

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**PRELUDE**

*Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier*

J.S. Bach

**WELCOME**

✕ **HYMN #716**      “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”  
(✕ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

BEACH SPRING

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Before there was any time,

**ALL: there was God.**

When we wandered the wilderness,

**God built a way for us.**

When we lived in exile,

**our homes were built by God.**

When we are overwhelmed by life,

**God unknots the tightness in our shoulders.**

When we seek to serve faithfully,

**God provides the opportunities.**

When tomorrow comes,

**we find God awake and waiting for us.**

When time ends,

**there will still be God.**

**RESPONSE IN SONG****“O Sing to Our God”**

O sing to our God, O sing God a new song, O sing to our God,  
 O sing God a new song, O sing to our God, O sing God a  
 new song, O sing to our God, O sing to our God!

*TEXT: Brazilian folk song; trans. 1986, Gerhard M. Cartford; MUSIC: Brazilian folk melody; arr. Gerhard M. Cartford, 1982  
 © Gerhard M. Cartford (admin. Augsburg Fortress) All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725033.*

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

God created us for goodness, and we make foolish choices. God, who walked this earth, knows our temptations. God, whose hope is for wholeness, waits to forgive us. Let us come to our God, as we confess our lives together, saying,

**UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**God of promises, you offer us guidance, yet we grasp the hand of the world on our journey. You would nurture us with love and grace, and we feast on the empty calories of success and security. You call us to be your faithful people, and so often we are swayed by the pundits, the promoters, the petty.**

**Forgive us, Covenant God. You have not forgotten your promises, nor will you break them. Rather you come to us, again and again, so we will know your love. You walk with us, so we will find the way. You bless us so we will trust your living Word: Christ Jesus, Love's Own Self.**

*(Silence is kept)*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

In every time, in every place, in every life, God shows compassion and mercy. Thus, we know God has heard our prayers and has filled us with grace and hope.

**In this time, in this place, in our lives, our hopes are sustained by this abiding love. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

**RESPONSE IN SONG****“O Sing to Our God”**

## RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 90:1-8, 12

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.**

We are consumed by fear of Your anger,

**and terrified of Your indignation,**

when our waywardness is laid out before You,

**when our secret wanderings from Your way  
are exposed in the light of Your presence.**

So teach us to tend to our days, to live them aright,

**that we may gain a wise heart.**

## A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

*Hymnal, p. 35*

✘ **HYMN #494**

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”

QUEBEC

*All attending Sunday School may leave as we sing the hymn.*

## OFFERTORY

### STUMP THE STEWARD

ONE: God has been our dwelling place through all generations. Giving ourselves to God — to the power of life and love, the power of justice and mercy — we enter into our true home. We give to sing out our joy, and to share the wonder of

God's goodness.

**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

*God Is Seen*

Tune: Captain Kidd  
arr. Alice Parker

*Through all the world below God is seen  
all around,  
Search hills and valleys through,  
There He's found.*

*The growing of the corn,  
The lily and the thorn,  
The pleasant and forlorn,  
All declare, God is there.  
In meadows drest in green,  
God is seen.*

*See springing waters rise, fountains flow,  
rivers run.  
The mist that veils the sky.  
Hides the sun.*

*Then down the rain doth pour,  
The ocean it doth roar  
And beat upon the shore,  
And all praise, in their ways,  
The God who ne'er declines His designs.  
The sun with all his rays speaks of God as  
he flies.  
The comet in her blaze,  
"God," she cries.  
The shining of the stars,  
The moon, when she appears  
His awful name declares;  
See them fly, through the sky.  
And join the solemn sound all around,  
All around.*

#### ✘ 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

**May we not hide our gifts, Loving God, but offer them to you with  
trust and hope, so all may join us on the journey to your kin-dom of  
grace and hope, peace and healing. Amen.**

#### MODERN TESTIMONY

"Optimism"

Jane Hirshfield

#### ANCIENT TESTIMONY

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

*New Testament, p. 250*

**SERMON**

“Bad News, Good News”

