

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Allegro from Italian Concerto

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #32**

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

ELLACOMBE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life,
in the name of Christ, the pulse of life,
and in the name of the Spirit, the breath of life. Amen.

ALL: Holy! Holy! Holy!

Earth is filled with God’s presence.

Christ, we come into your presence to worship in this sanctuary called Earth:

A planet pulsating with your presence —

a presence quivering in the forests,

a presence vibrating in the land,

a presence pulsating in the wilderness,

a presence shimmering in the rivers.

God, reveal yourself to us in this place, and show us your face in all creation.

Holy! Holy! Holy!

The whole earth is filled with your glory!

RESPONSE IN SONG**“Creation Introit”**

NIC/EA

Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Cre - a - tor God Al - migh - ty!

For - est, land, and wil - der - ness are full of life from Thee.

An - cient wa - ters flow - ing free: all re - veal Thy glo - ry.

Christ through - out cre - a - tion: praise and ho - nor be!

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: As we praise the God of all creation, we remember and confess:

**ALL: We remember the first garden,
where God planted a forest.
We remember the gardens
and the forests of our childhood,
the places where we played in the past
when we felt close to Earth, to trees
and to our kin born of Earth.**

Jesus Christ, crucified on a tree, hear our cry.

**We regret that we have become alienated from Earth
and have treated this garden
as a beast to be tamed,
as a domain to be dominated,
and as a place to be ruled for our gain.**

We remember and confess how we have polluted the forests in our garden planet.

We are sorry.

**We have ignored the distant sounds in the forest,
the sound of chainsaws clearing for greed and gain,
the sound of old forest giants falling forever,
the sound of rare species breathing their last.**

We are sorry.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Christ hears your confession from the cross,
forgives your sins against the work of the Creator's hand,
and calls you now to open your ears and your hearts
to protect and to care for all that God has planted for life and wonder.

**ALL: Christ, teach us to love Earth as our home
and all living creatures as our kin.**

Help us to return home to Earth.

I speak for Christ:

I invite you to come home to Earth, and I call you to care for this planet with love,
to nurture the forest as I have nurtured you, and to join me in healing creation.

Shalom! Shalom!

We are coming home!

As we come home to Earth:

Christ, have mercy.

As we seek to love our home:

Christ, have mercy.

As we seek to care for our kin:

Christ, have mercy.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: from Psalm 139

ONE: You are all around me;

ALL: You lay Your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is beyond me.

It is so lofty that I cannot attain it.

You it was who created my inmost being.

You knit me together in my mother's womb.

I give You thanks,

For I am awesomely and wondrously made.

Your work is wonderful;

That I know very well.

My frame was not concealed from You,
when I was being shaped in a hidden place,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed substance.

In Your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are Your thoughts, O God!

How vast is their number!

I try to count them;

They outnumber the grains of sand.

I end;

Yet I am still with You.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✕ **HYMN #28**

“You Are Before Me, Lord”

SURSUM CORDA

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 month, we share gifts with the **CROP Hunger Walk**.

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 *I Love All Graceful Things* Eric Thiman
 Jennifer Oberto, soprano

✘ 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

Mighty Creator, all things belong to you: we are your caretakers. We pray that these gifts, which you entrusted to us to use and to share, will be a blessing to your world. May our giving lead us into deeper connectedness with your wide, wild, sacred, and fragile world. We ask in Jesus' name; Amen.

MODERN TESTIMONY *from "A Forest Hymn"* William Cullen Bryant

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 2:4b-15 *Old Testament, p. 597*

SERMON "Partners in Community" Pastor John A. Nelson

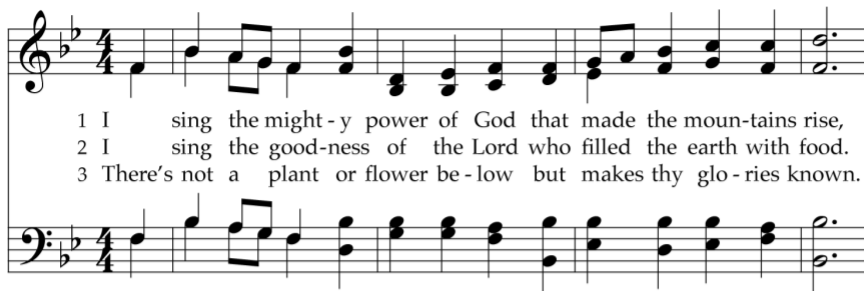
PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN #80** "You Shall Go Out with Joy" THE TREES OF THE FIELD

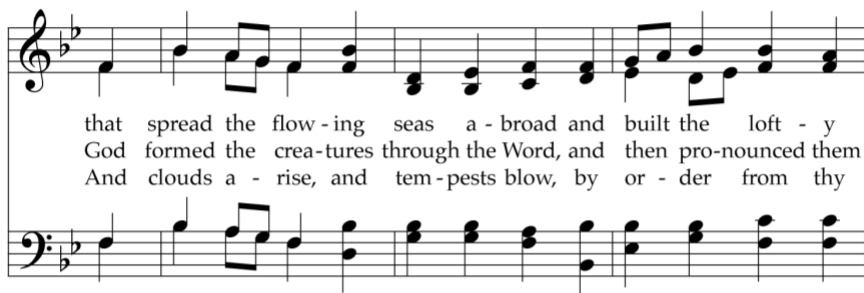
BENEDICTION and **SUNG AMEN**

POSTLUDE *Carillon-Sortie* Henri Mulet

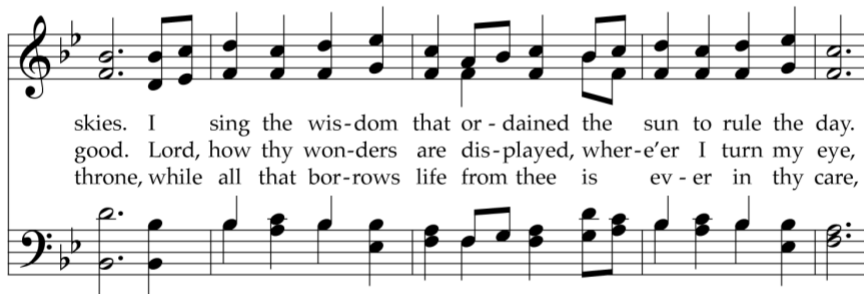
32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God



