuing concerns:

Margaret Haubrich, in memory care • all affected by gun violence, especially survivors, those tending to the traumatized, and those advocating for safety
• the peoples of Sudan and Ukraine • neighbors

who serve or live in war or in conflict zones around the world • for peacemakers.

For those in treatment for cancer — Jenny, Frank Swaye, David Douyea, Deborah Merwin, Keith Blanton — prayers for healing and strength.

Family & Friends who have passed away

Robin Dee • Patricia Habacker

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

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, 30 APRIL

10AM Worship
11AM Annual Meeting, Part 2

MONDAY, 1 MAY

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club
4PM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)

TUESDAY, 2 MAY

5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, 3 MAY

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

THURSDAY, 4 MAY

4PM Board of Christian Action meeting
5:30PM Choir Rehearsal
6PM National Day of Prayer (Meeting House, rain location)

FRIDAY, 5 MAY

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

SATURDAY, 6 MAY

3PM Spring Concert • "Luminous Voices"

Call to Meeting

The 278th Annual Meeting, Part II, of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ, will be held following the 10am worship service on Sunday, 30 April 2023, for the purpose of:

1. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 278th Annual Meeting, Part I, of 30 October 2022
2. Presentation of Reports from Boards and Committees
3. Presentation from the Strategic Visioning Team
4. The Election of Officers, Boards, and Committees
5. Any other business that needs to come before the congregation.

All Covenant Partners of the Church are requested to attend and vote. All friends of the church are encouraged to attend.



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.

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