Pastor John A. Nelson

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

✘ **HYMN** (insert)

“Now Thank We All Our God”

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

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

**POSTLUDE**

*Toccata*

Jacques Lemmens

## 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 & Janet Kaufman*

*Reader: Theresa Carroll • Deacon: Janet Kaufman*

*Fellowship time hosts: Karin and Charlie Noyes*

Today's liturgy is adapted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2023; 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  
**Youth Group Assistant:** Dan Baker

### 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 partner the Protestant Church in East  
Timor, especially their educational ministry in the  
Lisadila School.

#### Continuing concerns:

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

Mark Capecelatro, recovering from surgery • Bob  
Hubby, recovering from surgery • Anna Studo •  
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.

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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!

# God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 716

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (G)  
F Dm B<sup>b</sup>

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and  
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of  
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

(D) (Bm)  
F Dm

end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly  
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es  
grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

(G) (D) (A)  
B<sup>b</sup> F C

cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn  
joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly  
spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

(Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)  
Dm Am Dm B<sup>b</sup> C F

to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall  
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,  
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,

(Bm) (G) (D)  
Dm B<sup>b</sup> F

rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This text on stewardship was one of about 450 submissions in a search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

TEXT: Robert L. Edwards, 1961, alt.  
MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958  
Text © 1961, ren. 1989. *The Hymn Society* (admin. *Hope Publishing Company*)  
Music Harm. © 1958, ren. 1986 *Broadman Press* (admin. *Music Services*)

BEACH SPRING  
8.7.8.7.D

# Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts 494

1 Je - sus, thou joy of lov - ing hearts, thou fount of  
2 Thy truth un - changed hath ev - er stood; thou sav - est  
3 We taste thee, O thou liv - ing bread, and long to  
4 Our rest - less spir - its yearn for thee, wher - e'er our  
5 O Je - sus, ev - er with us slay; make all our

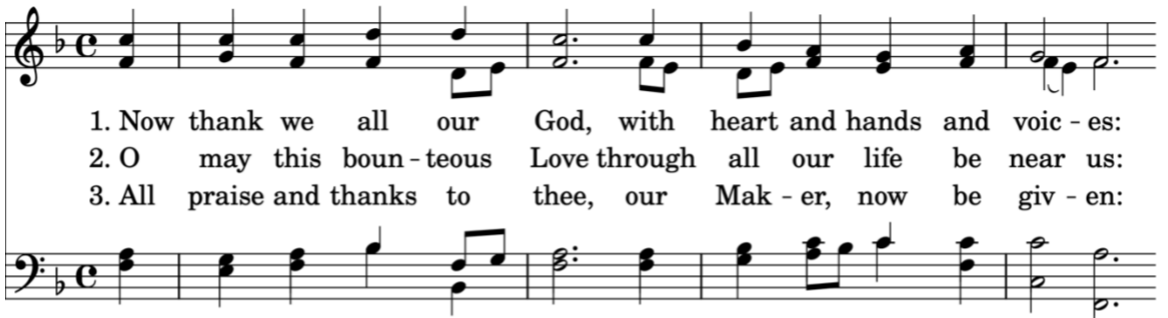
life, thou light of all, from the best bliss that  
those that on thee call; to them that seek thee  
feast up - on thee still; we drink of thee, the  
change - ful lot is cast, glad when thy gra - cious  
mo - ments calm and bright. O chase the night of

earth im - parts we turn, un - filled, to heed thy call.  
thou art good, to them that find thee, all in all.  
foun - tain - head, and thirst our souls from thee to fill.  
smile we see, blest when our faith can hold thee fast.  
sin a - way; shed o'er the world thy ho - ly light.

