

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Sonata #1 for Flute and Piano
Cecilia Burns, flute

Bohuslav Martinu

WELCOME

☒ HYMN #14

“For the Beauty of the Earth”
Verses 1, 2, 5

DIX

(☒ *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 burgeoning 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/AE

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 remember the Creator’s presence all around, we remember and confess:

ALL: We remember the land that rose from waters in the beginning, the plants that emerged from the soil to cover the land, and the rich diversity of animal life.

We remember the gardens and the fields of our childhood, the places where we played in the sand, when we felt close to the earth.

Jesus Christ, once buried in Earth, hear our cry:

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

We remember and confess how we have disdained and damaged our garden planet.

We are sorry.

**We have killed living soils with chemicals,
we have turned fertile fields into lifeless plains,
we have cleared rich lands of growing things.**

**We have forgotten that all these are from You,
all are precious to you, all contain you.**

We are sorry. We are sorry.

(We pray in silence)

ABSOLUTION

Christ hears your confession from the tomb, forgives your sins against the land, and calls you now to open your ears and your hearts to protect rather than to destroy our soils, soils that God has filled with life and love.

**Christ, teach us to love Earth as our home
and to know 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 tend this planet with love, to nurture the land 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.

RESPONSE IN SONG (p. 2)

“Creation Introit”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 139:7-12

ONE: Where can I escape from Your spirit?

Where can I flee from Your presence?

**ALL: 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.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

⊗ **HYMN #714**

"God of the Fertile Fields"

ITALIAN HYMN

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

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. Throughout September, 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

Take My Life

Marie Rubis Bauer

✘ **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**

**Creator God, powerful beyond measure and vulnerable as an infant,
as close as our next breath, as distant as the farthest star,
we rejoice in your beautiful, bountiful, miraculous works of creation.
We pray your blessing on our giving, that in us, through us, and
around us your world may be fed and healed: Amen.**

MODERN TESTIMONY

“Glory in the World’s Beauty”

Helen Keller

ANCIENT TESTIMONY

Psalm 24:1
Leviticus 25:23-28
Isaiah 65:17
Revelation 21:1-2

SERMON

“Bountiful Beginnings”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN #625**

“How Great Thou Art”

O STORE GUD

SENDING

ONE: Here, we are meeting in grace:

**ALL: God has gathered us in this holy place;
God’s presence and power makes of us a beloved community.**

Together, we are transformed by love:

**Believing and doubting, hungry and full, grieving and rejoicing:
Christ receives us, embraces our brokenness and resilience,
and leads us into wholeness.**

We are serving with joy, each as we are able:

**Equipped by grace and charged by love, the Spirit sends us out
to be agents of light and compassion. May it be so!**

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Prelude in Classic Style

Gordon Young



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 Joanne Taber

Reader: Don Mayland • Deacon: Barbara Collins

Extravagant fellowship hosts: Board of Deacons

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.

For the Beauty of the Earth

14

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,
4 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
5 For thy-self, best gift di-vine to the world so free-ly given;

for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies:
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild:
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

God of the Fertile Fields 714

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Greater awareness has enlarged Christian stewardship to develop new dimensions of concern for people in all parts of the world. Because we believe that it is God's will that the gifts we have received should be shared, this hymn concludes with that phrase from the Lord's Prayer.

625

O Lord My God

How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
 2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der and hear the
 3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion and take me

all the *worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, when I look down from
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then *I shall bow in

hear the *roll-ing thun-der, thy power through-out the
 loft-y moun-tain gran-deur and hear the brook and
 bur-den glad-ly bear-ing, he bled and died to
 hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion, and there pro-claim, "My

**Author's original words are "works," "mighty," and "shall I bow."*

This tuneful retelling of the salvation story began in Swedish and was translated into German and then into Russian before reaching its English form. Despite such linguistic and musical revisions, it continues to be a meaningful source of comfort to many people.

Refrain

u - ni - verse dis - played:
 feel the gen - tle breeze: Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to
 take a - way my sin: God, how great thou art!"

thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my
 Sav - ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

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
Youth Group leader: Sarah Lesch

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 Kenya: All Africa Conference of Churches • National Council of Churches of Kenya • Organization of African Instituted Churches • Presbyterian Church of East Africa • Programme for Christian Muslim Relations in Africa • St Paul's United Theological College

Continued concerns:

Duane Estes • 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 in the early days 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

Sally Noyes • Pat Fugazzotto

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

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

SUNDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER

EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME SUNDAY

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

11:45AM Board of Trustees meeting
1pm *Butterfingers Angel* auditions

MONDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)

WEDNESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER

12:30PM Staff Meeting
4PM Women's Bible Study
5:30pm *Butterfingers Angel* auditions

THURSDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER

8:45AM Men's Bible Study

NEXT SUNDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER

Season of Creation, week 3: "Wilderness Sunday"
Afternoon: CROP Hunger Walk



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