

All Saints Sunday

5 November 2023, 10am



PRELUDE

Bryn Calfaria

Ralph Vaughn Williams

WELCOME

✕ HYMN #326

“For All the Saints”
verses 1, 2, 3

SINE NOMINE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come into holy presence, O People of God: come from your busy-ness, your anticipation of the rest of the day, your concerns for the week ahead.

Know that you are gathered here with the saints:

those who followed Christ in the past; those who seek God’s path today.

MANY: We come from many places to one place;

we come as a family in Christ, led by the Spirit of God.

Come to an hour for prayer and praise. Rest in Mystery’s hands.

Listen for God’s voice, in song and silence.

We will seek the Holy One first,

and trust that all we need will be given unto us. Praise God!

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Weave”



Weave, weave, weave us to-geth-er. Weave us to-geth-er in u-ni-ty and love.



Weave, weave, weave us to-geth-er. Weave us to-geth-er, to-geth-er in love.

A PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

ONE: Holy God, Maker of all

ALL: Have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, Breath of life

Have mercy on us.

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

(Prayer in silence)

Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness:
to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

**May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Amen.

**Before God, with the people of God,
we confess to our brokenness:
to the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others, and the life of the world.**

May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Weave”

OFFERTORY

One: As God’s saints in this time and place, we remember God’s invitation and charge: that we may feed others from the abundance of all God has placed in our care, that we may be present with the suffering of others, that we may wipe away the tears of the lonely, and offer compassion and companionship to our neighbors.

**ALL: Let us gather our gifts with grateful praise,
and offer them to God’s purposes.**

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING *Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal*

Parker/Shaw

✘ **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**

**May the gifts we offer, and the lives we lead, reveal the One for whom
we have waited and who invites us to spread grace over all the world.
We ask it in Jesus' name: Amen.**

We Proclaim the Gospel in Word

MODERN TESTIMONY	<i>from Wake Up to Wonder</i>	Karen Wright Marsh
SCRIPTURE READINGS	Matthew 5:1-12	<i>New Testament, p. 4</i>
SERMON	“Group Effort”	Pastor John A. Nelson

We Respond in Prayer and Faith

✘ HYMN #325	“By All Your Saints Still Striving” verses 1 & 2	KING'S LYNN
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RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR ALL SAINTS

ONE: Almighty God, your people of all the ages live and praise you without ceasing. In our communion with you, we have communion with generations past and generations yet unknown. Before your throne we are one with a great multitude, beyond counting, and in praising you we join with those from every nation.

ALL: O God, the generations rise and pass away before you.

**You are the strength of those who labor;
you are the rest of the blessed dead.**

We thank you for all the saints:

**all those who have been baptized in the spirit
and whom you have justified by grace and faith.**

**We rejoice that their faithfulness
has paved the way for our lives to follow.**

**Thank you for the saints known to many, and those known to few;
we rejoice in their witness of joy and challenge, love and care,
as we now remember companions of this beloved community
who have rested in your peace in the last year:**

Marian Ferguson ✠ Ruth Tyrol ✠ Art Eddy
Shirley Decker ✠ Karen Parsons ✠ Edith Blodgett

and others whom we name now.

**Grant to your church on earth
that as we celebrate the triumph of your saints in glory
we may profit by their example
and enter with them into the inexpressible joys
you have prepared for those who love you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✠ **HYMN #325**

“By All Your Saints Still Striving”
verses 4 & 5

KING'S LYNN

We Feast at God's Table

PREPARATION

ONE: We gather now as one body, joined around the table.

**ALL: Here we celebrate God's presence among us
united in Christ's spirit, broken and whole all at once;**

Nourished and hungry, loving and lonely,
sinner and forgiven; we make one circle of knowing,

**believing, rejoicing, being,
as God lights and rests among us.**

INVITATION

This is the table of the Heavenly Feast,
the joyful celebration of the saints of God.

**Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of life,
to drink the cup of the new covenant.**

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.

She who comes to me shall never hunger; he who believes in me shall never thirst.”

**In the beginning, God provided every plant yielding seed
and every tree with seed in its fruit for food.**

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God fed them with miraculous food.

**When the crowds were hungry, Jesus fed over five thousand
with two fish and five loaves of bread.**

THE MEAL

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and said,

**“This is my body which is for you;
do this remembering me.”**

After supper Jesus took the cup and said,

**“This is the cup of the new covenant;
whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.”**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*depts*)

Hymnal, p. 35

✕ **ACT OF PRAISE** (*sung*)

GREATOREX

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen; Amen.**

✕ **UNISON PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**Come, Holy Spirit: continue to pour out your life-giving, healing power
on us, and on your feast. As we share this food and drink, may we
become, for each other, the hope that Jesus has awakened in us. Here
we celebrate the promised banquet when all shall be fed abundantly,
and all shall drink from the river of the water of life. Amen.**

SHARING THE MEAL

*We celebrate an open communion, and invite everyone to this holy meal. We share the
bread and the cup in Jesus’ name as a reenactment of an ancient vision of God’s feast for
all people. You need not be a member of our church, or any church, to participate with us
in this feast of grace: all that is needed is that you desire God’s sustenance.*

We serve gluten-free bread and grape juice, as we seek to welcome all to the table.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Thank you, God, for the gift of yourself — in the earthiness of bread and cup, and in the mystery of your hidden depths of grace, still being revealed. We rejoice as we remember those uncounted thousands of saints, past and present, who share this meal with us. Having been forgiven and fed, may we find common purpose in sharing your dream of a world of everlasting *shalom*. In Jesus’ name; Amen.

