



The Congregational Church of Salisbury  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

4 February 2024, 10am



## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #157**

“Lord of the Dance”

LORD OF THE DANCE

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: When we look at the night sky, speckled with stars,

**ALL: we discover the never-ending imagination of our God.**

When we pick those not chosen on life’s playgrounds,

**we join Christ in the ministry of healing and hope.**

When we set aside the time for prayer, as well as wonder,

**we meet the Spirit who is at our side in every moment.**

## RESPONSE IN SONG

“God Welcomes All”

THEMBA AMEN

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends,

TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008

MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008

Text and Music: Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

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## **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**

With the whole church,

**We remember that we are forgiven by God,  
befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere,

**We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,  
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

With all creation,

**We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life: the unfolding  
purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.  
Thanks be to God!**

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

*Hymnal, p. 35*

## RESPONSE IN SONG

“God Welcomes All”

### OFFERTORY

ONE: We grow in our knowledge of God; we grow in service; we grow in our faith. May we not seek to grow in our giving, as well? In the time we give? In the resources we give? In the love we give? Let us ponder this growth — and may God’s grace-full spirit cause our tithes and offerings to be a blessing to both giver and receiver.

**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*

Hans Leo Hassler

Cantate Domino canticum novum;  
cantate Domino omnis terra.

*O sing unto the Lord a new song;  
sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.*

Cantate Domino, et benedicite nomini ejus;  
annuntiate de die in diem salutare ejus

*Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.*

Annuntiate inter gentes gloriam ejus;  
in omnibus populis mirabilia ejus

*Declare his honor among all nations;  
his wonders unto all people.*

Quoniam magnus Dominus,  
et laudabilis nimis:  
terribilis est super omnes deos. (Psalm 96)

*For the Lord is great,  
and cannot worthily be praised:  
he is more awe-inspiring than all gods.*

### ✠ 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

**You lift us to our feet so we can walk with you, Loving God, and you fill us with your gifts so we may share them with our neighbors. Take what we offer, and use us to strengthen the weary, feed the hungry, and offer hope to the despairing. Amen.**

## GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:29-39

*New Testament, p.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ HYMN #792

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

BALM IN GILEAD

**We Feast at God’s Table**

INVITATION

RESPONSIVE THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to our God.

**It is good and right to give God our thanks and praise.**

O God, we thank you for the rich blessing of your Creation, and come to offer our whole selves as you call us to live for your realm of *shalom*.

**Our hearts fill with joy and wonder as we answer your call to be your people. Thanks be to you, O Holy One, for the goodness of your creation.**

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

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.**

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread, and after giving 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.**

And so we breathe out hope as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

**Come, Holy Spirit. Continue to pour out your life-giving, healing power on us, and on this meal that nourishes us. As we share this food and drink, may we become, for each other, the hope that Jesus has awakened in us. In this meal 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 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 God's nurture. (We use gluten-free bread and unfermented grape juice in an effort to remove barriers to anyone's participation in the sacrament.)*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

**ALL: here we have tasted your goodness  
and been fed by your vision of fullness of life for all creation.**

Though afflicted by brokenness and division,

**here we have received your call to become a Beloved Community.**

Though daily we touch our limits,

**here we have received the abundance of your grace.**

You have filled us, O God:

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

✘ **HYMN** (*insert, p.6*)      “Alleluia, the Great Storm Is Over”

## BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

## POSTLUDE

# 157 I Danced in the Morning

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)  
 F Dm Am Dm

1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I  
 2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but  
 3 I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame. The  
 4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It's  
 5 They cut me down and I leapt up high. †

(Em) (A)  
 Gm C

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I  
 they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I  
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They  
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They  
 I am the life that will nev - er, nev - er die. I'll

(D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)  
 F Dm Am Dm

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At  
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They  
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and  
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but  
 live in you if you'll live in me, †

(Em) (A7) (G) (D)  
 Gm C7 Bb F

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.  
 came with me and the dance went on.  
 left me there on a cross to die.  
 I am the dance and I still go on.  
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

This 20th-century ballad-like retelling of the life of Christ, though written for this Shaker tune, has many similarities with the pre-Reformation carol "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." Such narrative carols were common both at Christmas and as part of medieval mystery plays.

