



The Congregational Church of Salisbury  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

29 October 2023, 10am



## HYMN SING

## WELCOME

⊗ **HYMN #275** “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”  
(⊗ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

EIN' FESTE BURG

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We are invited to share in Christ's ministry of compassion.

**ALL: We would widen our hearts so we might cradle the lost.**

We are challenged to learn more about God each day.

**We would open our minds that we might discern God's dreams for us.**

We are summoned to let the Spirit be planted within us.

**We would deepen our souls that we might grow in love.**

## RESPONSE IN SONG

“We Will Walk in the Light”

We will walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light;  
come where the dew-drops of mer-cy shine bright! Oh, shine all a -  
round us by day and by night: Je - sus, the light of the world.

## **CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

ONE: We have been entrusted with the message of the gospel, but all too often act as if the memos from sin and death have more influence in our lives. Let us confess our sins, so we might know God's great love for us.

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God our healer, we stand on the edge of your promises and hopes,  
yet cannot seem to let ourselves cross over  
into the life you intend for us. We seek praise from our families,  
yet are unable to tell them how much we love them;  
we invest more in our needs and desires,  
than the struggles of our neighbors;  
we fixate more on the news of the day  
than focus on your Spirit of wisdom.  
Forgive us, Everlasting God.  
Renew our lives with your grace;  
restore our hopes with your vision of tomorrow;  
refresh our spirits with your joy  
which comes to us new in each moment  
in the gift of your Child, Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior.**

*(Silence is kept)*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

This moment, this morning, this day, and in all the days to come, God's compassion and hope fill our lives. What joyous good news!

**Our hope is not in vain. God forgives our sins, and is the dwelling place for all people. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **RESPONSE IN SONG**

“We Will Walk in the Light”

## **RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17**

ONE: O Sovereign One, You have been our dwelling place from generation to generation.

**ALL: Before the mountains were born,**

Before You had brought forth the earth and the world,  
**From everlasting to everlasting You are God.**

You turn us back to dust, and say,

**"Return, you mortals."**

A thousand years in Your sight  
are like a day that has just gone by,

**Or like the vigil of a few hours in the night.**

You sweep human beings away;

**They are like a dream,**

**like grass that is renewed in the morning;**

At daybreak it flourishes anew;

**By evening it wilts and withers.**

Turn back to us, O Holy One!

**How long will it be?**

Have compassion on Your servants!

**Fill us each morning with Your steadfast love,**

So that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**Give us joy for as many days as You have troubled us,**

For as many years as we have seen affliction.

**Let Your work be seen by Your servants,**

And Your splendor by their children.

**May the gracious delight of the Sovereign One, our God,**

**rest upon us,**

That the work of our hands may thrive—

**O let our work thrive!**

## **A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS**

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✧ **HYMN #50**

**"Deep in the Shadows of the Past"**  
*All attending Sunday School may leave as we sing the hymn.*

SHEPHERDS' PIPES

## 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 **Feel the Warmth** ministry of **nOURish BRIDGEPORT, Inc.***

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

*Blessed is the Man*

Jane Marshall

*Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.  
He is like a tree  
planted by streams of water. (Psalm 1:1-3a)*

### ✠ 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

**God, we know that our neighbors all around — just like us — are hungry, hurting, hoping, homeless, searching, striving, addicted, displaced, scared, ill, isolated, weary. We pray that as we offer our gifts, they might serve not only to bring these sisters and brothers closer to you, but to us as well. We ask in the name of love’s own self, Jesus Christ: Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Matthew 22:34-46  
Deuteronomy 34:1-12

*New Testament, p. 30*  
*Old Testament, p. 239*

**SERMON**

“The Journey Is Home”

Pastor John A. Nelson

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

⌘ **HYMN #741**

“Guide My Feet”

GUIDE MY FEET

**SENDING**

ONE: Here, we are meeting in grace:

**ALL: God has gathered us in this holy place;  
God’s presence and power make 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**

*Fugue in D 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.

