

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**PRELUDE**

*Priere de Notre Dame*

Leon Boellman

**WELCOME**

⌘ **HYMN #756**

“O God of Every Nation”

LLANGLOFFAN

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Each morning, God’s grace awakens us,  
each evening, God’s peace cradles us.

**ALL: Compassion is our constant companion,  
as we go through work, school, all the day’s activities.**

In every moment, God is present with us;  
God whispers words that can change our lives.

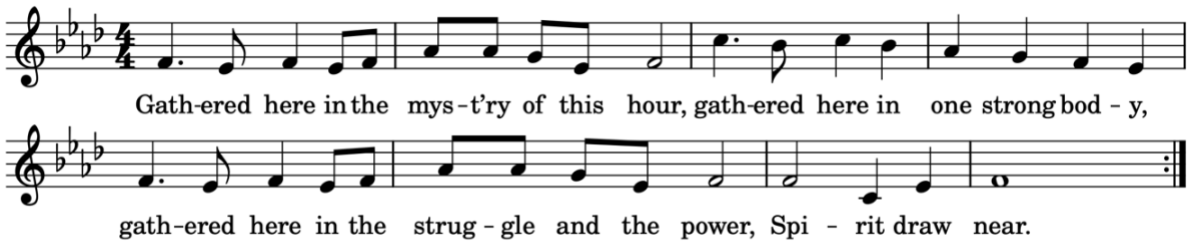
**Justice is our faithful teacher,  
pointing to where we can carry out fairness.**

When we find ourselves groping in the shadows,  
God’s light will provide a way home.

**We turn the corner, and hope is waiting for us;  
we return home, and find a feast prepared.**

## RESPONSE IN SONG

## “Gathered Here”



Gath-ered here in the mys-t'ry of this hour, gath-ered here in one strong bod - y,  
gath-ered here in the strug - gle and the power, Spi - rit draw near.

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## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We know, despite our sincere efforts to live in God's way, that all too easily we slip off the path to the kin-dom. Trusting that God will answer our prayers and forgive us, let us confess our sins, as we pray together:

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Great Lover of Justice, hear our prayers:**

**Called to treat all people equally,**

**we take sides and pick favorites;**

**Chosen to be your children,**

**we forget that you have equal love for every other person;**

**Challenged to be examples of faith,**

**we still act in ways that grieve you.**

**Forgive us, Giver of Rest.**

**Enable us to stop putting you to the test, so we can open our wavering hearts to your healing touch of compassion and hope. As Jesus Christ, our Master and Savior, has given all for us, may we give ourselves to you — confidently, completely, faithfully.**

*(We pray in silence.)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**One:** Hear the good news: the One who created goodness and beauty is also the One who shows no partiality, but offers grace and peace to all.

**All:** God has heard our prayers and done the very thing we asked - forgiven us, healed us, restored us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

## RESPONSE IN SONG

“Gathered Here”

### RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 96:1-9, 13

ONE: O sing to the Almighty a new song;

**ALL: Sing to the Holy One, all the earth.**

Sing to the Most High,

Give reverence to God’s grandeur,

**Tell of God’s life-giving work.**

Declare the Holy One’s brilliance among the nations,

**The Almighty’s marvelous deeds among all the peoples.**

For great is the Holy One, and greatly to be acclaimed;

**The Almighty is to be revered above all gods.**

For all the gods of the nations are but idols,

**It was the Most High who created the heavens.**

Honor and distinction are the heralds of God;

**Strength and beauty surround the Most High.**

Look to the Holy One, O families of the peoples,

**Look to the Holy One for brilliance and strength.**

Give to the Most High the honor due the Creator and Restorer;

**Come, giving thanks, into the presence of the Almighty.**

Worship the Most High, Who is majestic in holiness;

**Acknowledge God’s power, all the earth!**

For God is coming,

**God is coming to rule over the earth.**

The Holy One will rule the world with justice,

**And its peoples in faithful care.**

## A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

### THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

*Hymnal, p. 35*

### ⌘ HYMN #821

“How Can I Keep from Singing?”