Refrain

(F#m) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (D) (Bm)  
Am Dm Am Dm F Dm




Dance, then, wher-ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

(Em) (A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A7) (D)  
Gm C F Dm F C7 F



Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,

(Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)  
Gm C7 F B<sup>b</sup> F



and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

# There Is a Balm in Gilead 792

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

*Fine*

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain, but  
 2 Don't ev - er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend, and  
 3 If you can-not preach like Pe - ter, if you can-not pray like Paul, you can

*to Refrain*

then the Ho-ly Spir - it re-vives my soul a - gain. There is a  
 if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll not re-fuse to lend. There is a  
 tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all." There is a

This African American spiritual offers a long-delayed answer to the prophet Jeremiah's question, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22). No earthly remedy can compare with the healing that comes from a sense of God's presence; nothing else can heal "the sin-sick soul."



## “Alleluia, the Great Storm Is Over”

Words and Music by Bob Franke



1. The thun-der and light-ning gave voice to the night, The lit - tle lame  
2. Sweet-ness in the air and jus-tice on the wind, Laugh - ter in the  
3. Re - lease for the cap-tives, an end to the wars, New streams in the  
4. Hush\_\_\_ lit - tle ba - by, let go of your fear: The Lord loves his



child cried a - loud in her fright, So hush lit - tle ba - by, a  
house where the mour-ners have been. The deaf shall have mu - sic, the  
de - sert, new hope for the poor. The lit - tle lame chil-dren will  
own and your mo-ther is here. The child fell a - sleep as the



sto - ry I'll tell, Of a love that has van-quished the pow-ers of hell.  
blind have new eyes, And the stan-dards of death ta - ken down by sur - prise.  
dance as they sing, And\_\_\_ play with the bears and the li - ons in spring.  
lan-tern did burn, And the lone - ly folk sang on un - til love re - turned.



Al - le - lu - ia, the great storm is o - ver, Lift up your wings and fly!\_\_\_



### 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.

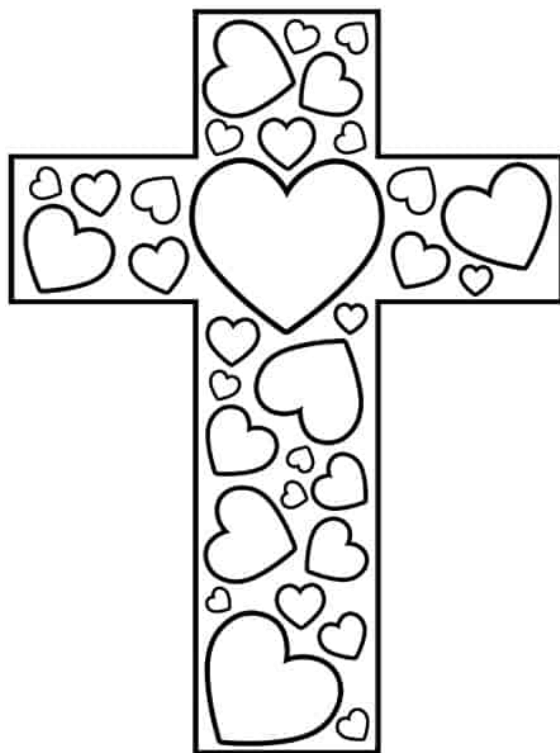
We seek to love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds and love our neighbors as ourselves. This Church is **Open** to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment regardless of race, ancestry, class, gender identity, physical and mental ability or sexual orientation. We **Affirm** 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, Joanne Taber

*Reader:* Janet Accardo • *Deacon:* Janet Kaufman

*Fellowship time hosts:* Theresa Carroll and Jane Capecelatro

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

## This Week at Salisbury UCC

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### SUNDAY, 4 FEBRUARY

10AM Worship

*Following worship: Reception to thank Loriann Chevremont for her service to the church.*

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### MONDAY, 5 FEBRUARY

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

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### TUESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY

4PM Board of Christian Action meeting

5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal

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### WEDNESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY

12:30PM Staff Meeting

4PM Women's Bible Study

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### THURSDAY, 8 FEBRUARY

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY, 9 FEBRUARY

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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