

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Christ lag in Todes Banden BWV 718

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #618** “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”
verses 1, 2, 4, 5

DEO GRACIAS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Here, at the outer limits of Lent,
we are called to walk:

**ALL: to the paper-thin edges which cut us to the soul;
to the workplaces which weary us;
to the people who confuse us;
to the faith which threatens us.**

Here, at the corner of Steadfast Love
and Faithfulness, we are called to wait:

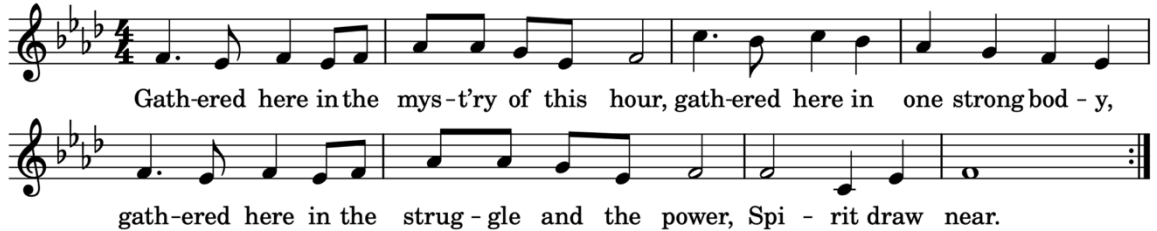
**when our clenched stomachs awaken us;
in the moments of unbearable sorrow;
with the angels who would carry us.**

Here, where time is fulfilled,
where God's realm is as near to us
as our neighbor, we begin Lent:

**with the Beloved, whose tears wash away our fears,
with the God who will not let go of our hands.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

"Gathered Here"



Gath-ered here in the mys-t'ry of this hour, gath-ered here in one strong bod - y,
gath-ered here in the strug - gle and the power, Spi - rit draw near.

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CALL TO RECONCILIATION

God looks at the most broken soul and sees a beloved child, ready for healing embrace. God sees our worst faults and washes them away in the waters of life.

God hears our prayers of confession, and whispers sweet grace in our hearts. Let us pray together as we say,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Forgive

**the silly sins of childhood,
the exuberant sins of adolescence,
the faded sins of aging;**

forgive

**the sins we shout in the streets,
the sins we whisper to ourselves;**

forgive

**the sins we didn't give a second thought to,
the sins we plot in the middle of the night;**

forgive

the flood of sins which threaten us,

the wilderness of sin which we offer to others,
the sin which seeks to imprison us.

**Forgive us, Good and Gentle God:
forgive us and have mercy on us,
so we might walk the path of faithfulness
with Jesus, to Jerusalem and beyond:
so we might know your steadfast love in our lives.**

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

What can sustain us in the lengthening days? What will nourish us on our Lenten journey?

Look, here is all the food we need: God's Love, God's Word, God's Hope. Through the wilderness and into God's realm of life fully lived, we are given daily bread for every day of the journey. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Gathered Here”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 25

ONE: To You, O God, I offer my life;

ALL: In You I trust, O my God;

Do not let me be defeated by the world around me;

Do not let my adversaries destroy me.

No one who hopes in You will ever be crushed.

Only those who wantonly disregard You will be left forsaken.

Show me Your ways, O Holy One; teach me the paths to You.

Lead me by Your faithfulness, and teach me,

For You are the God of my salvation;

In You I hope all day long.

Recall Your compassion, O Holy One;

Keep hold of Your faithfulness;

For those have always been Your traits.

Do not recall the transgressions of my youth

Or my wanderings from Your ways;

According to Your infinite compassion,
Keep hold of me,

For You are goodness itself, O God.

Good and trustworthy is the Almighty,

Who always leads the straying back to the path that leads to life.

God leads those who will follow in what is right,

And teaches them to live.

All the ways of the Most High are loving and faithful,

For those who are faithful and loving.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✘ **HYMN #775**

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

WALK WITH ME

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

OFFERTORY

ONE: God, we have entered into Lent. Remembering Jesus' journey, we also remember that we can choose to deepen our own life with you. Even as we pray over our offerings, help us to intently, deeply, place ourselves into your loving hands.

**ALL: Let us gather our gifts with grateful praise,
and offer them, Holy One, to your purposes.**

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

Our church welcomes every size gift, and thanks you for your generosity.

MUSICAL OFFERING

And Can it Be?

