

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



HYMN SING

WELCOME

⌘ **HYMN #15** “All Creatures of Our God and King”
(⌘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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 thriving 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: In this sanctuary, set apart to give praise to God, we remember the wide and untamed sanctuary of God's creation.

**Many: We remember the wild places God created,
the worlds of wonder and mystery,
the spirit of the wilderness.**

Jesus Christ, from the wilderness 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 violated and polluted
the wild places of our garden planet.

We are sorry.

We have contaminated deserts with radioactive waste.

We have torn holes in the ozone layer.

We have desecrated sacred sites in the mountains.

We have trampled the homes of wild creatures.

We have built a way of life that destroys the way of your wild creation.

We are sorry. We are sorry.

(We unburden ourselves in silent prayer.)

ABSOLUTION

Christ hears our confession out of the wilderness, forgives our sins against the wilderness, and calls us now to open our ears and our hearts to sustain rather than to destroy the wilderness, the world God has filled with wonder.

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 wilderness 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 18:6-19

ONE: In my distress I called upon the Holy One;
to my God I cried for help.

**ALL: From the temple the Creator heard my voice,
and my cry reached God's ears.**

Then the earth reeled and rocked;
the foundations also of the mountains trembled and quaked in God's anger.

**Smoke went up from God's nostrils,
and devouring fire from the Almighty's mouth;
glowing coals flamed forth.**

God bowed the heavens, and came down;
thick darkness was under the Creator's feet,

**Who rode on a cherub, and flew;
Who came swiftly upon the wings of the wind,**

Who made darkness the covering all around,
Whose canopy was thick clouds dark with water.

**Out of the brightness before God
there broke through the Holy One's clouds
hailstones and coals of fire.**

YHWH also thundered in the heavens,
the Most High uttered speech,

**and sent out arrows, and scattered them;
flashed forth lightnings, and routed them.**

Then the channels of the sea were seen,
and the foundations of the world were laid bare

**at your rebuke, O God,
at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.**

God reached down from on high, and took me;
God drew me out of mighty waters.

**God delivered me from my strong enemy,
and from those who hated me;
for they were too mighty for me.**

They confronted me in the day of my calamity;
but the Almighty was my support.

**God brought me out into a broad place;
and delivered me, because God delighted in me.**

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✘ HYMN #13

“The Mighty God with Power Speaks”
All attending Sunday School may leave as we sing the hymn.

KINGSFOLD

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

Springs in the Desert
Charlie Noyes, tenor

Arthur B. Jennings

Say to them that are of a fearful heart,
Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come and save you.
The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad;
and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

For in the wilderness shall waters break out,
and streams flow in the desert.
And the parched ground shall become a pool,
and the thirsty land springs of water.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the redeemed shall walk there:
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return with songs
and everlasting joy
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35

✘ **DOXOLOGY**

**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**

God of wildness and grace, we bless these gifts in your name. May they honor you. May they bring a measure of healing to your earth. May this be a new beginning of our faithful generosity — giving the best we can offer to your gracious rule of all the world. We ask it in Jesus’ name: Amen.

MODERN TESTIMONY from the Preface to *Desert Solitaire* Edward Abbey

GOSPEL READING Mark 1:9-13 *New Testament, p.*

SERMON “Spirit Wildness” Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN #17** “Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!” WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

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 *Toccata* Theodore Dubois

15 All Creatures of Our God and King

Unison



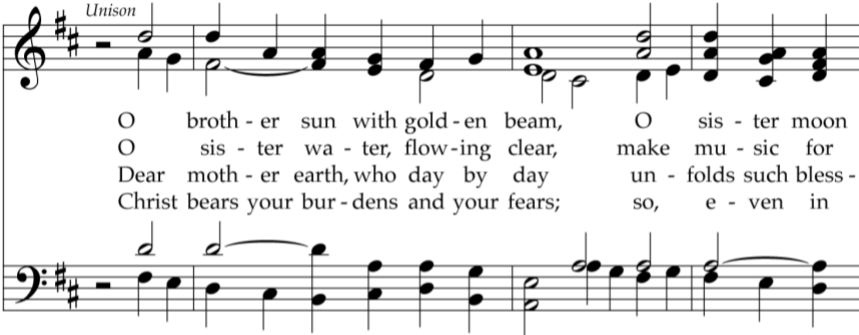
1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice
2 O broth - er wind with clouds and rain, you nur - ture gifts
3 O broth - er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad -
4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain

