

Third Sunday in Lent

3 March 2024, 10am



HYMN SING

WELCOME

✕ **HYMN #19** “God of Great and God of Small”
(✕ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

The morning stars profess God's glory:

the waking birds harmonize a refrain of grace.

The sun warms us with God's hope; the night sky whispers peace to our sleepy souls.

Creation's voice echoes, reminding us of God's steadfast love.

Our wisdom is undone by God's absurd love and vulnerability.

God's words seed joy in our hearts: we follow them to peace and hope.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“God Welcomes All”

THEMBA AMEN

God wel - comes all, stran - gers and friends;

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

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

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 **Souper Supper** ministry, which provides a free meal each month, lovingly made in the church kitchen for neighbors in our community.*

**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

God So Loved the World

Bob Chilcott

✠ 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 God, everything we have belongs to you — we are stewards of all the things you have put into our care. We now give back a portion of your gifts. We pray your blessing on them. Let our tithes and offerings give comfort to the suffering, food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, and a reminder of your love to all the world. We ask it in Jesus’ name: Amen.

MODERN TESTIMONY

“A Gift of Pearls”

Fr. Anthony de Mello, SJ

ANCIENT TESTIMONY

John 2:13-22

New Testament, p.

SERMON

“Beyond Price”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 #307**

“God of Grace and God of Glory

BENEDICTION and **SUNG AMEN**

POSTLUDE

Scherzo from Op. 31 no. 3

Ludwig van Beethoven

God of Great and God of Small 19



1 God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
 2 God of land and sky and sea, God of life and des - ti - ny,
 3 God of si - lence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,
 4 God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,



God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things be - long,
 God of nev - er - end - ing power, yet be - side me ev - ery hour,
 God of day and dark - est night, God whose love turns wrong to right,
 God of now and days be - fore, God who reigns for - ev - er - more,

Refrain



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, praise be to your name.

Although it uses remarkably simple language, this text affirms a great mystery: beyond all our powers of explanation, God holds together all the opposites that seem to pull us in one direction or another. Yet God is present to them all and also to us; for that we give praise.

TEXT: Natalie Sleeth, 1973
 MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth, 1973; arr. Beverly A. Howard, 2012
 Text and Music © 1973 Carl Fischer, Inc.

GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL
 7.7.7.7 with refrain

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How Lovely, Lord

(Psalm 84)



1 How love - ly, Lord, how love - ly is your a - bid - ing place;
 2 In your blest courts to wor - ship, O God, a sin - gle day
 3 A sun and shield for - ev - er are you, O Lord Most High;



my soul is long - ing, faint - ing, to feast up - on your grace.
 is bet - ter than a thou - sand if I from you should stray.
 you show - er us with bless - ings; no good will you de - ny.



The spar - row finds a shel - ter, a place to build her nest;
 I'd rath - er keep the en - trance and claim you as my Lord
 The saints, your grace re - ceiv - ing, from strength to strength shall go,



and so your tem - ple calls us with - in its walls to rest.
 than rev - el in the rich - es the ways of sin af - ford.
 and from their life shall riv - ers of bless - ing o - ver - flow.

The author of this text, a Presbyterian minister and educator, was humming this tune as he began to create a paraphrase of Psalm 84 that would emphasize the beauty and peace of God's house. The tune is named for the composer's oldest sister, who was his first piano teacher.

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.



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.

