

Fifth Sunday *in* Lent

17 March 2024, 10am



PRELUDE

WELCOME

✕ **HYMN #450** “Be Thou My Vision”
(✕ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

SLANE

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Iona Community

ONE: From the rising of the sun, to its setting in the West,

ALL: God’s holy name be praised!

In the visions of the old and the dreaming of the young,

God’s holy name be praised!

Through times of trouble and times of wonder,

God’s holy name be praised!

In the banquet hall of heaven and the forgotten corners of our hearts,

God’s holy name be praised!

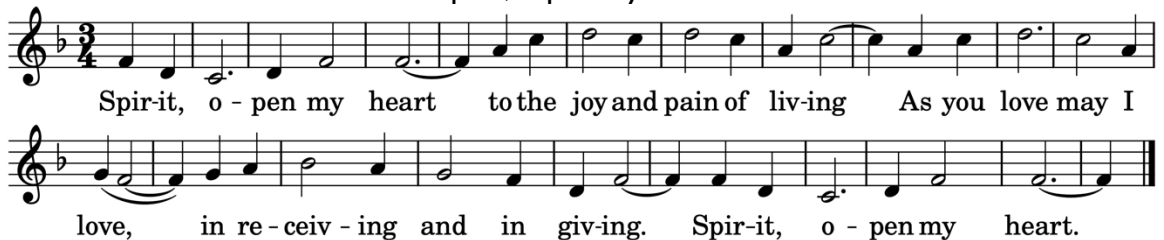
Let all that has life and breath praise the Lord:

Amen! We praise God, most gracious, most glorious: Amen!

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Spirit, Open My Heart”

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of liv-ing As you love may I
love, in re - ceiv - ing and in giv-ing. Spir-it, o - pen my heart.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

One: If we would see Jesus, we open our eyes to the ways we have not followed him as disciples. If we want God to create new hearts within us, we speak of the old ways in which we continue to live. If we seek God's mercy, we confess all that keeps us from living as God's children. Join me, as we come to the One who will forgive us.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Heart which seeks our own:

**we yearn for your presence in our lives,
yet turn away from you time and again.**

**We want to serve others,
but become obsessed with our own desires.**

**We need your Word to fill our emptiness,
yet allow it to be silenced by the noise of our world.**

**In this silence, and in the depths of our hidden souls,
come to us and make us whole, Steadfast Love.**

**Write grace upon our hearts,
so we might be more forgiving people;
write mercy on our hearts,
so we might become more welcoming people;
write hospitality upon our hearts
so we might become more like Jesus Christ,
our Teacher and Savior, who came for all people, even us.**

(We pray in silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

A new heart, a generous spirit, a fresh start: these are the gifts our God gives to us.

**Through Christ, we are forgiven;
through Christ, we are healed;
through Christ, we become new people.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Spirit, Open My Heart”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 119:9-16

ONE: How can young people keep their way open to the Most High?

ALL: By living it according to Your word.

With my whole heart I seek You;

Do not let me stray from Your direction.

I treasure Your promises in my heart,

So that I may not lose my way to You.

Holy are You, O God Almighty;

Teach me Your way.

With my lips I declare all that comes from Your mouth.

I delight in Your guidance as much as in all riches.

I will meditate on Your teachings,

And fix my eyes on Your path.

I will delight in Your instruction;

I will not forget Your word.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✠ **HYMN #6**

"I Bind unto Myself Today"

ST. PATRICK

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 **Fonkoze**: a family of organizations that work together to provide the financial and non-financial services to empower Haitians—primarily women—to lift their families out of poverty.*

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

Et in Terra Pax

Antonio Vivaldi

Et in terra pax hominibus;

And on earth peace to all people;

Bonae, bonae voluntatis,
pax hominibus.

*Good, Goodwill,
peace to all people,*

✘ 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, as you write upon our hearts, soften them with your compassion. As you soften them, open us to the needs of neighbors, near and far. As you open us to the hurts and heartaches of your children, give us the grace to be as generous with our gifts as you are in blessing us. Take these gifts and use them to share peace, love, grace, and joy with your people. In Jesus' name, we pray: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 31:31-34
John 12:20-33

*Old Testament, p. 899
New Testament, p. 130*

SERMON

“From Seeing to Being”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ HYMN #543

“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

GREEN TYLER

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE

A Gaelic Blessing

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

Prelude on “Londonderry Air”

Noel Rathshorne

450

Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) E^b (G) A^b (D/F#) E^b/G (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) B^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (A) B^b



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) A^b (D) E^b (F#m7) Gm7 (G) A^b (A) B^b



thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) Cm (D/F#) E^b/G (G) A^b (D) E^b



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

6 I Bind unto Myself Today

Capo 3: (Em) (G) (Em) (Bm) (D)
 Gm B^b Gm Dm F

1 I bind un - to my - self to - day the strong name

(Bm) (Em) (Bm) (C) (G)
 Dm Gm Dm E^b B^b

of the Trin - i - ty by in - vo - ca - tion

(Em) (C) (Em) (C) (D) (Am) (Em)
 Gm E^b Gm E^b F Cm Gm

of the same, the Three in One and One in Three.

