

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## PRELUDE

“Joy in the Morning”  
“Hymn of Promise”  
“Exuberant Joy”

*arr. Sherman*  
*arr. Sleeth*  
*arr. Sleeth*

## WELCOME

✠ **HYMN #12** “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”  
(✠ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

ST. DENIO

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

### CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come to worship, people of God, with praises on your lips.

**MANY: We glorify the One who holds our hands when we slip.**

Come into the presence of the One who calls us into this sacred space.

**Where grace welcomes us, and equips us to live boldly.**

Come and hear the stories of the One who holds you in mercy and grace.

**We will remember and tell of the wonder and love that are ours.**

### RESPONSE IN SONG “Rooted and Grounded in Love”

Root-ed and ground-ed in love, root-ed and ground-ed in love, here in this  
place we find mer-cy and grace, root-ed and ground-ed in love.

## **CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

What is our hope? Simply put, it is that God has not abandoned us. With such good news, we can dare to bring our prayers to the One who will not cast aside our words or our hearts. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

## **UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**We must tell you, God who knows us better than we think, how easy it is to put our trust in those who offer easy fixes, quick solutions, and false hopes. It is easier to believe the glib words of pundits or the conspiracies of the theorists, rather than to listen for your still, small voice. All too easily we act out of fear, rather than joy. All too easily, we can embrace despair.**

**Forgive us, God of mercy. Lead us to remember that we find you in the vulnerable one who holds our hand. You are neither meme nor slogan, but the Word that transforms our very lives. You are the One who calls us to life through Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior.**

*(We pray in silence)*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

In all we do, and despite all we do, God loves us. This is grace, pure and simple. This grace is why, when everything says we should not, we can dare to hope.

**We will witness to this grace with every breath we take, with every gift we offer, with every word we share with others. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven and made new! Amen.**

## **RESPONSE IN SONG**

“Rooted and Grounded in Love”

## **RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 66:8-20**

ONE: Bless our God, O peoples,

**MANY: Let the sound of the Holy One's honor be heard,**

Who has kept us alive,

**And has kept our feet from stumbling.**

You have tested our commitment, O God;

Refining us by fire, as silver is refined.

**We were brought into captivity;**

Burdens were laid on our backs;

**People rode over our heads;**

We went through fire and through water;

**Yet You have brought us out to a place of abundance.**

I will come into Your presence with fragrant offerings;

**I will fulfill my promises to You,**

Those that my lips uttered and my mouth pledged when I was besieged.

**I will bring to You fragrant offerings of many kinds,**

**With rich perfumes.**

Come and hear, all you who trust in God,

**And I will tell what the Holy One has done for me.**

I cried aloud to the Most High, with devotion on my tongue.

**If I had cherished malice in my heart,**

**The Holy One would not have listened.**

But truly God listened;

**And gave heed to the words of my prayer.**

Blessed be the God Who is Love and Faithfulness,

**Who has neither rejected my prayer,**

**Nor withdrawn from me.**

## **A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS**

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

*Hymnal, p. 35*

✘ **HYMN #7**

**"Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"**

NORWICH

*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**, to help fund their new church sign.*

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*

Hans Hassler

#### ✠ DOXOLOGY

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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

**Holy God, may the gifts we offer, multiplied by other givers and by  
your Spirit, become a home, a family, a rest, a respite for every  
neighbor in need. We ask in Jesus' name: Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 14:15-21

*New Testament, p. 133*

Acts 17:22-31

*New Testament, p. 162*

#### SERMON

“Ensō”

Pastor John A. Nelson

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

#### ✠ HYMN (p. 5)

“Praise to God, the World's Creator”

WEISSE FLAGGEN



✕ HYMN

“Praise to God, the World’s Creator”

TUNE: WEISSE FLAGGEN

WORDS: JAN BERRY

1. Praise to God, the world’s Cre - a - tor, source of life and growth and breath,  
 2. Praise to God our sav - ing Wisdom, meet - ing us with love and grace,  
 3. Praise to God, the Spi - rit in us, prompt - ing hid - den depths of prayer,

cradling in her arms her chil - dren, hold - ing them from birth to death.  
 help - ing us to grow in wholeness, giv - ing free - dom, time and space.  
 fir - ing us to long for jus - tice, reach - ing out with ten - der care.

In our bo - dies in our liv - ing, strength and truth of all we do,  
 In our hurt - ing, in our risk - ing, in the thoughts we dare not name,  
 In our search - ing, in our lov - ing, in our strug - gles to be free,

God is pre - sent, work - ing with us, mak - ing us cre - a - tors, too.  
 God is pre - sent, grow - ing with us, heal - ing us from sin and shame.  
 God is pre - sent, liv - ing in us, point - ing us to what shall be.

## BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

*Allegro Maestoso*

Felix Mendelssohn



### 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 and Deborah Moore*

*Reader: Barbara Collins • Deacons: Janet Kaufman and Kathy Mera*

*Fellowship time host: Kathy Mera*

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2022 ([lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://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*;  
Janet Offensend, *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.)

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#### New concerns:

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries for mission partners in Israel/Palestine: Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees • YWCA of Palestine • Tantur Ecumenical Institute • Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center • Rawdat el-Zuhur • Kairos Palestine • Friends Meeting in Ramallah • Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land • Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem • Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel • East Jerusalem YMCA • Diyar Consortium • Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem • B'Tselem and for all striving to create peace in the Holy Land.

#### 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

Joan Kelly

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

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**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!

# Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.  
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:  
In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.  
Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;  
We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.  
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

# Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth 7



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright  
 2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing  
 3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - turing one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - ery  
 me your food of light, grain of life, and grape of  
 pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.  
 love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.  
 grow un - til I flower, un - til I know.

As the tune name hints, this text is derived from images in the writings of the English medieval mystic, Julian of Norwich. In 1393 she wrote down an account of her sixteen remarkable visions experienced twenty years earlier; they formed the basis of her theology of God's love.

## This Week at Salisbury UCC

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### SUNDAY, 14 MAY

10AM Worship  
11:30AM Music Committee

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### MONDAY, 15 MAY

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

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### WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY

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

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### THURSDAY, 18 MAY

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY, 19 MAY

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