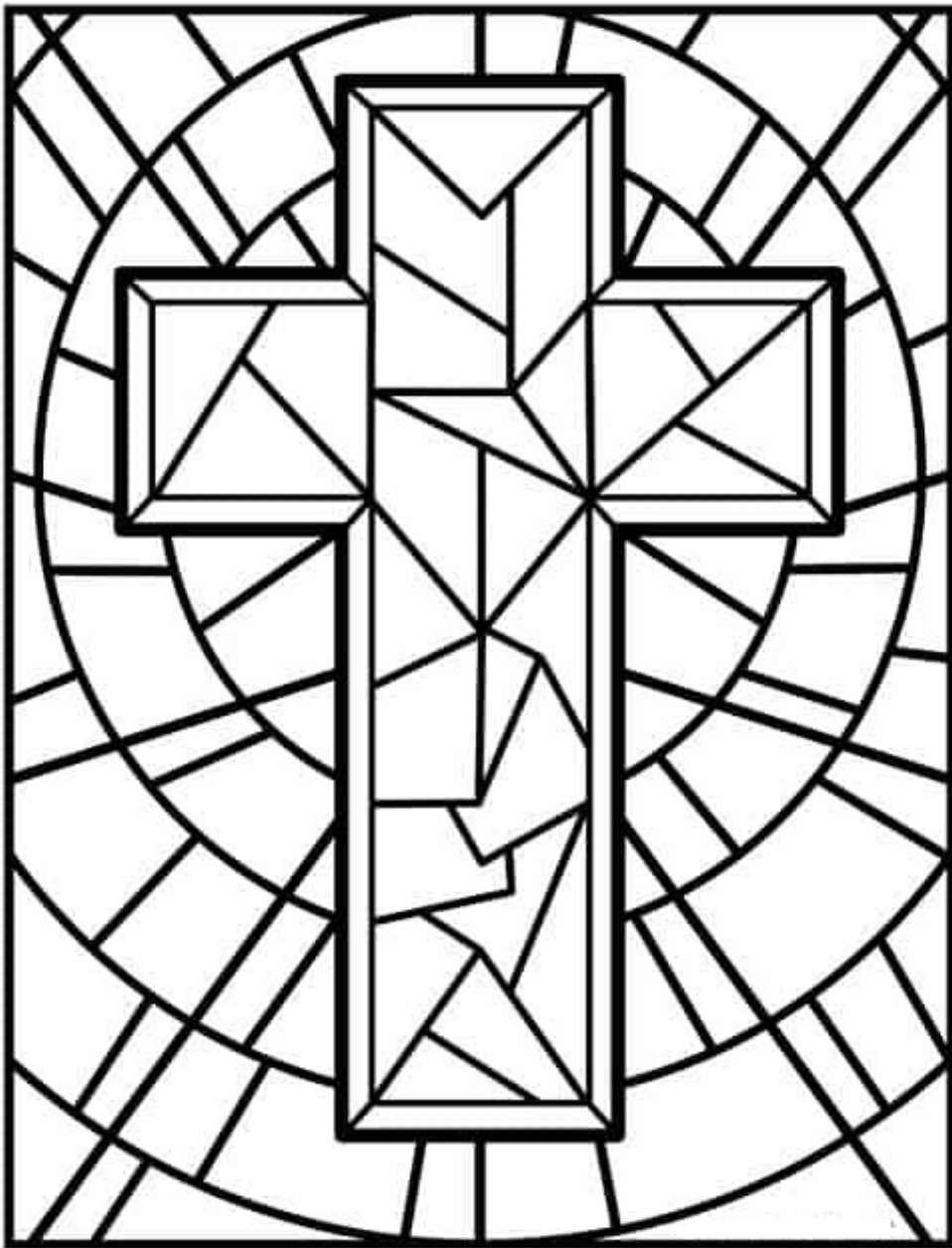
*We seek to love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds and love our neighbors as ourselves. This Church is **Open** to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment regardless of race, ancestry, class, gender identity, physical and mental ability or sexual orientation. We **Affirm**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

Reader: Dan Edmundson • *Deacons:* Theresa Carroll and Tony Good

Fellowship time hosts: Stephanie Tierney and Joe Salamone

Flowers today have been provided by Helen Ong:
in memory of my parents, Rosemary and Elliot Offner

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2023
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This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 3 MARCH

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

MONDAY, 4 FEBRUARY

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club
7PM Corner Food Pantry board meeting

TUESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY

4PM Board of Christian Action meeting
5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY

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

THURSDAY, 8 FEBRUARY

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

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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