

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



All participating in Sunday School may go to the 2nd floor of the Parish Hall as you arrive, and join the congregation at the beginning of our communion meal.

PRELUDE

Nun bitten wir den Heilige Geist

Dietrich Buxtehude

WELCOME

⌘ **HYMN #610**

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In the silence of a lonely night,
in the songs children sing in the morning, God calls to us.

**ALL: We are here, God who is always with us,
listening for your words of life and love.**

When we would decide to go it alone,
when we think no good can be found anywhere, Jesus calls to us.

**We are here, Friend who knows our longings,
ready to come and see where you would lead us.**

When we think we have license to do whatever we want,
when we are convinced we need no map, the Spirit calls to us.

**We are here, Peace we are longing for,
so that we might help others find the way to life.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Walk in the Light”

The musical score is written on three staves in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "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." The melody is simple and melodic, with a triplet of eighth notes in the second line.

Music Arr. © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725033.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we long to co-create with you the Beloved Community —
which looks to the common good, privileges all equally,
and creates societal systems which celebrate the humanity and the gifts of all.
Yet often we focus on our differences, envy each other's gifts,
and fail to value manifestations of you, O God, that are not like our own.

Perhaps our sin is a slow wait for justice: We allow the voices of brothers and
sisters who do not look like us, love like us, or worship like us to be
silenced. We have allowed ourselves to see others' struggle for wholeness
as separate from our own.

Lord, have mercy.

Or perhaps we have kept silence ourselves, in the face of the struggle for full human
dignity. For it is not solely hateful words and actions, but also our distance
from those who suffer oppression that breaks your heart.

Christ, have mercy.

Perhaps our sin is to give in to weariness, discouragement, bitterness:

You have called us to be drum majors for justice, peace and righteousness,
yet the work of Beloved Community overwhelms us, and we grow weary.

Lord, have mercy.

(prayer in silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, God is at work in us and with us; God forgives and renews us.

God has promised: *“I will not keep silent and I will not rest until the vindication of my beloved people shines out like the dawn and their salvation like a burning torch. My people shall no more be termed ‘forsaken’ and their land shall no more be termed ‘desolate.’”*

God has given us a new name: *“My delight is in them.”*

**Thank you, God for delighting in us even now,
for forgiving us our slow action, our silence, and our weariness,
for renewing our faith and inviting us once again
to create with you the Beloved Community you long for. Amen.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Walk in the Light”

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 Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change**, dedicated to educating the world on the life, legacy and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., inspiring new generations to carry forward his unfinished work, strengthen causes and empower change-makers who are continuing his efforts today.*

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

One Voice

Ruth Moody

*This is the sound of one voice
One spirit, one voice
The sound of one who makes a choice
This is the sound of one voice*

*This is the sound of voices two
The sound of me singing with you
Helping each other to make it through
This is the sound of voices two*

*This is the sound of voices three
Singing together in harmony
Surrendering to the mystery
This is the sound of voices three
This is the sound of all of us
Singing with love and the will to trust*

*Leave the rest behind, it will turn to dust
This is the sound of all of us
This is the sound of one voice
One people, one voice
A song for every one of us
This is the sound of one voice*

✘ **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**

In gratitude and hope, we bring you our gifts, O God. Take and bless them, that we may be wise in their using. Transform our every intention and deed into a witness for your realm of wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy. We ask in Jesus' name: Amen.

MODERN TESTIMONY

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

ANCIENT TESTIMONY

I Samuel 3:1-10

Old Testament, p. 306

SERMON

“Speak, Holy One ...”

Pastor John A. Nelson

✘ **HYMN #451**

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

OPEN MY EYES

We Feast at God's Table

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

ONE: We have come asking for the child –

**ALL: Wondering where that love might be born,
Seeking that joy that might satisfy our thirst,
Wandering through the darkness of so many mistakes.**

We have come to this place where sages from the east and shepherds from the hills and animal witnesses met around a young mother and her newborn. We have come to this place called Bethlehem –

**to this place where our hearts rise like yeast;
to this place where we meet our newborn hope;
to this place where we taste our deepest joy.**

In Bethlehem, where we assumed the worst, imagining that no good can come, we perhaps missed its name. Bethlehem: *Beth* meaning house; *lehem* meaning bread.

**There is something here that will satisfy our hunger.
No matter how long we have wandered,
here our hearts arise. Our light has come.**

In this bread and in this cup, we celebrate a mystery beyond our deepest hope.

**Because God has made a house at this table.
Because God satisfies our hunger in the most unlikely places.
Because God comes to be with us, now and always.**

It is with this expectation that we come to the table:
to taste and see that God is here.

REMEMBERING JESUS AT THE TABLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts*)

Hymnal, p. 35

PRAYER AT THE TABLE

**Holy Spirit, come into this bread and this cup.
Transform these ordinary objects as you change our hearts
to shape and form your world with the joy you promise.
Pour your grace upon us, so we overflow with your love.
Help us to remember how a newborn baby might grow into
a child who would one day turn to his hope-filled friends in
an upper room, and open to them a new union with God.**

SHARING THE MEAL

We celebrate an open communion, and welcome every person to the table. We understand the sharing of the bread and the cup in Jesus' name to be a reenactment of an ancient vision of God's feast for all people. We don't require you to 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 the nurture God is offering. As communion is served we hold the bread until all have received, to signify our unity in Christ. We drink the cup as we are served, to signify our personal relationship with Christ.