Harmony



and with us sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
of fruit and grain. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
ows of the night. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
or sor - row grieve, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison



O broth - er sun with gold - en beam, O sis - ter moon
O sis - ter wa - ter, flow - ing clear, make mu - sic for
Dear moth - er earth, who day by day un - folds such bless -
Christ bears your bur - dens and your fears; so, e - ven in

Sometimes called "The Canticle of the Sun," this cosmic roll call allows human beings to give voice to all creation. One of the earliest religious poems in the Italian language, it is made even more expansive by this broad, repetitive melody with interspersed "Alleluias."

Harmony

with sil - ver gleam, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 your Lord to hear. Sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ings on our way, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 the midst of tears, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

13 The Mighty God with Power Speaks

(Psalm 50)

1 The Might - y God with pow - er speaks, and all the world o - beys;
2 God comes not with a si - lent form, but rid - ing on the winds;
3 The heavens de - clare your jus - tice, Lord, as end - less as the sky;

from dawn un - til the set - ting sun, God's won - der earth dis - plays.
be - fore God's face, the rag - ing storm its blast of thun - der sends.
a - gainst the taunts of dis - be - lief, our God will tes - ti - fy.

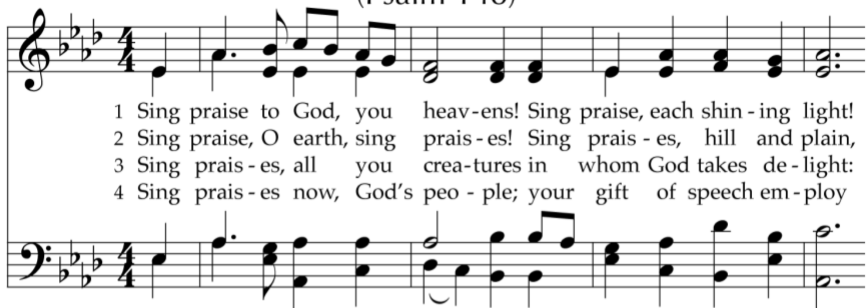
The per - fect beau - ty all a - round from Zi - on's height shines forth;
All hail the Judge, in bold ar - ray, whose prom - ise is to bless;
Re - ceive my heart - felt gift of thanks, as hon - or to your might;

and stars a - cross the fir - ma - ment so bright - ly beam their worth.
who sees our sins, yet al - so feels our thirst for righ - teous - ness.
re - fresh my faith with each new day; pro - tect me through the night.

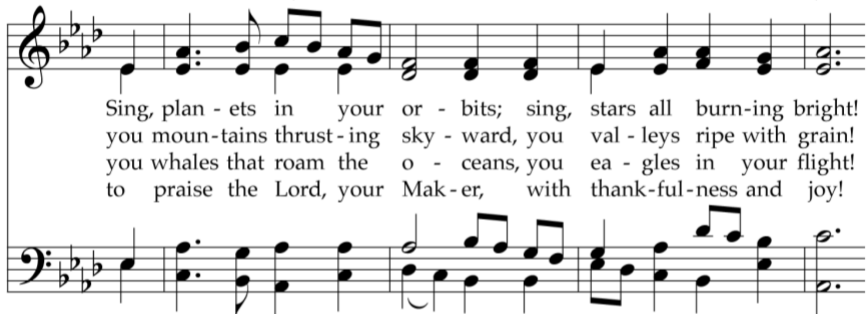
This paraphrase, set to a familiar English folk melody, focuses on the opening narrative section of Psalm 50 without attempting to summarize God's speeches in the latter portion of the psalm. Both parts bear witness to God's sovereignty, God's justice, and God's providence.

