

The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Wer nur den Lieben Gott lässt Walten (BWV 647)

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

⊗ **HYMN #49**

“The God of Abraham Praise”

LEONI

verses 1, 2, 4

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads.

ALL: Lent calls us to journey to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given.

Lent calls us to worship together,
to tell future generations the good news.

**Lent calls us to practice *shalom*,
to bring God's hope to all people.**

Lent calls us to faithful living,
to trust the One who gives us life.

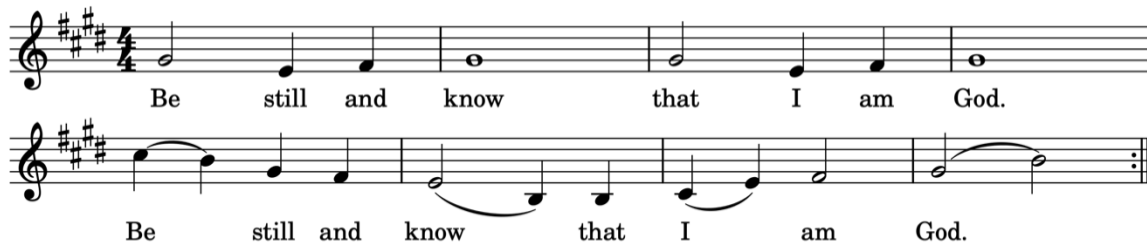
**Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,
to trust the One who bears it with us.**

Lent calls us to journey with God.

**Let us worship God, who walks with us,
this and every day.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Be Still and Know”



The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song "Be Still and Know". The first staff is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5. The lyrics "Be still and know that I am God." are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with a half note G5, a quarter note F#5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. The lyrics "Be still and know that I am God." are written below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1989

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CALL TO RECONCILIATION

One: Given a test on our faith, would we have a passing grade? Looking at our lives of discipleship, would we be considered good models for others? When we fail to trust God, we discover that we do indeed lead barren lives. Let us be honest as we stand before our God, and bring our confessions for forgiveness and hope.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Sarah and Abraham, in this holy place,

we acknowledge how weak is our discipleship.

We can spend hours at the computer,

but only give you fleeting moments of our time.

We can talk endlessly on our cell phones,

but fall silent when it comes to sharing

our fears, our worries, our hopes with you.

We seek quick fixes for our problems,

rather than seeking your vision for remaking our lives.

God, forgive us:

for our lack of trust;

for our faithless living;

for our closing our ears to the call of Jesus.

**Forgive us, so we may lay aside all the keeps us from you, and take up
the life you offer to us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

(We pray in silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the good news: God does not go back on the promises made so long ago. God does not reject us, God redeems us. God does not withhold love, God pours it into all emptiness of our lives.

Forgiven of our sins, filled with hope, living in relationship with God and one another — we are a new people. Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Be Still and Know”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 22:23-31

ONE: You who know the Almighty, give honor!

All you offspring of wanderers and heirs of grace, give praise!

**ALL: Stand in awe of the Most High,
all you who are God's people!**

For the Holy One did not despise my affliction,
or abhor me in my affliction;

**Nor did the Almighty turn away from me,
but heard my cry for help.**

You, O Redeemer, cause me to rejoice when the community gathers;

**I will offer my thanksgiving
in the company of those who seek Your presence.**

The needy shall feast and be satisfied;

All those who seek the Most High shall give reverence.

May your hearts live forever!

**All the ends of the earth shall remember God's deeds
and turn to the Holy One;**

All the families of all the nations shall revere the Most High.

For the Eternal One reigns,

It is our God who has authority over the nations of earth.

All who sleep in the earth shall declare this; All who go down to the dust
and cannot keep themselves alive shall give honor,

**Our children and our children's children will follow God's way;
Future generations will hear about the Holy One;**

They will proclaim deliverance by the Almighty to a people yet unborn.

For God has done it. God has stayed with us.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

⌘ HYMN #343

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”
verses 1, 3, 5, 6

GERMANY

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

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 **Pacific Basin Initiative** of the United Church of Christ: mission partners in East Asia and the Pacific who are on the forefront of advocating for creation justice, promoting peace and community resilience, and supporting migrant and minority communities.*

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

Lamb of God

F. Melius Christiansen

*Lamb of God most holy!
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Patient still and lowly;
Thyself to scorn didst offer;
Our sins by thee were taken,
Or hope had us forsaken.
Have mercy on us, O Jesu!*

⌘ 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**

Holy One, may all that we give represent our willingness to release the abundance you placed in our hands, so others might be blessed by your grace, your peace, your hope, in every moment of their lives. In Jesus' name, we pray: Amen.

