

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Ciacona in E minor

Dietrich Buxtehude

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #625**

“How Great Thou Art”

○ STORE GUD

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In this place, the community of faith is reminded of the promise:

ALL: God’s love endures forever!

In spite of our impatient grumbling, despite our attraction to the shadows:

Christ’s light shines in us!

When we think our hands are empty, when we have no music in our souls:

**the Spirit fills us with glad songs,
and creates us for good works!**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Rooted and Grounded”



Root-ed and ground-ed in love, root-ed and ground-ed in love, here in this



place we find mer-cy and grace, root-ed and ground-ed in love.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Despite our best intentions, we tend towards impatience, irritability, and grumbling: discontent when we don't get our way. But God, who is good and kind and gentle, comes to transform us, by grace, into the people we are meant to be. Let us open ourselves to the One who overflows with love for us, as we unburden ourselves, together, before God, saying:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**The Light of the world has come, Ceaseless Creator,
but we admit we love the shadows all around us.
For there, we can boast of our achievements,
rather than point to your grace;
there, we can grumble of our unhappiness with you,
instead of singing your praises;
there, we can give in to our natural discontent,
and resist your call to be agents of peace and hope.
Forgive us, Eternal Love:
lead us from the shadows of sin into the light of your joy;
raise us up, as your children, so we may kneel in service to others;
shower us with the grace, the hope, the peace you have brought to us
through Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior.**

(We pray in silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Let the community of faith say so:

ALL: God's love endures forever!

Let those gathered in grace say so:

God's love endures forever!

Let those gathered from all parts of the world say so:

God's love endures forever!

This is the good news for us:

God's love endures forever. Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Rooted and Grounded in Love”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

ONE: O give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good;

ALL: The Holy One's unfaltering love endures forever.

Let those redeemed by the Most High say so,

**Those whom God delivered from adversity
and gathered in from the lands,**

From the east and from the west,

From the north and from the south.

Some became sick through their headstrong ways,

And because of their foolishness suffered affliction;

They loathed any kind of food,

And they drew near to the gates of death.

Then they cried out to the Holy One in their distress,

And God Most High delivered them from their troubles;

The Almighty sent forth the word and healed them,

And delivered them from destruction.

Let them thank the Holy One for this unfaltering love,

For these wondrous actions toward humankind.

And let them offer thanksgiving,

And tell of God's deeds with songs of joy.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✠ **HYMN #31**

"Let Us with a Gladsome Mind"

MONKLAND

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 **Salisbury Housing Trust** and **Salisbury Housing Committee**.*

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

God So Loved the World

John Stainer

✠ 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

Generous God, all things in our possession are your gifts, entrusted to us to meet our needs and the needs of others. We practice our own generosity here: returning a portion of your abundance, and adding this blessing, that our offering may carry your spirit of abiding grace and transforming love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Numbers 21:4-9
John 3:14-21

*Old Testament, p. 174
New Testament, p. 114*

SERMON

"Saved"

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ HYMN #366

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

HYFRYDOL

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Expecta un Pauco

Anonymous, 16th century



The Brazen Serpent Monument on Mt. Nebo, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, near the northern edge of the Dead Sea. The sculpture symbolizes the bronze serpent created by Moses in the wilderness. (Photo: Pastor John Nelson, 2007)

625

O Lord My God

How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
 2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der and hear the
 3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion and take me

all the *worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, when I look down from
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then *I shall bow in

hear the *roll-ing thun-der, thy power through-out the
 loft-y moun-tain gran-deur and hear the brook and
 bur-den glad-ly bear-ing, he bled and died to
 hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion, and there pro-claim, "My

**Author's original words are "works," "mighty," and "shall I bow."*

This tuneful retelling of the salvation story began in Swedish and was translated into German and then into Russian before reaching its English form. Despite such linguistic and musical revisions, it continues to be a meaningful source of comfort to many people.

TEXT: Stuart K. Hine, 1953; Spanish trans. Arturo W. Hotton Rives, alt.; Korean trans. anon.

HOW GREAT THOU ART

MUSIC: Swedish folk melody; adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1949

11.10.11.10 with refrain

Text and Music © 1949 and 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust (U.S.A. print rights admin. Hope Publishing Company.

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Refrain

u - ni - verse dis - played:
feel the gen - tle breeze: Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to
take a - way my sin:
God, how great thou art!"

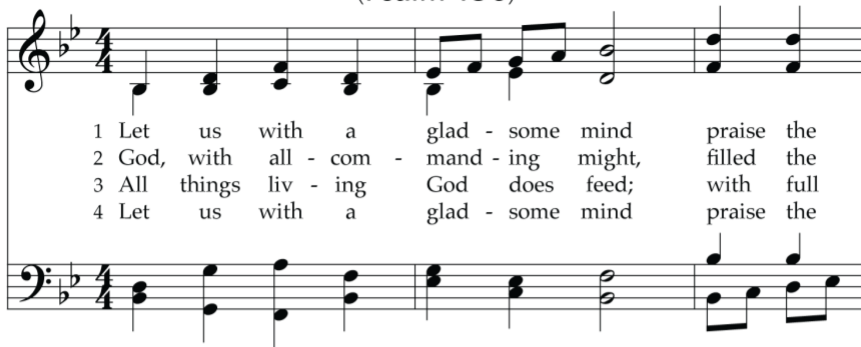
thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my

Sav - ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

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Let Us with a Gladsome Mind 31

(Psalm 136)



1 Let us with a glad - some mind praise the
2 God, with all - com - mand - ing might, filled the
3 All things liv - ing God does feed; with full
4 Let us with a glad - some mind praise the



Lord who is so kind:
new - made world with light: for God's mer - cies
mea - sure, meets their need:
Lord who is so kind:



shall en - dure, ev - er faith - ful, ev - er sure.

These few stanzas are among the least florid of the two dozen that make up the rather flamboyant paraphrase of Psalm 136 written by the fifteen-year-old who would become one of the greatest English poets. It is set here to a sprightly tune with Moravian connections.

366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means “delightful”) gives us a foretaste of endless song.



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, Janet Kaufman

Reader: Kevin Wolgemuth • Deacons: Theresa Carroll, Tony Good

Fellowship time hosts: Kathy Mera

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

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 Japan and for mission partners:
J.F. Oberlin University • Emmaus Center • Asian
Rural Institute • United Church of Christ in Japan •
Tohoku Gakuin University • National Christian
Council in Japan • Miyagi Gakuin Women's
University • Korean Christian Church in Japan •
Kobe College • Doshisha University.

Continuing concerns:

Margaret Haubrich • Fr. Danny Lennox, family
health crisis • Debbie Prescott

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**

Lester Hoysradt • Brenda Bly

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, 10 MARCH

- 10AM Worship
*followed by fellowship & refreshments
in the Parish Hall*
- 11:30AM Music Committee meeting
- 2:30PM Youth Group

MONDAY, 11 MARCH

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

TUESDAY, 12 MARCH

- 5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, 13 MARCH

- 12:30PM Staff Meeting
- 2:30PM Board of Deacons meeting
- 4PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, 14 MARCH

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

FRIDAY, 15 MARCH

- 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

30 Main Street | P.O. Box 392 | Salisbury, CT 06068 • 860-435-2442

email: welcome@salisburyucc.org • web: salisburyucc.org

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