MY LIFE FLOWS ON

*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 complements our church’s mission. This week, we share our gifts with **The Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP)**, a group of over 100 leading non-governmental organizations working to foster reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians, and between Arabs and Jews in Israel and the wider region.*

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

Psalm 96

Michael Bedford

*Sing unto the Lord, sing a new song;*

*Sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.*

*Sing unto the Lord and bless his Name;*

*Proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.*

*Declare his glory among the nations, and his wonders among all peoples.*

*For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.*

*Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!*

*Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!*

*Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him.*

### ✠ 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

**You do not choose favorites, Holy God, but pour out your blessings on all your children, trusting that we will empty our hearts, our lives, our treasure in meeting the needs of those around us. Bless these gifts, and use them to bring healing and hope to your people: Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

I Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 22:15-22

*New Testament, p.*  
*New Testament, p.*

**SERMON**

“Jesus 101: Rejecting the Premise”

Pastor John A. Nelson

**PASTORAL PRAYER**✠ **HYMN #307**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

CWM RHONDDA

**BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN****POSTLUDE**

“Dona Nobis Pacem” from *Mass in B minor*

J.S. Bach



## 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.

# O God of Every Nation 756

1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,  
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,  
 3 Lord, strength - en those who la - bor that all may find re - lease  
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand.  
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,  
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;  
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

Where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,  
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,  
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;  
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.  
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.  
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.  
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

If we truly believe that God cares for all people, we cannot limit our prayers and songs for peace to the welfare of our own nation, no matter how much we may love it. This challenging text is set to a stirring Welsh tune, named for a hamlet with a prominent Baptist chapel.

821

## My Life Flows On

How Can I Keep from Singing?

1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.  
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.  
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.  
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

## Refrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

In the *New York Observer* of August 7, 1868, this text was titled "Always Rejoicing," and was attributed to "Pauline T." This may well be where the Baptist pastor and musician to whom it is usually credited encountered the words that he later published with his tune.

# 307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple  
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -  
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our  
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in  
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.



**Kindly set phones to silent (unless you're expecting a call from Jesus).**

## Today's Worship Leaders

*Ushers:* Janet Kaufman & Kevin Wolgemuth  
*Reader:* Donald Mayland • *Deacon:* Patricia Palmer

Flowers have been placed in the Meeting House by Anne Williams,  
in honor of her grandson, Easton Shedd.

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2023  
([lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://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  
**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.)

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#### New concerns:

*Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries*, for mission partners in Japan: J.F. Oberlin University • Emmaus Center • Asian Rural Institute • United Church of Christ in Japan • Tohoku Gakuin University • National Christian Council in Japan • Miyagi Gakuin Women's University • Korean

Christian Church in Japan • Kobe College • Doshisha University

Edie Blodgett, in hospice care • Mark Capecelatro, recovering from surgery • Bob Hubby, recovering from surgery • Richard Wardell, in hospice care • Anna Studo

## Continuing concerns:

Peace in Israel/Palestine, Armenia/Azerbaijan,  
Sudan, Ukraine

Linda Ryan, recovering from surgery and COVID •  
Margaret Haubrich, in memory care • 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 •  
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

Karin Jackson • Bob Salluzzo • Karen Parsons

We thank God for the gift of life, and pray for the  
Spirit's strong presence with family and friends  
who grieve.

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**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

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### SUNDAY, 22 OCTOBER

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

11:30AM Board of Religious Ed meeting  
*FYI Youth Group and Sunday Supper are  
moved to 10/29.*

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### MONDAY, 23 OCTOBER

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

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### TUESDAY, 24 OCTOBER

5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal

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### WEDNESDAY, 25 OCTOBER

11AM Noble Horizons Chapel service  
12:30PM Staff Meeting  
4PM Women's Bible Study

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### THURSDAY, 26 OCTOBER

11A-6P Red Cross Blood Drive  
5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER

8:45AM Men's Bible Study

## Call to Congregational Meeting

The 279th Annual Meeting, Part I, of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ, will be held following the 10am worship service on Sunday, 29 October 2023, for the purpose of:

- Discussion and vote on the 2024 budget;
- Discussion and vote on the Nominating Committee;
- Any other business that needs to come before the congregation.

All Covenant Partners of the Church are requested to attend, participate, and vote. All friends of the church are encouraged to attend and participate.

Documents for the meeting, including minutes from the last Annual Meeting and the proposed budget for 2024, are available on the Church website ([salisburycongregationalchurch.org/church-documents](https://salisburycongregationalchurch.org/church-documents)) or in the Church office.



***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