Dan Forrest

*And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain—
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*

*He left His Father's throne above
So free, so infinite His grace—
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!*

And can it be?
Amazing love, how can it be?
No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,

And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

— Charles Wesley, 1738

✘ **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**

**As for us, Holy God, we offer our gifts to bring healing to the broken,
hope to those in despair, light to those in shadows, and grace for all
your people. In Jesus' name, we pray: Amen.**

MODERN TESTIMONY

“Wilderness”

Andrew King

ANCIENT TESTIMONY

Mark 1:9-15

New Testament, p. 42

SERMON

“Resistance Training”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN #167**

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”
verses 1, 2, 3, 4

AUS DER TIEFE RUFE ICH HEINLEIN

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Christ lag in Todes Banden BWV 625

J.S. Bach

618 O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
 2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
 3 For us by wick - ed - ness be - trayed, for us, in
 4 For us he rose from death a - gain; for us he
 5 All glo - ry to our Lord and God, for love so

thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
 fast and hun - gered sore; for us tempt - ta - tions
 crown of thorns ar - rayed, he bore the shame - ful
 went on high to reign; for us he sent the
 deep, so high, so broad: the Trin - i - ty whom

God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
 sharp he knew, for us, the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 cross and death; for us gave up his dy - ing breath.
 Spir - it here to guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.
 we a - dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Reducing a twenty-three-stanza Latin text to these five English stanzas intensifies this survey of the mystery of the Incarnation and strengthens the repeated reminder that all was done "for us." A comparable tone of proclamation animates this 15th-century song celebrating a military victory.

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 775

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

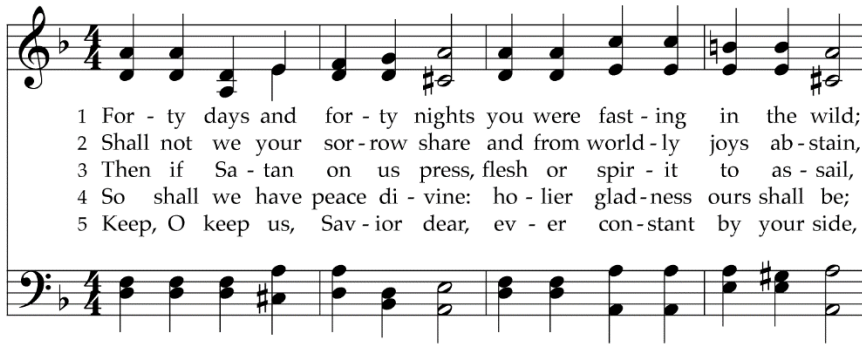
I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

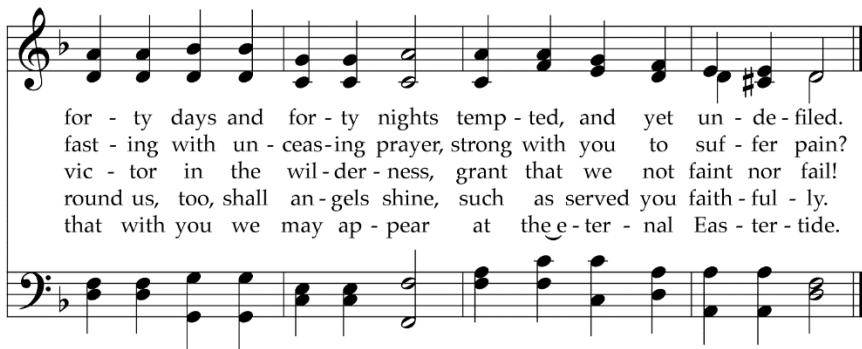
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

The two equal phrases in each line suggest that this African American spiritual shares some characteristics of work or field songs that were used to coordinate the efforts of slaves involved in tasks (road clearing, ditch digging, etc.) that needed combined rhythmic strokes.

167 Forty Days and Forty Nights



1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
2 Shall not we your sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
5 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side,



for - ty days and for - ty nights temp - ted, and yet un - de - filed.
fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?
vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint nor fail!
round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.
that with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

This text, given sharper focus by being reduced from nine stanzas to five, reflects both on Christ's temptation in the wilderness and on the purpose and goal of Lent as preparation for Easter. It pairs well with a 17th-century German chorale setting for Psalm 130.



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: Sharon Tingley, Kevin Wolgemuth

Reader: Lorna Edmundson • Deacon: Janet Kaufman

Fellowship time host: Janet Kaufman

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2024 (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

Church Administrator: Jennifer Oberto
Sexton: Richard Tietjen

Church Officers: Betsy Beck, *moderator*;
Janet Offensend, *treasurer*

Pastor and Teacher: The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

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 India and for our mission partners
serving them: Center for Social Equity and Inclusion •
Student Christian Movement of India • Christian
Medical College, Ludhiana • Christian Medical College,
Vellore • Christian Medical Association of India •
Pravaham, Vellore • Tamilnadu Theological Seminary •
Lady Doak College • Family Village Farm and King's
Matriculation • Deep Griha Society, Pune • Darjeeling
Tibetan Refugee Center and Tibetan Children's Village
• Church's Auxiliary for Social Action • Church of
South India • Church of North India • United
Theological College, Bangalore.

Continuing concerns

Debbie Prescott • Lester Hoysradt, in hospice care.
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. **Family & Friends who
have passed away**

Brenda Bly (sister of Mike Beck)

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, 18 FEBRUARY

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

11:30AM Board of Trustees meeting
2:30PM Youth Group

MONDAY, 19 FEBRUARY

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

TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY

5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY

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

THURSDAY, 22 FEBRUARY

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 23 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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email: welcome@salisburyucc.org • web: salisburyucc.org

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