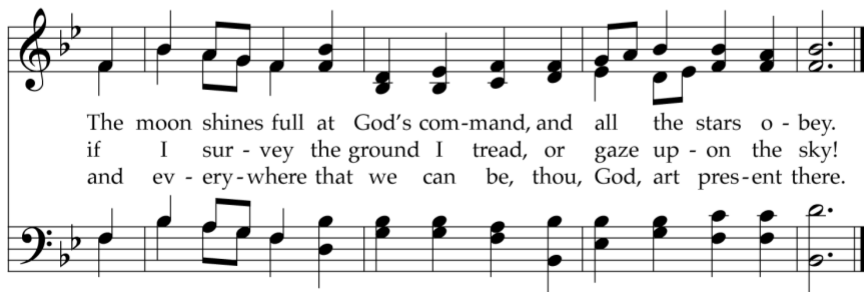
1 I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
3 There's not a plant or flower be - low but makes thy glo - ries known.



that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the loft - y
God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them
And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy



skies. I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day.
good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,
throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,



The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
and ev - ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

With minimal revision this text brings together six of the eight four-line stanzas in an 18th-century hymn written for children and originally headed "Praise for Creation and Providence." The anonymous German tune provides a fitting sense of breadth and wonder.

28 You Are Before Me, Lord

(Psalm 139)



1 You are be - fore me, Lord, you are be - hind,
 2 Then from your Spir - it where, Lord, shall I go;
 3 If I should take my flight in - to the dawn,
 4 If I should say, "Let dark - ness cov - er me,
 5 Search me, O God; search me and know my heart;



and o - ver me you have spread out your hand;
 and from your pres - ence where, Lord, shall I fly?
 if I should dwell on o - cean's far - thest shore,
 and I shall hide with - in the veil of night,"
 try me, O God; my mind and spir - it try;



such knowl - edge is too won - der - ful for me,
 If I as - cend to heav - en you are there,
 your might - y hand will rest up - on me still,
 sure - ly the dark - ness is not dark to you:
 keep me from an - y path that gives you pain,



too high to grasp, too great to un - der - stand.
 and still are with me if in hell I lie.
 and your right hand will guard me ev - er - more.
 the night is as the day, the dark - ness light.
 and lead me in the ev - er - last - ing way.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The effectiveness of this paraphrase of Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24 partly derives from its imitation of the characteristic repetitions that give emotional intensity to Hebrew poetry. Such patterns of repetitiveness can also be seen in the last three notes of each phrase of the tune.

You Shall Go Out with Joy

80

The Trees of the Field

Em B7 Em B7 Em

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;

G C G D

the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be -

B N.C. Em B7 Em

fore you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the

B7 Em B7 Em B7 Em

trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.

D7 N.C. G C G D

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;

* x x D7 G D7 G

the trees of the field will clap their hands;

x x C G D

the trees of the field will clap their hands

x x B7 Em B7 Em

while you go out with joy.

*Clap hands.

This text paraphrases Isaiah 55:12, which is generally understood to describe a "second exodus," this time from Babylon rather than from Egypt. This release of God's people and their return to their own land gives rise to a joyful celebration involving all creation.

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).

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

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

Today's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Sharon Tingley and Janet Kaufman

Reader: Janet Kaufman • *Deacon:* Barbara Collins

Today's liturgy is adapted from Norman Habel and the Justice and International Mission unit within the Commission for Mission of the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. 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 mission partners in India: • Center for Social Equity and Inclusion • Student Christian Movement of India • Christian Medical College, Ludhiana • Christian Medical College, Vellore • Christian Medical Association of India • Pravaham, Vellore • Tamilnadu Theological Seminary • Lady Doak College • Family Village Farm and King's Matriculation • Deep Griha Society, Pune • Darjeeling Tibetan Refugee Center and Tibetan Children's Village • Church's Auxiliary for Social Action • Church of South India • Church of North India • United Theological College, Bangalore

Continued concerns:

Donna Haubrich, surgery for back pain • Andrew Marshall • Sue Spring • Carl Morner, hospitalized with atrial fibrillation while recovering from lung surgery, and his family • Margaret Haubrich, in memory care

For students, teachers, staff, and families preparing for the start of a new school year

Neighbors around the world recovering from catastrophic wildfires, floods, and hurricanes • 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 — Deborah Lifton • Peter Kiernan, Jenny, Frank Swaye, David Douyea, Deborah Merwin, Keith Blanton — prayers for healing and strength.

Family & Friends who have passed away

Pat Fugazotto

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, 10 SEPTEMBER

- 10AM Worship
*followed by fellowship & refreshments
in the Parish Hall*
- 11:30AM Music Committee
- 1-4PM Litchfield North Association UCC
"All Churches Tent Worship &
Family Picnic," 1 West Rd,
Winchester Center, CT

MONDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER

- 9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

WEDNESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER

- 12:30PM Staff Meeting
- 4PM Women's Bible Study
- 5:30PM Board of Deacons

THURSDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER

- 5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER

- 9AM Men's Bible Study

NEXT SUNDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER

Season of Creation, week 2: "Land Sunday"



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