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

## Today's Worship Leaders

*Ushers:* Allison Gray & Sarah Morrison  
*Reader:* Tony Good • *Deacon:* Patricia Palmer

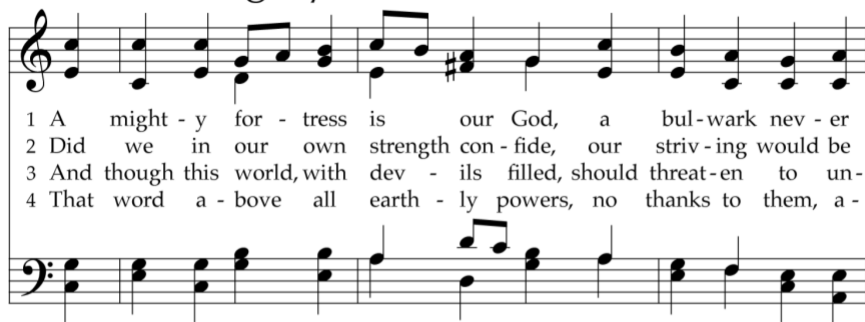
Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2022 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission.

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

Cover photo & below taken by Pastor John Nelson, February 2007, from Mt. Nebo.



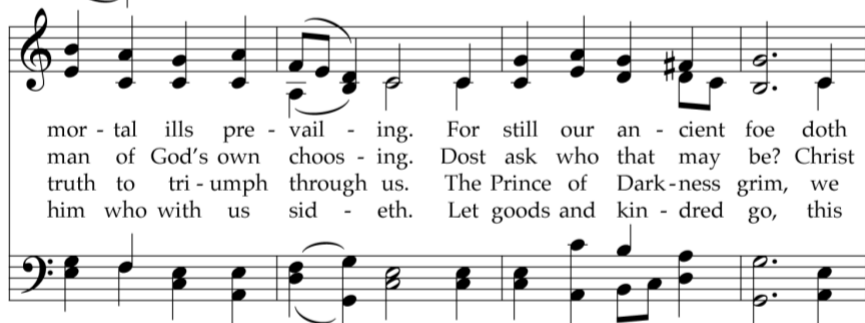
# 275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



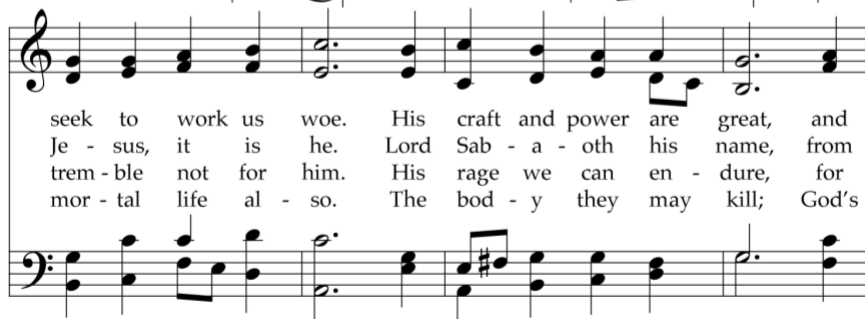
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er  
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -  
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -



fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of  
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the  
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his  
 bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth  
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ  
 truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we  
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this



seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and  
 Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from  
 trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for  
 mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

