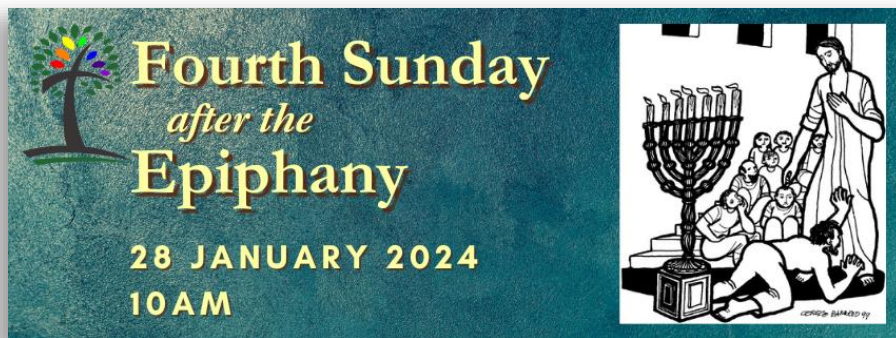


The Congregational Church of Salisbury  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**PRELUDE**

*Blessed Jesus, At Thy Word*

J.S. Bach

**WELCOME**

⌘ **HYMN #395**

“Blessed Jesus, At Thy Word”

LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER

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

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Thinking we know all the answers,  
yet wondering if we haven't missed something:

**ALL: we enter this sanctuary of Truth.**

In the company of sinners,  
in cahoots with saints:

**we gather as God's people.**

Standing by folks of deep, abiding faith;  
seated with those who stumble through the Kin-dom:

**we lift our praise to 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  
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## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

One: It's simple: God asks that we name and acknowledge our sin — our actions and inactions that distance us from God. And why? When we offer our prayers of confession, God takes them from us and fills our hearts with such an abundance of mercy, we cannot hold it all. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

## UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**God, our God: we fill our souls with the empty sounds of newsy chatter, and wonder why we are so empty when we need words of hope, of grace, of comfort.**

**We are careful to follow the prescriptions our doctors give, yet pay much less heed to your invitation to fullness of life.**

**We seek out reassurance when we act rightly, yet do not notice how our pride trips up those who seek to follow Jesus.**

**Forgive us, Holy One, and be gracious to us:  
astound us with your words,  
so we may learn your ways;  
nourish us with your mercy,  
so we may be filled with life;**

**enter our empty souls,  
until they overflow with praise for your Son, Jesus Christ:  
Love's Own Self.**

*(We pray in silence)*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Of all the astounding works of God, this may be the most wonderful: God is gracious and merciful — to us!

**What is this? Good news, of the very best kind!**

**We are forgiven.**

**We give thanks to our God with all our hearts. Alleluia! Amen.**

### **RESPONSE IN SONG**

“O Sing to Our God”

### **RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 111**

ONE: Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the Holy One with my whole heart,

**MANY: In the assembled company of the faithful.**

Great are the works of the Most High;

**They are pondered by all who delight in them.**

God's deeds are splendid and glorious,

**And the magnanimity of the Almighty endures forever.**

The wonderful deeds of the Saving God are everywhere acclaimed;

**The Holy One is gracious and compassionate,**

Providing food for all who trust in the Most High;

**The Holy One is ever mindful of the covenant.**

God has shown the people powerful works,

**Giving them the land that sustains them.**

The designs of God's hands are faithfulness and justice;

**All the Holy One's teachings are trustworthy,**

Well-founded for all time,

**To be carried out with faithfulness and justice.**

The Most High sent deliverance to the people;

**And enjoined this covenant forever.**

Holy and awesome is God's eminence.

**Trust of the Holy One is the beginning of wisdom;**

All those who practice it have good understanding.  
**The honor of the Most High is everlasting.**

## A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

*Hymnal, p. 35*

✕ **HYMN #793**

“O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come”  
*All attending Sunday School may leave as we sing the hymn.*

ERHALT UNS, HERR

## 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 **Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ.***

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

*Cantate Domino*

Pitoni

Cantate Domino canticum novum,  
laus ejus in Ecclesia Sanctorum.  
Laetetur Israel in eo, qui fecit eum,  
et filii Sion exultent in rege suo.