SENDING

ONE: Here, we meet 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 will serve 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

⌘ **HYMN #326**

“For All the Saints”
verses 4 & 5

SINE NOMINE

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C Major

J.S. Bach

326

For All the Saints



1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
 3 O blest communion, fellowship divine!
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
 5 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through



thee by faith before the world confessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
 We feebly struggle; they in glory shine; yet
 steals on the ear the distant triumph song, and
 gates of pearl streams in the countless host,



name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
 thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
 all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave again, and arms are strong,
 singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,



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

The broad and sweeping tune with which this hymn is so closely identified was created to be sung during a reverent but dramatic procession at the beginning of an All Saints' Day service, an enacted representation of the enduring "fellowship divine" celebrated by this text.

By All Your Saints Still Striving 325

Capo 5: (Dm) (F) (Am) (G) (Dm)
 Gm B^b Dm C Gm

1 By all your saints still striv - ing, for all your
 2 We praise you for the Bap - tist, fore - run - ner
 3 All praise, O Lord, for An - drew, the first to
 4 For Mag - da - lene we praise you, stead - fast at
 5 We pray for saints we know not, for saints still

(F) (Am) (C) (Am)
 B^b Dm F Dm

saints at rest, your ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for -
 of the Word, our true E - li - jah, mak - ing a
 wel - come you, whose wit - ness to his broth - er named
 cross and tomb. Your "Mar - y!" in the gar - den dis -
 yet to be, for grace to bear true wit - ness and

(C) (F) (G) (C) (Am)
 F B^b C F Dm

ev - er - more be blessed! For those passed on be -
 high - way for the Lord. The last and great - est
 you Mes - si - ah true. May we, with hearts kept
 pelled her tears and gloom. A - pos - tle to the a -
 serve you faith - ful - ly, till all the ran - somed

(F) (Em) (C) (G) (Em) (Bm)
 B^b Am F C Am Em

fore us, we sing our praise a - new and, walk - ing
 proph - et, he saw the dawn - ing ray of light that
 o - pen to you through - out the year pro - claim to
 pos - tles, she ran to spread the word. Send us to
 num - ber who stand be - fore the throne as - cribe all

(Dm) (Am) (Em) (Dm) (Em) (Am)
 Gm Dm Am Gm Am Dm

in their foot - steps, would live our lives for you.
 grows in splen - dor un - til the per - fect day.
 friend and neigh - bor your ad - vent ev - er near.
 shout the good news that we have seen the Lord!
 power and glo - ry and praise to God a - lone.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected and adapted from a much longer hymn by the nephew of the famous naval hero whose name he shares; it was intended for use on saints' days observed by the Church of England. The tune name honors the Norfolk seaport town where the tune was collected.

Eat This Bread

527

G C Am D Bm

Opt. A "Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and
Opt. B Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to Christ and

Em Dsus D G D

nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread;
nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread;

Em Bm C Dsus D G

drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst."
drink this cup; trust in Christ and you will not thirst.

This text from the Taizé Community is based on John 6:35, which is paraphrased here in two styles. The more immediate first version maintains the second-person invitation spoken by Jesus, while the alternative version provides a more general statement in the third person.



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: Sarah Morrison, Sharon Tingley

Reader: Allison Gray • Deacon: Janet Kaufman

Fellowship host: Barbara Collins

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2023 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission. Cover art: "The Communion of the Saints, for All Saints," by Ira Thomas.

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 Brazil: Association of
Community Health Educators Rio de Janeiro •
Evangelical Congregational Church of Brazil

Continuing concerns:

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

Mark Capecelatro, recovering from surgery
• Eileen Epperson, recovering from hip
replacement • Bob Hubby, recovering from surgery
• Anna Studo • 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 — Peter (and
Janet) • 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

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, 5 NOVEMBER

10AM Worship & Sunday School
followed by fellowship in the Parish Hall
11:30AM Church Council meeting

MONDAY, 6 NOVEMBER

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER

4PM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
5:15pm Handbell Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER

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

THURSDAY, 9 NOVEMBER

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 10 NOVEMBER

Veterans' Day (observed)



The Congregational Church of Salisbury
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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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