# Deep in the Shadows of the Past 50

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Deep in the shad-ows of the past, far out from set - tled lands,  
2 While oth-ers bowed to change-less gods, they met a mys - ter - y,  
3 From Ex - o - dus to Pen - te - cost the prom-ise changed and grew,  
4 For all the writ-ings that sur-vived, for lead-ers, long a - go,  
some no - mads trav-eled with their God a - cross the des - ert sands.  
in - vis - i - ble, with-out a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL BE";  
while some, re - mem-ber - ing the past, re - cord - ed what they knew,  
who sift - ed, cop - ied, and pre - served the Bi - ble that we know,  
The dawn - ing hope of hu - man - kind by them was sensed and shown:  
and by their tents, a - round their fires in sto - ry, song, and law,  
or with their let - ters and la - ments, their proph - e - cy and praise,  
give thanks, and find its sto - ry yet our prom-ise, strength, and call,  
a prom-ise call - ing them a - head, a fu - ture yet un - known.  
they praised, re - mem - bered, hand - ed on a past that prom - ised more.  
re - cov - ered, kin - dled, and ex - pressed new hope for chang - ing days.  
the mod - el of e - merg - ing faith, a - live with hope for all.

This vivid text reminds us of two truths we often forget: how deeply our faith is rooted in God's enduring covenant with the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and how much we can learn from their story. The tune began life as the setting for a family Christmas card.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1973; rev. 1994  
MUSIC: Annabeth McClelland Gay, 1952  
Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company  
Music © 1958, ren. 1986 The Pilgrim Press

SHEPHERDS' PIPES  
CMD



# Guide My Feet

741

1 Guide my feet while I run this race;  
(yes, my Lord!)

The first system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The vocal line begins with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4 and B4, then a quarter note C5, and a half note D5. The piano accompaniment starts with a quarter note G3, followed by eighth notes A3 and B3, then a quarter note C4, and a half note D4. The lyrics are '1 Guide my feet while I run this race;' with '(yes, my Lord!)' written below the piano part.

guide my feet while I run this race;  
(yes, my Lord!)

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4 and B4, then a quarter note C5, and a half note D5. The piano accompaniment has a quarter note G3, followed by eighth notes A3 and B3, then a quarter note C4, and a half note D4. The lyrics are 'guide my feet while I run this race;' with '(yes, my Lord!)' written below the piano part.

guide my feet while I run this race, for I

The third system continues the melody. The vocal line has a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4 and B4, then a quarter note C5, and a half note D5. The piano accompaniment has a quarter note G3, followed by eighth notes A3 and B3, then a quarter note C4, and a half note D4. The lyrics are 'guide my feet while I run this race, for I'.

don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

The fourth system concludes the melody. The vocal line has a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4 and B4, then a quarter note C5, and a half note D5. The piano accompaniment has a quarter note G3, followed by eighth notes A3 and B3, then a quarter note C4, and a half note D4. The lyrics are 'don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)'.

- 2 Hold my hand ...
- 3 Stand by me ...
- 4 I'm your child ...
- 5 Search my heart ...
- 6 Guide my feet ...

This African American spiritual is based on the imagery of "the race that is set before us" in Hebrews 12:1-2. Its call-and-response structure allows for the improvisation and addition of stanzas related to an athletic metaphor that is as vivid today as it was centuries ago.

## 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

## 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 the Waldensian Church, the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy, and Mediterranean Hope, mission partners in Italy: "Italy, within touching distance of Africa, is a destination for the many fleeing conflict, persecution, and poverty on the African continent ... we pray for courage, creativity, tenacity, and collaboration."*

#### Continuing concerns:

Mark Capecelatro, recovering from surgery  
• Eileen Epperson, recovering from hip replacement • Bob Hubby, recovering from surgery  
• 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

Edie Blodgett • Richard Wardell • Karin Jackson • Bob Salluzzo

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

Friends and family now serving our country in the armed forces • All those serving or living in war or conflict zones around the world.

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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, 29 OCTOBER

10AM Worship I  
11AM 279<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Part I  
2:30pm Youth Group  
5:30pm Sunday Supper

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### MONDAY, 30 OCTOBER

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

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### WEDNESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER

12:30PM Staff Meeting  
4PM Women's Bible Study

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### THURSDAY, 2 NOVEMBER

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY, 3 NOVEMBER

8:45AM Men's Bible Study  
12noon First Friday Music in the Meeting House



*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