(We use gluten-free bread and unfermented grape juice, to extend a wider welcome.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ONE: Eternal and gracious One, though we live in a world of need,

**ALL: here we have tasted your goodness
and hungered for a world more just.**

Though afflicted by brokenness and division,

here we have received your call to be a beloved community.

Though daily we touch our limits,

here we have received the fullness of your grace.

You have filled us, O God:

inspire us to live in wonder and to share your *shalom!* Amen.

✠ **HYMN #722**

“Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak”

CANONBURY

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Impromptu no. 1

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 610

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
2 The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and
3 Christ speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new
4 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
5 To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be

dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the
life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful wak - en
sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
now and ev - er given by saints be - low and

God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!
sin - ner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.
to re - joice; the poor in heart be - lieve.
earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

This text comes from an eighteen-stanza hymn the author wrote to mark the first anniversary of his life-changing conversion experience. It is now customarily the first hymn in Methodist hymnals worldwide. This tune, adapted from a German composer, is the usual North American setting.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.; Spanish trans. Federico J. Pagura;
Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee, 2001

AZMON
CM

MUSIC: Carl Gottlieb Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

Spanish Trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)
Korean Trans. © 2001 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

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Open My Eyes, That I May See 451

1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic-es of truth thou send-est clear.
3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.

Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un-clasp and
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev-ery-thing false will
O-pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren

set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
dis-ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy

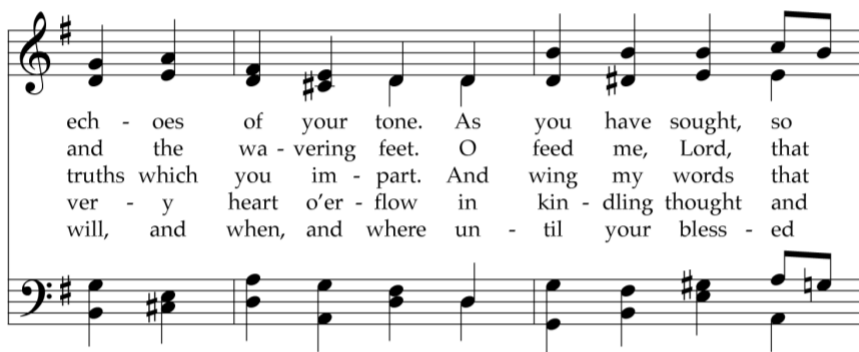
will to see. O-pen my eyes; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!
will to see. O-pen my ears; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!
will to see. O-pen my heart; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!

The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

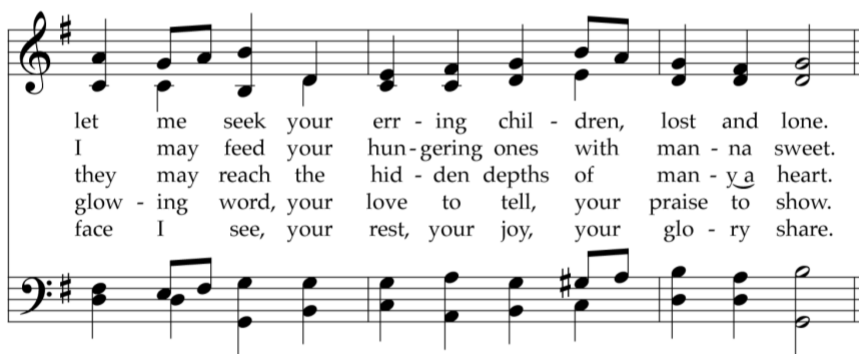
722 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak



1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak in liv - ing
2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wan - dering
3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the pre - cious
4 O fill me with your full - ness, Lord, un - til my
5 O use me, Lord, use e - ven me, just as you



ech - oes of your tone. As you have sought, so
and the wa - vering feet. O feed me, Lord, that
truths which you im - part. And wing my words that
ver - y heart o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and
will, and when, and where un - til your bless - ed



let me seek your err - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
I may feed your hun - gering ones with man - na sweet.
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.
face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

Two great truths inform this text: first, that the testimony of experience is powerful and persuasive; and second, that no one should venture to minister on one's own strength rather than God's. The tune reflects a 19th-century practice of adapting piano pieces as hymn tunes.



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: Deborah Moore, Kevin Wolgemuth

Reader: Anne Williams • Deacon: Sue Morrill

Flowers have been placed in the Meeting House by Betsy Beck in memory of her sister, Dorrie Fuchs (May 27, 1957 - January 10, 2015).

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.

Cover art: *The Call to Samuel* by Frank Wesley (1923-2002.)

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 the people of Haiti and for mission partners: Ecumenical Foundation for Peace and Justice (House of Hope), • National Spiritual Council of Haitian Churches

Continuing concerns:

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

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, David Douyea, Deborah Merwin — prayers for healing and strength.

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, 14 JANUARY

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

11:30AM Music Committee meeting
2:30PM Youth Group

MONDAY, 15 JANUARY

Church offices closed for MLK Day

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

TUESDAY, 16 JANUARY

9AM Taichi class

WEDNESDAY, 17 JANUARY

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

THURSDAY, 18 JANUARY

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club
5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 19 JANUARY

8:45AM Men's Bible Study



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