Sing Praise to God, You Heavens! 17

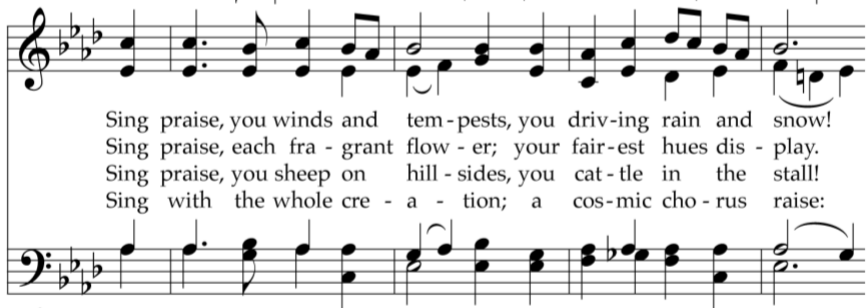
(Psalm 148)



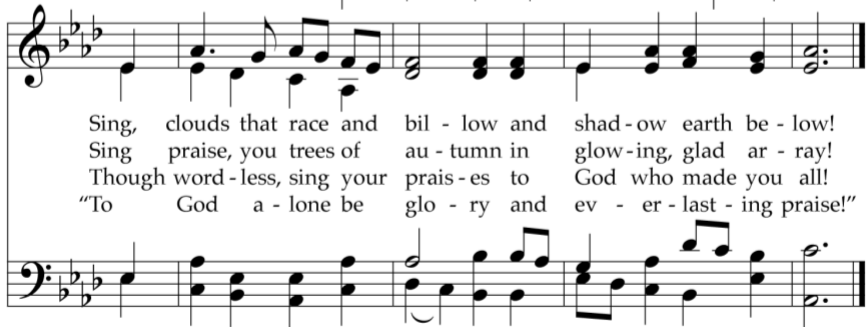
1 Sing praise to God, you heav-ens! Sing praise, each shin-ing light!
2 Sing praise, O earth, sing prais-es! Sing prais-es, hill and plain,
3 Sing prais-es, all you crea-tures in whom God takes de-light:
4 Sing prais-es now, God's peo-ple; your gift of speech em-ploy



Sing, plan-ets in your or-bits; sing, stars all burn-ing bright!
you moun-tains thrust-ing sky-ward, you val-leys ripe with grain!
you whales that roam the o-ceans, you ea-gles in your flight!
to praise the Lord, your Mak-er, with thank-ful-ness and joy!



Sing praise, you winds and tem-pests, you driv-ing rain and snow!
Sing praise, each fra-grant flow-er; your fair-est hues dis-play.
Sing praise, you sheep on hill-sides, you cat-tle in the stall!
Sing with the whole cre-a-tion; a cos-mic cho-rus raise:



Sing, clouds that race and bil-low and shad-ow earth be-low!
Sing praise, you trees of au-tumn in glow-ing, glad ar-ray!
Though word-less, sing your prais-es to God who made you all!
"To God a-lone be glo-ry and ev-er-last-ing praise!"

This paraphrase of Psalm 148 reflects the spirit of praise linking Psalms 146–150. Of the two great themes found in these final five psalms—creation and deliverance—this psalm focuses on the former. The opening praise “from the heavens” is matched by praise “from the earth.”



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 and Joanne Taber

Reader and Deacon: Barbara Collins

Fellowship time hosts: Dean Haubrich and Theresa Carroll

Flowers have been placed in the Meeting House by Angela Lomanto.

Today's liturgy is adapted from seasonofcreation.com, with appreciation. Creation Doxology lyrics by John A. Nelson. 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
Youth Group leader: Sarah Lesch

Holding the Parts Together

Administrative Assistant: Lorianne 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

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER

10AM Worship
*followed by fellowship & refreshments
in the Parish Hall*
1PM CROP Hunger walk
2:30PM Youth Group
5PM Sunday Supper

MONDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
10A-2P Treasure Trove setup

WEDNESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER

10A-2P Treasure Trove setup
11AM Noble Horizons chapel service
12:30PM Staff Meeting
4PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER

10A-2P Treasure Trove setup
5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER

8:45AM Men's Bible Study
10A-2P Treasure Trove setup



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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