

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We know what we should do, yet don't. We know the words people need to hear, yet miss the chance to offer our heart. Yet, we also know that if we confess our failings to God, we will receive forgiveness and hope. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

God of glory: we are so busy watching the skies for signs of your presence that we overlook the good, simple ways of serving in your name. We are so intent on finding just the right word to impress or dismiss someone, that we forget the words of reconciliation you have taught to us. We make time for so many things, we forget to open ourselves to the presence of your Spirit within us.

Mighty source of our lives, forgive us for our separation from others. Fill us with the wisdom to resist that which is neither compassionate nor generous —and strengthen us in the faith given to us through Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior.

(We pray in silence.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved, do not be surprised. Our God is gracious to all, restoring us to new life.

This is the good news which is for us, and for everyone we will meet in the days to come: we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Come Spirit, Come”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

ONE: God will rise up,
Those who disdain the ways of the Holy One
Will be scattered,

ALL: Those with contempt for compassion shall flee.

Driven away like smoke,
Melted like wax before the fire:

So shall the faithless perish before God.

But those who trust in the Author of Life shall rejoice;

They shall be glad in the presence of God;

They shall abound with joy.

Sing to God, sing praises to the Most High;

Lift up a song to the One Who rides upon the clouds,

Whose name is the Almighty,

Before Whom all can rejoice.

God, Who is parent to orphans and protector of the defenseless,

Dwells in holiness.

God gives the desolate a home to live in;

And leads the prisoners out of captivity with singing,

While those who trust in their own devices

Subsist in a sun-scorched land.

O God, when You went forth,

Leading Your people to freedom,

When You marched through the wilderness,

The earth shook, the heavens poured down rain.

At the presence of God, the God of the covenant,

At the presence of God, the God of the people.

You showered down rain in abundance, O God, in that parched land;

You refreshed Your people

When they were weary;

Your flock found a dwelling place;

In Your goodness, O God,

You were the One Who provided for the needy.

Sing to God, O realms of the earth;

Sing with joy to the Creator,

Who rides the heavens, the timeless skies,

Who thunders with a mighty voice.

Declare the power of God,

Who is sovereign over the people,

And Whose power fills the skies.

You are awesome, O God in Your holy place,

It is You, O God, Who gives power and strength to Your people.

Highest honor to God!

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✘ **HYMN** (*insert*)

“By Gracious Powers”

BONHOEFFER

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 **Friends in Service to Humanity**.*

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

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

V. Thompson

✘ **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**

All that we call “ours” comes from you, Generous God: we are your stewards. We pray your blessing on the offerings we give in your name, that they may supply bread and shelter, hope and encouragement, to our neighbors. We pray that the giving and the receiving may abound in joy! Amen.

MODERN TESTIMONY

“The Peace of Wild Things”

Wendell Berry

GOSPEL READING

Acts 1:6-14

New Testament, p. 143

SERMON

“Witnesses”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN #543**

“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

GREEN TYLER

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Toccata in E Minor

Pachelbel



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).

282 Come Down, O Love Divine

1 Come down, O Love Di - vine; seek out this soul of mine,
2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with your own ar - dor glow - ing.
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing.
shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing.

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear,
And let your glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
For none can guess God's grace, till Love cre - ates a place

and kin - dle it, your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

This *lauda spirituale*, a kind of vernacular Italian sacred song from the late Middle Ages and Renaissance, was translated into English in the 19th century but received little notice until this tune (named for the composer's birthplace) was created for *The English Hymnal*.

“By Gracious Powers”

Words: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1944
Transl. Fred Pratt Green, 1972

Music: Herbert G. Hobbs, 1976



1 By gra-cious powers so won-der-ful-ly shel-tered,
2 Yet is this heart by its old foe tor-ment-ed,
3 And when this cup you give is filled to brim-ming
4 Yet when a-gain in this same world you give us



and con-fi-dent-ly wait-ing, come what may,
still e-vil days bring bur-dens hard to bear;
with bit-ter sor-row, hard to un-der-stand,
the joy we had, the bright-ness of your sun,



We know that God is with us night and morn-ing,
O give our fright-ened souls the sure sal-va-tion
We take it thank-ful-ly and with-out trem-bling,
We shall re-mem-ber all the days we lived through,



and nev-er fails to greet us each new day.
for which, O God, you taught us to pre-pare.
out of so good and so be-loved a hand.
and our whole life shall then be yours a-lone.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer — theologian, professor, and leader in the German Opposition, composed the poem on which this hymn is based, “New Year 1945,” while imprisoned by the Gestapo in Berlin. Four months later, Bonhoeffer was executed by special order of Himmler.

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God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

543

O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.

Today's Worship Leaders

Guest Musician: Dr. Samuel Kalcheim

Ushers: Joanne Taber and Kevin Wolgemuth

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

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*;
Janet Offensend, *treasurer*;
Jennifer Oberto, *clerk*

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

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 Mission Partners in the Philippines: United Church of Christ in the Philippines • Union Theological Seminary • Southern Christian College • Silliman University • Dansalan College Foundation.

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.

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, 21 MAY

10AM Worship
11AM Trustees

MONDAY, 22 MAY

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

WEDNESDAY, 24 MAY

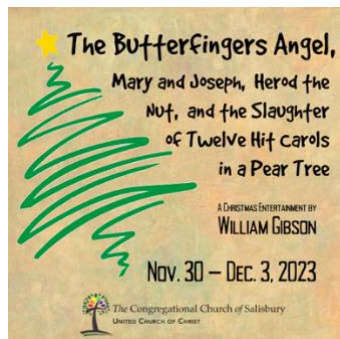
11AM Chapel service, Noble Horizons
12:30PM Staff Meeting
4PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, 25 MAY

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 26 MAY

8:45AM Men's Bible Study



Mark your calendars: **Wednesday, 31 May, 5:30pm** will be a **read-through and sing-through of *Butterfingers Angel***, which Pastor John and David Baranowski will direct this fall, to be performed as the church's December concert. Last performed by our church in 1976(!), *Butterfingers Angel* gives a fresh, funny, sometimes scary, and soul-warming re-telling of the Christmas story. Come to enjoy — and check whether there is a role for you!



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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email: welcome@salisburyucc.org • web: salisburyucc.org

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