

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting in Grace • Transformed by Love • Serving with Joy

24th Sunday after Pentecost

12 November 2023, 10am



PRELUDE

In Dir ist Freude

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #462**

“I Love to Tell the Story”

HANKEY

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: If we will but listen,

ALL: God will speak to us in parables,

God will tell us the adventure of faith, lived out by our grandparents.

If we will but remember,

we will discover all we have heard and known,

all the wonders God has in store for us.

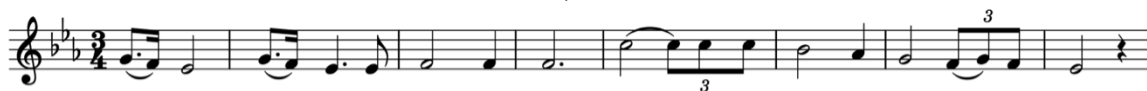
If we will but share,

in song and story we can help to spread the glorious good news of God

— of life rising from death, of joy that comes with the morning!

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Lead Me, Guide Me”



Lead me, guide me a-long the way; For if You lead me, I can-not stray.



Lord, let me walk each day with Thee: lead me, O Lord, lead me.

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CALL TO RECONCILIATION

How quickly we forget - our faith, our calling, our hope. All because we try to do everything our way, rather than God's. But God is quicker to forgive, and to restore us to new life. Let us confess to our God, as we pray, saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

It is never easy to admit how foolish we are, Approaching God.

You have chosen us for yourself —

and we continue to shelter false gods in our hearts.

You promise to be with us in every moment —

yet we find little time for you.

You send your Word to us —

but we hear it as just another story, competing with others.

Have mercy, Eternal One, and forgive us.

Speak to us, so we might listen: and in hearing, be transformed into your people. Fill us with holiness, so we might give ourselves wholly to others. Enable us to serve you faithfully and completely, even as did our Teacher and Savior, Jesus Christ.

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: This is our assurance: God forgives us.

This is our hope: God's love is everlasting.

This is our truth: God is with us always.

ALL: We will speak the truth;

we will live the hope;

we will share God's mercy. Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 78:1-7

ONE: O my people, hear my teaching;

ALL: Turn your ears to what I say.

I will open my mouth to expound a theme;

I hold forth on the lessons of the past,

Things that we have heard and known,

That our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their children;

**We will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Holy One,**

And God's might,

And the wonders that the Almighty has done.

The Author of Life decreed statutes and instituted a teaching,
commanding our ancestors

to make them known to their children;

That the next generation would know,

Children yet unborn,

Who in turn would tell their children,

That they should set their hope in God,

And not forget the works of the Almighty,

But adhere to what the Holy One had intended.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

⊗ **HYMN #357**

"The Days Are Surely Coming"

LLANGLOFFAN

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 **Salisbury Housing Trust** and **Salisbury Housing Committee**.*

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

Keep Your Lamps!

André Thomas

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
the time is drawing nigh.*

*Children, don't get weary,
'til your work is done.*

*Christian, journey soon be over,
the time is drawing nigh.*

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
the time is drawing nigh.*

✘ **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**

We know you entrust us with choice, God. We can stand by and watch while you act to bring wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy to everyone in the world. Or we can take that bold and scary step of investing our lives, as well as our gifts, to your ministry of grace. So we ask: bless our choosing; bless our giving; bless our serving. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done. In Jesus' name: Amen.

MODERN TESTIMONY

from *Daring Greatly*

Brené Brown

SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Old Testament, p. 267

SERMON

“Carpe Diem; Carpe Deo”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN #346**

“For the Healing of the Nations”

ST. THOMAS

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Ballo della Battaglia

Bernardo Storace



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: Janet Kaufman & Kevin Wolgemuth

Reader: Dean Haubrich • Deacon: Janet Kaufman

Fellowship time hosts: Betty Dobrwado & Barbara Wiggins

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2023 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission.

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

462

I Love to Tell the Story

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else could do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

This text is drawn from the second part of a fifty-stanza poem on the life of Christ written in 1866, during the author's recovery from a serious illness. The tune named for her first appeared three years later, and the composer was responsible for the creation of the refrain.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

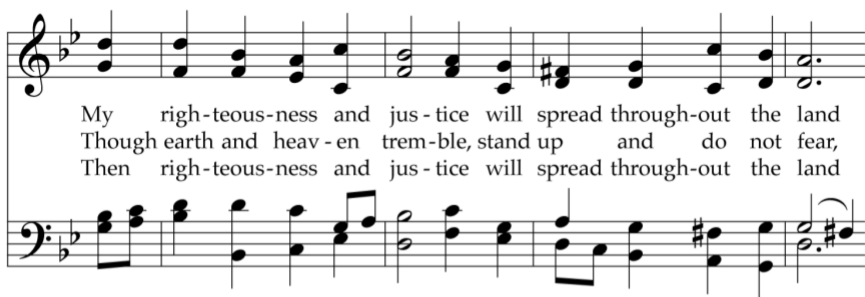
The Days Are Surely Coming 357



1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,
2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom - ised one,
3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last



when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.
when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.
the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.



My righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land
Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,
Then righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land



and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.
for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.
and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.

This text uses imagery from Jeremiah 33:14–16 and Matthew 24:29–36/Mark 13:24–32/Luke 21:25–36. These passages are especially associated with the beginning of Advent, a season that looks forward to Christ's second coming while also preparing us to remember his first coming.

346 For the Healing of the Nations

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with
2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
earth be banned: pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness,

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

The first line of this text quotes the declared purpose of the leaves of the tree of life growing beside the river of life in the heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 22:2). The hymn continues by identifying some of the many ways we are called to share with God in this healing work.

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
Youth Group Assistant: Dan Baker

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.)

New concerns:

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries,
for mission partners in Eswatini: Council of
Swaziland Churches • Kukhany'Okusha Zion
Church.

Charlie Noyes and family, celebrating the life of
Sally Noyes this weekend.

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, 12 NOVEMBER

- 10AM Worship
*followed by fellowship & refreshments
in the Parish Hall*
- 11:30AM Music Committee meeting
- 2:30PM Youth Group

MONDAY, 13 NOVEMBER

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

TUESDAY, 14 NOVEMBER

- 5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER

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

THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER

- 5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 17 NOVEMBER

- 8:45AM Men's Bible Study
- 4:45PM Kid's Night Out



Please Recycle this Bulletin!



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email: welcome@salisburyucc.org • web: salisburyucc.org

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