

The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Concerto in A minor, Andante

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

⌘ **HYMN #683**

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

COURTNEY

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

When God could stomp feet and yell,

God tiptoes into our hearts to whisper mercy.

When God could play favorites,

locking others out of the house,

God holds wide the arms of love

to embrace everyone.

When God could break promises,

going back on every word given,

God picks up each one who stumbles

and cradles the lonely and frightened.

RESPONSE IN SONG “God, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Ken Medema



God, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. God, send your Spir-it in this place.

God, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

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CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We know our foolishness, our hurtful words, the rejection we offer to others. And we think God wants nothing to do with us. But in Jesus, God holds our hands and will never let go, as we journey together through life into grace and forgiveness.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Why do we keep messing up, O God?

We know what is right but keep choosing the wrong. We wrestle with our consciences but get pinned to the mat every time. We argue with our desires but they always win the debate. There’s just something inside of us that keeps us from being our true, best selves: those little nudges which just get pushier, those whispers of seduction getting louder and louder.

But just when we think we are lost, Jesus comes along and says, “let me show you what I have learned.” And, by your grace, Forgiving God, we find our way home: no longer burdened by our foolishness, no longer distracted by the trolls of life, no longer alone as we walk with the One who came to rescue us from ourselves, Jesus our beloved sibling.

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God promises us life, grace, forgiveness, and hope. And God never goes back on any promises. This, my friends, is our good news.

Thanks be to God, who never gives up on us, but whose love is always wrapped around us. Amen!

RESPONSE IN SONG “God, Listen to Your Children Praying”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 145:8-14

ONE: The Author of Life is gracious and compassionate,

ALL: Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The Most High is good to all,

And lavishes kindness over all creation.

All Your works shall give thanks to You, O Blessed One,

And all Your faithful shall honor You.

They will speak of the marvels of Your realm,
and tell of Your power,

**So that all people may know Your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of Your realm.**

Your reign is an everlasting reign,

And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The Most High is faithful in all promises,

And loving in all deeds.

The Redeemer supports all who stumble,

And raises up all who are oppressed.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

Hymnal, p. 35

⌘ **HYMN #415**

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

RESTORATION

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

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

Andante Tranquillo
from *Sonata III*

Felix Mendelssohn

✘ **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**

**May the forgotten know they are not alone, may the hungry be fed
with food and hope, may the lonely find a friend in us, as we offer our
gifts to you, O God. In Jesus' name, we pray: Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

Old Testament, p. 1081

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

New Testament, p. 14

SERMON

“Infancy”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN #835**

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

CLOSER WALK

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Gigue Fuge

Dietrich Buxtehude

683 Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope-ful-ness, Lord of all joy, whose
 2 Lord of all ea-ger-ness, Lord of all faith, whose
 3 Lord of all kind-li-ness, Lord of all grace, your
 4 Lord of all gen-tle-ness, Lord of all calm, whose



trust, ev-er child-like, no cares could de-stroy: be
 strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe: be
 hands swift to wel-come, your arms to em-brace: be
 voice is con-tent-ment, whose pres-ence is balm: be



there at our wak-ing and give us, we pray, your
 there at our la-bors and give us, we pray, your
 there at our hom-ing and give us, we pray, your
 there at our sleep-ing and give us, we pray, your

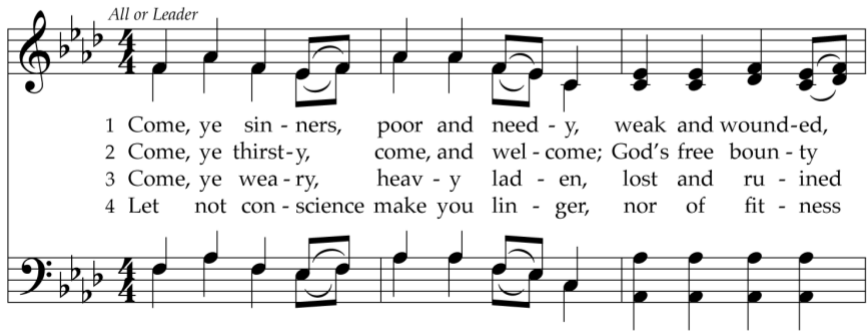


bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

When first published in 1931, this "All-Day Hymn" (as it was titled) seemed very daring for not using traditional archaic pronouns to address Christ. Current pronouns no longer disturb, but the comforting Jesus portrayed here needs to be balanced by his call to discipleship.

415 Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

All or Leader



1 Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound-ed,
2 Come, ye thirst-y, come, and wel - come; God's free boun - ty
3 Come, ye wea - ry, heav - y lad - en, lost and ru - ined
4 Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness



sick and sore; Je - sus read - y stands to save you,
glo - ri - fy, true be - lief and true re - pen - tance,
by the fall; if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,
fond - ly dream; all the fit - ness he re - quir - eth

Refrain
All



full of pit - y, love, and power.
ev - ery grace that brings you nigh. I will a - rise and
you will nev - er come at all.
is to feel your need of him.

go to Je - sus; he will em-brace me in his arms. In the

arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou-sand charms.

The differing voices of this text indicate that its parts were not created together. The stanzas are cast in the voice of a preacher or exhorter, but the refrain (added later) takes the voice of a penitent heeding that call in language like that of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:18).

TEXT: Stanzas, Joseph Hart, 1759, alt.; refrain, anon.
 MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835

RESTORATION
 8.7.8.7 with refrain

Just a Closer Walk with Thee 835

Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it,
 1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus,
 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I
 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for

Je - sus, is my plea, dai - ly walk - ing close to
 keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as
 fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den
 me will be no more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly

thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
 long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Ref.*
 shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Ref.*
 o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. *Ref.*

The chromatic musical style of this anonymous short hymn suggests that it probably dates from the early 20th century. It also seems to owe much of its popularity to radio broadcasts and recordings as well as to evangelistic meetings and singing conventions of that era.



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: Kevin Wolgemuth, Sarah Morrisson

Reader and Deacon: Sue Morrill

Fellowship time hosts: Theresa Carroll and Dean Haubrich

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.

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 people of South Africa and for mission partners: Ons Plek; South Africa Synod, United Congregational Church of Southern Africa; United Congregational Church of Southern Africa; Theological Education by Extension College; South African Council of Churches.

Continuing concerns:

Angelo Lomanto • 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.

Friends and family now serving our country in the armed forces • All those serving or living in war or conflict zones around the world.

Family & Friends who have passed away

Shirley Decker

We thank God for the gift of life, and pray for the Spirit's strong presence with family and friends 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!



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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