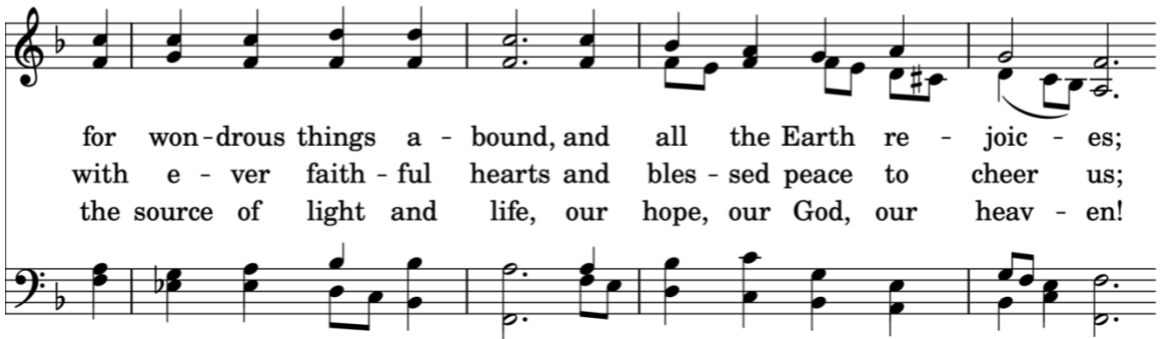
This 19th-century American translation of stanzas from a longer Latin poem is so well shaped that it sounds like an original meditation on Christian experience centered on the Lord's Supper. The North American tune name seems not to have originated with the English composer.



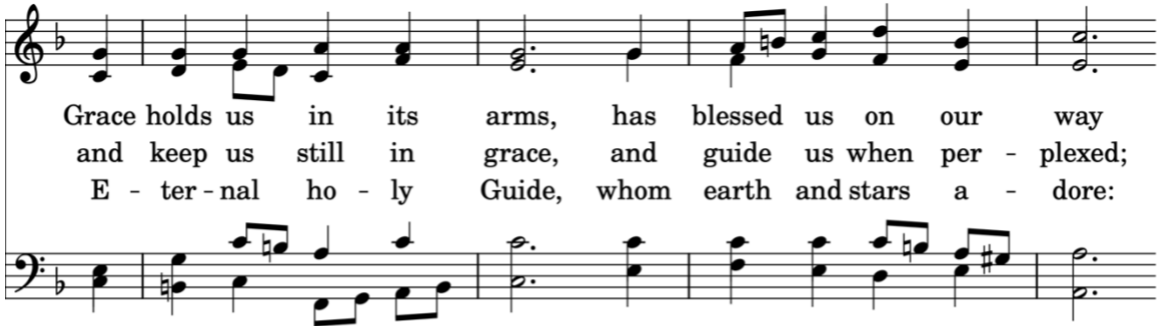
# Now Thank We All Our God



1. Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voice:  
2. O may this bounteous Love through all our life be near us:  
3. All praise and thanks to thee, our Maker, now be given:



for wondrous things abound, and all the Earth rejoice;  
with ever faithful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
the source of light and life, our hope, our God, our heaven!



Grace holds us in its arms, has blessed us on our way  
and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed;  
Eternal holy Guide, whom earth and stars adore:



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
and heal us from all ills, in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

## This Week at Salisbury UCC

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### SUNDAY, 19 NOVEMBER

- 10AM Worship  
*followed by fellowship & refreshments  
in the Parish Hall*
- 11:30AM Board of Trustees meeting

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### MONDAY, 20 NOVEMBER

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

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### TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER

- 5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal  
5:30PM Interfaith Community Thanksgiving  
worship (Meetinghouse)

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### WEDNESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER

- 12:30PM Staff Meeting  
4PM Women's Bible Study  
5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

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### THURSDAY, 23 NOVEMBER

*Thanksgiving Day — church offices closed*

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### FRIDAY, 24 NOVEMBER

*Thanksgiving holiday — church offices closed*



**Give Thanks**  
*An Interfaith Community Worship Service*  
**Tuesday, 21 November, 5:30pm**  
Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC  
30 Main Street, Salisbury CT



***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