



## HYMN SING

## WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #694** "Great God of Every Blessing"  
(✘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

AURELIA

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come and worship!: proclaim God's ways of steadfast compassion.

**ALL: We will tell of God's love, unfolding in our lives.**

Come and worship!: for we are God's people, rejoicing in graciousness.

**God is always with us, and there is nothing which can keep us apart.**

Come to the One who tells stories; worship our God who keeps promises.

**We rejoice with God who is with us always.**

## RESPONSE IN SONG

"Nothing Can Trouble"

© LES PRESSES DE TAIZÉ

1.  
Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en. Those who  
seek God shall nev - er go want - ing. God a - lone fills us.

2.

## **CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

One: It is not our past which keeps us from God, for that is behind us. It is not our present, for God is with us on this day. And our future is held tight in God's hands. It is true – there is absolutely nothing which can separate us from God. Whatever sins we have committed, God's forgiveness and love take them away forever. Join me as we pray together, saying,

## **UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**What can we say about our foolish lives, God of Love?**

**Too often, we choose to worship power when we could serve others in humility. We toss and turn at night, all those things over which we have no control keeping us wide awake, when we could turn them over to you. No matter how many times we hear the news that death has lost its power over us, we dread that day and try everything we can to postpone it.**

**For believing that our sins are more powerful than your mercy, forgive us, Holy One. You cast out your net of grace so that all might be gathered into your realm of mercy. Your Spirit carries the whispers of our hearts to you, and we are embraced with your hope, blessed with your love through our Teacher and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

*(We pray in silence)*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

ONE: Who has the right to judge us? Only Christ. Yet Christ faced death for us, Christ was raised for us, Christ reigns over us and among us and through us — Christ binds us together with all goodness!

**ALL: This is the forgiving, renewing love that binds us to God forever. There is nothing in this world, or beyond, which will keep us from being God's beloved children. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **RESPONSE IN SONG**

“Nothing Can Trouble”

**RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24**

ONE: You have searched me, O God,

**ALL: And You know me.**

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

**You sense my thoughts from afar.**

You notice my going out and my lying down,

**You are acquainted with all my ways.**

Even before a word is on my tongue, O Holy One,

**You know it completely.**

You are all around me;

**You lay Your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is beyond me.

**It is so lofty that I cannot attain it.**

Where can I escape from Your spirit?

Where can I flee from Your presence?

**If I ascend to heaven, You are there;**

**If I make my bed in the underworld, You are there.**

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,

If I alight on the far side of the sea,

**Even there Your hand will be guiding me,**

**Your strong hand shall hold me secure.**

Though I say, "Surely the night will conceal me and provide me with cover,"

**Night is not shadowed for You.**

**Night is bright as day.**

**Night is as day in Your sight.**

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

**Examine me and know my thoughts.**

See me when I drift toward the petty or corrupt,

**And guide me again in the way everlasting.**

**A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS**

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

*Hymnal, p. 35*

✠ **HYMN #29**

"O God, You Search Me"

O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME

## OFFERTORY

### THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

*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 the **Salisbury Affordable Housing Committee** and the **Salisbury Housing Trust**.*

ONE: The best moment for receiving and giving God’s renewing grace is now. The best moment for accepting and offering God’s life-giving mercy is now. The best possible moment for praising God with our generosity is right now.

**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:** *Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend*      Johann Gottfried Walther

### ✕ 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

**We offer our gifts to you, Steadfast Love, not because you need them,  
but because you invite us to be a part of sharing your presence, your  
power, and your peace. Amen!**

**SCRIPTURE READING**                      Psalm 119:129-135                      *Old Testament, p. 700*

**SCRIPTURE READING**                      Romans 8:26-39                      *New Testament, p. 192*

**SERMON**                      “Practicing Metaphors”                      Pastor John A. Nelson

### PASTORAL PRAYER

✕ **HYMN**                      “You Are the Seed”                      ID Y ENSEÑAD

# You Are the Seed

WORDS: Cesareo Gabaraín, 1979; trans. by Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon and Skinner Chávez-Melo (Mt. 28:19-20)

MUSIC: Cesareo Gabaraín, 1979; harm. by Skinner Chávez-Melos



1. You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a  
You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the  
2. You are the flame that will light - en the dark, send - ing  
You are the friends that I chose for my - self, the  
3. You are the life that will nur - ture the plant; you're the  
There is no place for a ci - ty to hide, nor a



star that will shine in the night; you are the yeast and a  
wheat that will bear gold - en grain; you are a sting and a  
spark - les of hope, faith, and love; you are the shep - herds to  
Word that I want to pro - claim. You are the realm new - ly  
waves in a tur - bu - lent sea; yes - ter - day's yeast is be -  
moun - tain can co - ver its might; may your good deeds show a



small grain of salt, a bea - con to glow in the dark.  
soft, gen - tle touch, my wit - nes - es wher - e'er you go.  
lead the whole world through val - leys and pas - tures of peace.  
built on a rock where jus - tice and truth al - ways reign.  
gin - ning to rise, a new loaf of bread it will yield.  
world in des - pair a path that will lead all to God.

## Refrain



Go, my friends, go to the world, pro - claim - ing love to all,  
Be, my friends, a loy - al wit - ness, from the dead I a - rose;



mes - sen - gers of my for - giv - ing peace, e - ter - nal love.  
"Lo, I'll be with you for - ev - er, 'til the end of the world."

## BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN (#600)

POSTLUDE

Verset de Procession de l'Adoro Te

Léon Boëllmann



### 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 and Deborah Moore

*Reader:* Barbara Collins • *Deacon:* Sue Morrill

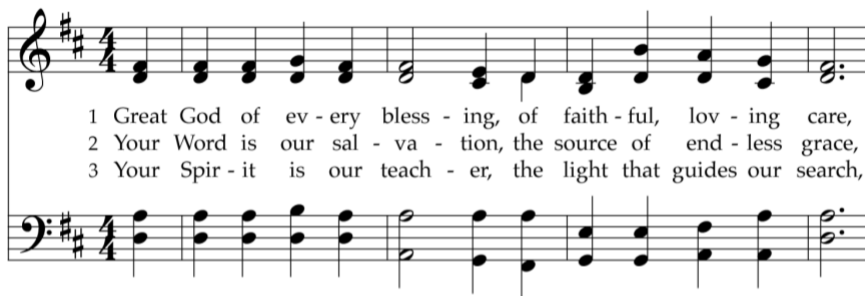
"Nothing Can Trouble" Text: The Taizé Community, 1991; based on St. Teresa of Avila, 16th c. Music: Jacques Berthier, 1991. Text and Music © Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.); all rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725033.

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from Lectionary Liturgies by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2022

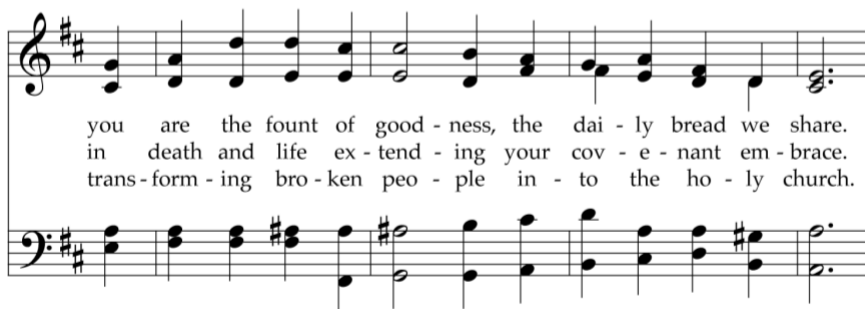
(lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission. Prayer of Confession adapted from Spirit of the River, New York City, 1991.

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

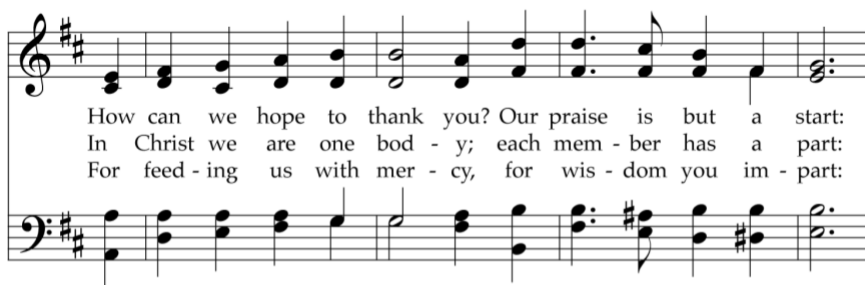
# 694 Great God of Every Blessing



1 Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care,  
2 Your Word is our sal - va - tion, the source of end - less grace,  
3 Your Spir - it is our teach - er, the light that guides our search,



you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share.  
in death and life ex - tend - ing your cov - e - nant em - brace.  
trans - form - ing bro - ken peo - ple in - to the ho - ly church.



How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:  
In Christ we are one bod - y; each mem - ber has a part:  
For feed - ing us with mer - cy, for wis - dom you im - part:



sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.

Written for the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth, this text sums up his liturgical theology, ending each stanza with his motto: *Cor meum tibi offero, Domine, prompte et sincere*. By moving from plural to singular the stanzas show how corporate faith becomes personal piety.

# O God, You Search Me

29

(Psalm 139)



1 O God, you search me and you know me. All my  
2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing. You dis -  
3 Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord, you have  
4 Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me, still I  
5 For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me, gave me



thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze. When I  
cern my pur - pose from a - far, and with  
known its mean - ing through and through. You are  
search for shel - ter from your light. There is  
life with - in my moth - er's womb. For the



walk or lie down you are be - fore me: ev - er the  
love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me: in ev - ery  
with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing: God of my  
no - where on earth I can es - cape you: e - ven the  
won - der of who I am, I praise you: safe in your



mak - er and keep - er of my days.  
mo - ment of life or death, you are.  
pres - ent, my past, and fu - ture, too.  
dark - ness is ra - diant in your sight.  
hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

Psalm 139 is one of the most introspective and most intimate of all the psalms, showing an acute mindfulness of God's presence in all aspects of one's life. Sometimes resisted, this omnipresence ultimately becomes a ground of hope, a promise that we never stray beyond God's care.



## 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:  
• Mission Co-workers Alex Maldonado-Lizardi and Xiomara Cintron-Garcia • Justapaz: Mennonite Center for Justice, Peace, and Nonviolent Action, Colombia, and • Peace Commission of the Evangelical Council of Colombia (CEDECOL)

#### 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 • 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!

## This Week at Salisbury UCC

---

### SUNDAY, 30 JULY

10AM Worship  
*followed by fellowship & refreshments  
in the Parish Hall*

---

### MONDAY, 31 JULY

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

---

### TUESDAY, 1 AUGUST

6:30PM Tai Chi class

---

### WEDNESDAY, 2 AUGUST

12:30PM Staff Meeting

---

### FRIDAY, 4 AUGUST

12noon Meetinghouse Music & Meditation



*Please Recycle this Bulletin!*



*The Congregational Church of Salisbury*

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Meeting in Grace • Transformed by Love • Serving with Joy*

30 Main Street | P.O. Box 392 | Salisbury, CT 06068 • 860-435-2442

email: [welcome@salisburyucc.org](mailto:welcome@salisburyucc.org) • web: [salisburyucc.org](http://salisburyucc.org)

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