

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Rondeau from Adbelazer

Henry Purcell

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #435** “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”
(✘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

IN BABILONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The Creator has planted seeds in all of us.

ALL: May we nurture good deeds and loving-kindness.

Jesus is calling us to bear spiritual fruit.

May we bless and build up others for the reign of God.

The Holy Spirit moves in us, encouraging us to grow.

**May we be nurtured, may we be blessed,
and may we grow in this time of worship.**

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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OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Bounteous God, increase our faith as we gather as your people. Pour forth your love upon us and shower us with gifts of the Spirit. In our turning to you, grace us this hour with your abounding love, joy, peace, and patience. Fill us with kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Strengthened in faith, may we share your generosity with all the world. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 65:1-2, 9-13

ONE: Honor and thanks to You, O God Who reigns;

**ALL: To You we will fulfill our promises to do justice,
O You Who respond to prayer!**

To You all mortals shall come.

**You visit the earth and water it,
You greatly enrich it;**

The river of God is filled with water;

**You provide the people with grain,
For so You have arranged it.**

You graciously water earth's furrows,
leveling its ridges,

**Softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.**

You crown the year with Your bounty;

Your wagons overflow with plenty.

The pasturelands overflow into the wilderness,

The hills encircle themselves with joy,

The meadows clothe themselves with flocks of sheep,

**The valleys grace themselves with grain,
They shout and sing together for joy.**

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✠ HYMN #171

"A Sower Came from Ancient Hills"

SEACHRIST

OFFERTORY

ONE: God's Word finds fertile ground each time we share the gifts we've received. Our tithes and offerings — our response to God's generosity — are helping to share the realm of *shalom*: wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy. May every good gift carry our gratitude into the world that God loves, reaching neighbors, friends, and strangers alike.

**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

Prelude in B minor

Frederic Chopin

✕ 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

Holy One, generous Planter of grace, bless these gifts that they may do your will and bear your love. Bless us, that we may be part of your mending of the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

New Testament, p. 16

SERMON

"The Nature of a Seed"

The Rev. Janet McKinstry

PASTORAL PRAYER

✕ HYMN #822

"When We Are Living"

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Processional

William Matthias

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea - sures

of the sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice,
of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal

which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more

sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

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

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

171 A Sower Came from Ancient Hills



1 A Sow - er came from an - cient hills and cast good
 2 A Sow - er walked through - out the land and, ev - ery -
 3 The Seed was bur - ied deep in death be - neath a
 4 O Christ, you come a - mong us still, the Sow - er



seed a - broad: his field, ten thou - sand hu - man hearts; his
 where he trod, he sowed his life be - cause he was him -
 blood - red sky, and deep - er still was bur - ied hope for
 and the Seed. As once you sowed the truth of God in



seed, the word of God. And some who lis - tened would not
 self the Seed of God. But then, a - top a bar - ren
 those who watched him die. But then, in Jo - seph's gar - den
 glow - ing word and deed, im - plant your Word in wait - ing



hear, and some who heard for - got. But some re - ceived in
 hill, be - neath a dark - ening sky, they threw God's Seed on
 fair, as dawn broke o'er the land, the Seed, from three days'
 hearts, and let it there take hold, un - til it bears in



fer - tile soil the truth the Sow - er taught.
 ston - y ground and left it there to die.
 si - lent sleep, a - woke at God's com - mand!
 fruit - ful lives a har - vest hun - dred - fold.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

All three synoptic gospels record both the telling and the explanation of Jesus' parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23/Mark 4:3-8, 14-20/Luke 8:5-8, 11-15). Because the seed equals "the word," Jesus (as the Word made flesh) becomes the Seed in this expansion of the parable.

When We Are Living

822

Pues si vivimos



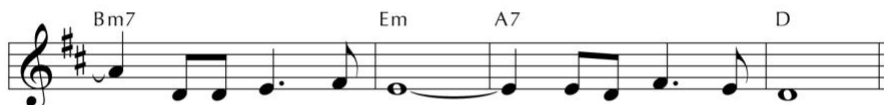
1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
2 Through all our liv - ing, we our fruits must give.
3 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain,
4 A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find



and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord.
Good works of ser - vice are for of - fer - ing,
when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em - brace,
those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind,



Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,
When we are giv - ing, or when re - ceiv - ing,
wheth - er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,



we be - long to God; we be - long to God.
so - mos del Se - ñor, so - mos del Se - ñor.

This hymn began as an orally transmitted stanza reflecting on Romans 14:7-8 and was expanded by a Spanish-language hymnal committee to offer additional examples of the many dimensions of life, thereby strengthening the recurring affirmation that we belong to God through them all.

TEXT: Stanza 1, anon.; English trans. Elise S. Eslinger, 1983;
stanzas 2-4, Roberto Escamilla, 1983; English trans. George Lockwood, 1987
MUSIC: Spanish melody; arr. Barbara C. Mink, 1988

English Trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)
Spanish Text Sts. 2-4 © 1983 Abingdon Press (admin. The Copyright Company)
Music Arr. © 1988 Barbara C. Mink (admin. Community of Christ)

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR
10.10.10.10



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: Deborah Moore, Joanne Taber

Reader: Don Mayland • Deacon: Sue Morrill

Fellowship time host: John Estabrook

ON JULY 16 AND 23 WE WELCOME BACK THE REV. JANET MCKINSTRY to preach and lead us in worship. Pastor Janet is a UCC minister in the Berkshire Association. Currently she is serving as pastor of the Tyringham (MA) Union Church and lives in Great Barrington. She is a fiber artist, creator of marionettes, and storyteller which she often uses to bring to life the scriptures. You may find her work at janetmckinstry.com and on Etsy.

(Pastor John is on vacation, July 15-23.)

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2023(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 our Mission Partners the Reform Church in Hungary, and particularly for their refugee ministry.

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.

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

Angelo Lomanto • Jason Titunik • 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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