



The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3rd Sunday
after
Pentecost
18 June 2023, 10am

PRELUDE

Ciaconna in E minor

Dietrich Buxtehude

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN** (*insert*) “O God Beyond All Praising”
(✘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

THAXTED

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We come to worship our God, who has done wonders in our lives.

**ALL: God anoints us with joy and light,
gifts from the treasures of God’s heart.**

We come to follow Jesus, who bears our lives with grace and hope.

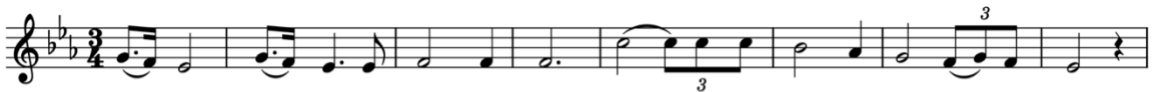
**Jesus would send us into the brokenness
of the world to bring healing.**

We come to be touched by the Spirit, who brings gentleness and peace for all.

**The Spirit would enable us to offer
reconciliation and justice to everyone we meet.**

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.

WELCOMING THE STRANGER: A LITANY (*inspired by Deuteronomy 10:19*)

ONE: God, help us welcome those who have come to dwell among us.

For all those who have come fleeing persecution, of every race, nation, creed, and clan:

ALL: God, help us welcome those who have come to dwell among us.

For those who have come fleeing hardship and hunger:

God, help us welcome those who have come to dwell among us.

For those who have come to reunite with loved ones already here:

God, help us welcome those who have come to dwell among us.

For those who have come seeking freedom and opportunity:

God, help us welcome those who have come to dwell among us.

Let us remember the words of Christ, who said:

*“I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”*

When, Lord, were you a stranger that we welcomed among us?

“Truly, as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me”

**When we welcomed the stranger,
we welcomed you, Christ Jesus, in our midst.**

Loving God, you call us to create hospitable communities. Help us to overcome any fear or reluctance, and to recognize each refugee and stranger as our kin, sent by you that we may give them welcome.

Give us the courage and wisdom to create compassionate and just policies, shaped by your grace. Grant that we may together build your beloved community. Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 100

ONE: Let all the earth make a joyful noise to God Most High.

MANY: Dedicate yourself to the Holy One with gladness;

Come into the presence of the Almighty with singing.

Know that the Creator is God.

It is God who made us,

Not we ourselves;

We are God's people,

The flock that the Blessed One cares for.

Enter the gates of the Author of Life with thanksgiving,

Enter the gardens of the Creator with jubilation.

Give thanks to the Almighty!

Honor the One Who has made all things good.

For the Holy One is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever,

And the faithfulness of the Most High embraces all generations.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✘ **HYMN #817**

“We Walk by Faith”

DUNLAP'S CREEK

OFFERTORY

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

Solfeggio

Carl Philip Emmanuel Bach

✘ **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**

**We may be the healing for those who suffer;
we may be the strength for those who long to endure;
we may be the hope for those buffeted by the world —
and so we offer ourselves as well as our gifts that you,
God of all who wander, may use us to bless our neighbors.
In Jesus' name: Amen.**

MODERN TESTIMONY	from “Sea Prayer”	Khaled Hosseini
SCRIPTURE READING	Genesis 18:1-15	<i>Old Testament, p. 17</i>
SERMON	“All the Way Home”	Pastor John A. Nelson
PASTORAL PRAYER		
⌘ HYMN #51	“To Abraham and Sarah”	LLANFYLLIN
BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN		
POSTLUDE	Fanfare	Jacques Lemmens



Marc Chagall, “Abraham and three Angels” (*Abraham et les trois anges*) 1966;
Saint-paul-de-vence, France

O God Beyond All Praising

Words: Michael Perry c. 1982, alt

Gustav Theodor Host, 1916



1. O God be-yond all prais-ing we wor-ship you to-day
2. The flower of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
3. Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, this song of praise we sing.



and sing the love a-ma-zing that songs can-not re-pay;
its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you our God most high;
May we, who know your fa-vor, our hum-ble ser-vice bring;



for we can on-ly won-der at ev-ery gift you send,
but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown,
and whe-ther our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,



at bles-sings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
though small in mor-tal sta-ture, to heav-en's gar-den grown:
we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your Word,
for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,
to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,



we ho-nor and a-dore you, our great and migh-ty God.
and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

D G Bm A

1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 And when our life of faith is done, in

D G Bm A A7 D G D

gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you

Bm G F#m A D

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - jice and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The opening line here is essentially a quotation of 2 Corinthians 5:7, but that affirmation is fleshed out by references to the appearance of the risen Christ to Thomas (John 20:19–29). The shape note tune, named for a stream in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, adds resolution to the words.

51 To Abraham and Sarah

I Will Be Your God

1 To A - bra - ham and Sa - rah the call of God was clear:
2 From A - bra - ham and Sa - rah a - rose a pil - grim race,
3 We of this gen - er - a - tion on whom God's hand is laid

"Go forth and I will show you a coun - try rich and fair.
de - pen - dent for their jour - ney on God's a - bun - dant grace;
can jour - ney to the fu - ture se - cure and un - a - fraid,

You need not fear the jour - ney, for I have pledged my word
and in their heart was writ - ten by God this sav - ing word,
re - joic - ing in God's good - ness and trust - ing in this word,

that you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."
"That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."
"That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."

This hymn condenses the narrative of Genesis 17:1-22 and grounds it in the recurring statement of the covenant relationship between God and the people God has chosen. This Welsh tune also occurs in a minor version called LLANGLOFFAN, used elsewhere in this hymnal (see no. 362).



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: Gordon Johnson, Deborah Moore
Reader: Allison Gray • Deacon: Barbara Collins*

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2022 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission.

Litany adapted from Interfaith Worker Justice, "Immigration Litany," www.iwj.org/pdf/imm-litany.pdf. Posted on Acts of Faith. http://actsofffaith.org/resources/downloads/Year_A/09%20Immigration_final.pdf.

Psalm adapted from *The Psalms in Worship*, Mary Susan Gast, © 2002; used by permission.

Cover art: detail from *Abraham entertaining the Angels*, 1656, etching by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606–1669),

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.)

New concerns:

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries: for Mission Partners in Egypt — the Bishopric for Public, Ecumenical, and Social Services; the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services; the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East — and especially for their work with impoverished and marginalized communities in Egypt.

Donna Haubrich, recovering from surgery for back pain.

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.

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, 18 JUNE

10AM Worship
followed by fellowship & refreshments
11:30AM Board of Trustees

MONDAY, 19 JUNE

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

TUESDAY, 20 JUNE

6:30PM Taichi class

WEDNESDAY, 21 JUNE

12:30PM Staff Meeting

THURSDAY, 22 JUNE

4PM Visioning Team
5:30PM Project SAGE Board of Directors

FRIDAY, 23 JUNE

8:45AM Men's Bible Study



Please Recycle this Bulletin!



The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting in Grace • Transformed by Love • Serving with Joy

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

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