MODERN TESTIMONY from “The Reckless Way of Love “ *Dorothy Day*

ANCIENT TESTIMONY: Mark 8:31-38 *New Testament, p. 53*

SERMON “Big Lies” Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN #829** “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” OLIVET

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE *Wer nur den Lieben Gott lässt Walten (BWV 642)* J.S. Bach



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: Janet Kaufman, Kevin Wolgemuth

Reader and Deacon: Janet Kaufman

Fellowship time hosts: The Clark Family

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

Church Administrator: Jennifer Oberto

Sexton: Richard Tietjen

Church Officers: Betsy Beck, *moderator*;

Janet Offensend, *treasurer*

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

49 The God of Abraham Praise



1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,
 2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
 3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
 4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;



the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
 In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
 Es - tab - lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:

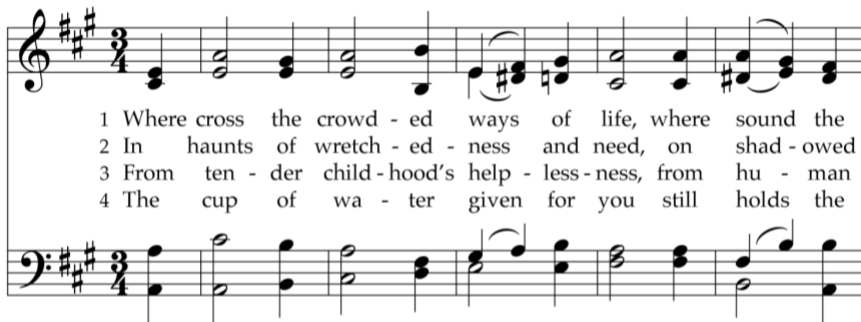


we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
 the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!



Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life 343



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed
3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man
4 The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of
thresh - olds fraught with fears, from paths where hide the
grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from
fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.
tudes to view the sweet com - pas - sion of your face.

5 O Master, from the mountainside,
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide;
O tread the city's streets again;

6 Till all the world shall learn your love,
and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heaven above
shall come the city of our God.

Because dense populations always result in concentrated hardships, this vivid yet timeless evocation of urban need connects to our own day as well as to Jesus' lament over Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37/Luke 13:34). This tune was the first used with this text and is now customary.

My Faith Looks Up to Thee 829

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran-sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray; take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day; wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love, fear and dis -

guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way; nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; O bear me safe a - bove, a ran-somed soul!

Originally a poem of private reflection, this text was offered to the composer when he asked the author if he had written anything that could be set to music for a new hymn and tune collection. This was the first tune written for these words and has proved the most enduring.

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 Ecuador and for mission partners: Evangelical United Methodist Church of Ecuador • Ecumenical Foundation for Development, Integration, Training and Education.

Margaret Haubrich, hip surgery • Fr. Danny Lennox, family health crisis

Continuing concerns:

Debbie Prescott • Lester Hoysradt, in hospice care.

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

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).

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 25 FEBRUARY

10AM *Worship followed by fellowship & refreshments in the Parish Hall*
11:30AM Board of Religious Ed meeting
2:30PM Youth Group
3PM Annual Student Recital (Meetinghouse)
4:30PM Sunday Supper

MONDAY, 26 FEBRUARY

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

TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY

5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY

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

THURSDAY, 29 FEBRUARY

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 1 MARCH

8:45AM Men's Bible Study
12noon First Friday Music in the Meeting House



Student
Open Recital

42ND ANNIVERSARY

with

Alice Li, *Piano*
Eloise Kivitz, *Piano*

Lucca Montondeaux Peacock,
Classical Guitar
Soren Montondeux Peacock, *Piano*

*Salisbury School Classical Ensemble
Indian Mountain School Advanced Ensemble
Salisbury School Jazz Ensemble
Cornwall Consolidated School Jazz Band*

**Sunday, February 25, 2024
at 3 p.m.**

Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC
Meeting House
30 Main Street • Salisbury, CT

SUPPORTED BY THE SPECIAL MUSIC FUND OF
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALISBURY, UCC



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-Thursday