(Em) (G) (Em) (Bm) (D)
 Gm B^b Gm Dm F

2 I bind this day to me for - ev - er, by power of
 3 I bind un - to my - self to - day the vir - tues
 4 I bind un - to my - self to - day the power of

(Bm) (Em) (Bm) (C) (G)
 Dm Gm Dm E^b B^b

faith, Christ's in - car - na - tion, his bap - tism in the
 of the star - lit heav - en, the glo - rious sun's life -
 God to hold and lead, God's eye to watch, God's

(Em) (C) (Em) (C) (D) (Am)
 Gm E^b Gm E^b F Cm

Jor - dan riv - er, his death on cross for my sal -
 giv - ing ray, the white - ness of the moon at
 might to stay, God's ear to heark - en to my

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This great Trinitarian text belongs to a Celtic style of hymn known as a *lorica*, from the Latin word for "armor" or "breastplate." In effect, it serves as both a statement of faith and a prayer for God's protection. The two tunes are named for an Irish saint and an Irish heroine.

(Em) (G) (Am) (E7)(Am) (E) (Am)
 Gm B^b Cm G7 Cm G Cm

va - tion, his burst - ing from the spic - ed tomb, his rid - ing
 e - ven, the flash - ing of the light - ning free, the whirl - ing
 need, the wis - dom of my God to teach, God's hand to

(D) (Em) (B) (C) (G)
 F Gm D E^b B^b

up the heaven - ly way, his com - ing at the
 wind's tem - pes - tuous shocks, the sta - ble earth, the
 guide, God's shield to ward, the word of God to

(Em) (C) (Em) (C) (D) (Am) (Em)
 Gm E^b Gm E^b F Cm Gm

day of doom, I bind un - to my - self to - day.
 deep salt sea a - round the old e - ter - nal rocks.
 give me speech, God's heaven - ly host to be my guard.

(E) (B) (A) (C^{#m}) (A) (E) (F^{#m}) (B7)
 G D C Em C G Am D7

5 Christ be with me, Christ with-in me, Christ be-hind me, Christ be-fore me,
 Christ be-neath me, Christ a -bove me, Christ in qui - et, Christ in dan-ger,

(E) (A)(C^{#m})(B) (F^{#m}) (A) E (C^{#m}) (A) (B7) (E)
 G C Em D Am C G Em C D7 G

Christ be-side me, Christ to win me, Christ to com - fort and re - store me.
 Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and strang-er.

continued

(Em) (G) (Em) (Bm) (D)
 Gm B^b Gm Dm F
 6 I bind un - to my - self the name, the strong name
 (Bm) (Em) (Bm) (C) (G)
 Dm Gm Dm E^b B^b
 of the Trin - i - ty by in - vo - ca - tion
 (Em) (C) (Em) (C) (D) (Am) (Em)
 Gm E^b Gm E^b F Cm Gm
 of the same, the Three in One and One in Three, of
 (G) (Am) (E7) (Am) (E) (Am) (D)
 B^b Cm G7 Cm G Cm F
 whom all na - ture has cre - a - tion, e - ter - nal Fa - ther,
 (Em) (B) (C) (G) (Em)
 Gm D E^b B^b Gm
 Spir - it, Word. Praise to the Lord of my sal -
 (C) (Em) (C) (D) (Am) (Em)
 E^b Gm E^b F Cm Gm
 va - tion; sal - va - tion is of Christ the Lord!

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

543

O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.



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: Deborah Moore, Joanne Taber

Reader: Toni Ramcharran

Deacons: Theresa Carroll, Tony Good

Fellowship host: Karin Noyes

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 Myanmar and for mission
partners: the Association for Theological Education
in Myanmar • Myanmar Council of Churches..

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

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!

Holy Week

Sunday, 24 March

Palm-Passion Sunday

10am Worship

Maundy Thursday, 28 March

Communion & Tenebrae

7pm Worship

Good Friday, 29 March

Ecumenical Worship

7pm Trinity Episcopal Church, Lime Rock

Sunday, 31 March

Resurrection Day!

*6:30am Ecumenical Sunrise Service
Town Grove, Lakeville*

9:45am Hand Bell Choir Prelude

10:00am Easter Worship



SalisburyUCC.org

Meeting in Grace • Transformed by Love • Serving with Joy

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 17 MARCH

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

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

MONDAY, 18 MARCH

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

TUESDAY, 19 MARCH

5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH

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

THURSDAY, 21 MARCH

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 22 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