*Sing to the Lord a new song,  
his praise in the assembly of the saints.  
Let Israel rejoice in He who made them,  
and the people of Zion rejoice in their King.*

Psalm 149:1-2

✕ **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**

**Gather our gifts, our hearts, our very lives, Loving God, and use them in your work of reconciliation, grace, and hope for all your children. In Jesus' name, we pray: Amen.**

**MODERN TESTIMONY**                      On messiness, truth, and grace                      Rachel Held Evans

**GOSPEL READING**    Mark 1:21-28    *New Testament, p. 43*

**SERMON**    “An Astonishing Teaching”    Pastor John A. Nelson

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

✘ **HYMN #772**    “Live into Hope”    TRURO

**BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**    *Verset de Procession sur l'Adoro Te*    Leon Boëllmann



**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:* Joanne Taber, Sharon Tingley  
*Reader:* Kathy Mera • *Deacon:* Sue Morrill

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.

## 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

**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 people of Hungary and for our mission partners of the Reformed Church in Hungary.

Lester Hoysradt, now in hospice care.

#### 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.

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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!



Jacob Jordaens: *Christ, Healing the Man Possessed by Devils*;  
Flanders, early 1650s; black chalk, sanguine, aquarel, gouache; from the Hermitage Museum.

# 395 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your word we have come a -  
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est  
 3 Glo - rious Lord, your - self im - part, Light of Light, from

gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
 dark - ness shroud - ed, till your Spir - it breaks our night,  
 God pro - ceed - ing. Touch our lips and ears and heart;

and in glow - ing faith be near you. By your gos - pel  
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and  
 help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your

true and ho - ly, teach us, Lord, to love you sole - ly.  
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.  
 church now rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

Originally conceived to be sung before the sermon, this hymn assumes a congregation that assembles regularly, and it needs to be placed near the beginning rather than the end of worship. The simple repetitive tune reinforces the text's sense of receptivity and expectation.



# 793 O Christ, the Healer



1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for  
 2 From ev - ery ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies  
 3 How strong, O Lord, are our de - sires, how weak our  
 4 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og -  
 5 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com -



health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to  
 clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we  
 knowl - edge of our - selves! Re - lease in us those  
 nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de -  
 mu - ni - ty may find the whole - ness that, en -



be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?  
 would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.  
 heal - ing truths un - con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.  
 clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?  
 rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This prayer for wholeness of body, mind, and spirit considers not only the infirmities of individuals but also those of localities, societies, and nations. In the midst of such widespread need, worshiping communities are called to continue Christ's healing work in the world.

## Live into Hope

1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -  
 2 Live in - to hope! The blind shall see with in - sight  
 3 Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, the right to  
 4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of

gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the  
 and with clar - i - ty, re - mov - ing shades of  
 speak, the right to be, the right to have one's  
 fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our

first to see the year of God's own ju - bi - lee!  
 pride and fear, a vi - sion of our God brought near.  
 dai - ly bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.  
 full re - lease to faith and hope and joy and peace.

This text on Luke 4:16–20, the author's first, was written for the United Presbyterian Women's National Meeting in July 1976 because the team planning worship could not find a suitable hymn on that passage. She wrote the words with this vigorous 18th-century tune in mind.

## This Week at Salisbury UCC

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### SUNDAY, 28 JANUARY

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

2:30PM Youth Group

5PM Sunday Supper

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### MONDAY, 29 JANUARY

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

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### TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY

5:15PM Handbell Choir gathering

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### WEDNESDAY, 31 JANUARY

12:30PM Staff Meeting

4PM Women's Bible Study

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### THURSDAY, 1 FEBRUARY

7:30PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY, 2 FEBRUARY

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