



The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Meeting in Grace • Transformed by Love • Serving with Joy*



*Easter Sunday* • 31 March 2024 • 9:45AM

**HAND BELL CHOIR PRELUDE**

“Hail Thee, Festival Day” *arr. Wagner*  
“Easter Rondo” *arr. Helman*  
“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” *arr. Helman*  
“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today: Prelude on Llanfair”  
*Williams, arr. Dobriski*

**OPENING ANTHEM**

*Domine Fili Unigenite*

Antonio Vivaldi

**WELCOME**

✘ **HYMN** (p. 2)

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”  
verses 1, 2, 3

EASTER HYMN

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day,  
 2. Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done,  
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led,

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say:  
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,  
 Fol - lowing our ex - al - ted Head,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,  
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise,  
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise,

Sing, glad heavens, and earth, re - ply:  
 Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God has o - pened pa - ra - dise,  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: This is the day:

**ALL: when tears are wiped away; shattered hearts are mended;  
fears are replaced with joy.**

This is the day that God:

**rolls away the stone of fear; throws off death's clothes;  
goes ahead of us into God's future.**

This is the day that God has made:

**death has no fear for us; sin has lost its power over us;  
God opens the tombs of our hearts to fill us with life.**

This is the day: Easter Day!

**Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!**

## RESPONSE IN SONG

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”  
verse 4

EASTER HYMN

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

ONE: Very early in the morning, God created all that is good and beautiful. Very early in the morning, a mother placed her newborn in a manger. Very early in the morning, the heavenly messenger shared good news with frightened friends, that Jesus was risen and alive in our midst. Let us confess the fears and the amazement we bring this morning:

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**On this morning of hallelujahs,  
we confess how human we are, Emptier of tombs.  
We haven't done any great evil,  
but we have missed opportunities to do good.  
We have not intentionally hurt anyone,  
but we haven't finished lifting the burden of poverty from  
our neighbors.  
We accept the witness of the angel in the tomb,  
but find it difficult to share this good news with our friends.  
Bring us new life and fresh resolve, Dazzling God:**

**Where we are tired and stressed,  
give us the energy to serve your creation;  
transform our hardened hearts into fountains of grace;  
forgive us the damage we have done, and fill us with the joy of your  
Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, risen to new life and undying love,  
we pray.**

*(Silence is kept.)*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

ONE: God, our Creator, gives us new life;  
Christ, our Redeemer, prepares a Table for us;  
Holy Spirit, our Joy, calls us to service.  
This is the good news: the tomb is empty, sin  
is powerless, death is defeated forever.

**ALL: On this very first day, and every day, we walk  
as God's people, forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### **RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24**

ONE: God Most High is my strength and my song;

**ALL: The Holy One has become my deliverance.**

Glad songs of triumph resound in the tents of the faithful,

"The right hand of the Almighty does valiant deeds;

**The right hand of the Holy One is exalted;**

The right hand of the Holy One does valiant deeds."

**I shall not die,**

**But I shall live, and recount the deeds of the God of Deliverance.**

The Almighty has taught me rigorously,

**But has not given me over to death.**

Open to me the gates of good will,

**That I may enter through them and give thanks to God the Almighty.**

This is the gate of the Holy One;

Those who walk in God's ways shall enter through it.

**I thank You that You have answered me  
and have become my salvation.**

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

**This is the Holy One's doing;**

**It is marvelous in our eyes.**

This is the day that the Holy One has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

## **A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS**

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

*Hymnal, p. 35*

⌘ **HYMN #236**

“The Strife Is O’er”

VICTORY

*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 **Housatonic Youth Service Bureau**, and its mission to strengthen the emotional health of youth and families in the Northwest Corner Community*

ONE: Generous and startling God, when we thought that death had claimed your Son, and our hope, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again, we pray, with your ability to turn these humble offerings into gifts that will transform the world through our witness to your love. We lay our very lives at your feet, Holy One, that you may use us to proclaim and embody the gospel.

**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.*

**ANTHEM**

Hallelujah Chorus, from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel

⌘ **DOXOLOGY**

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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**

**Astonishing God, very early in our lives you crept in to anoint us with your overflowing abundance. We offer our gifts in thanksgiving so they may be used to serve all whose mornings bring heartache, whose nights wrap their souls with fears and worries. May the wonder and joy of resurrection life raise every spirit! In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Isaiah 25:6-9

*Old Testament, p. 798*

Mark 16:1-8

*New Testament, p. 66*

**SERMON**

“Go and See!”

Pastor John A. Nelson

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CLOSING WORDS**

ONE: Jesus, resurrected,  
has met us again on the far side of death  
and touched and transformed us with the fullness of life: Alleluia!

**MANY: Alleluia! With joy we embrace it!**

Jesus, Love's Own Self,  
has called us into the power, the potential,  
and the vibrant possibilities of God's realm of grace: Alleluia!

**With conviction we will live it! Alleluia!**

✘ **HYMN #238**

“Thine Is the Glory”

JUDAS MACCABEUS

**BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

*Toccata*

Charles-Marie Widor

(from Symphony for Organ No. 5)

# The Strife Is O'er

236

*Refrain (before stanza 1 and after stanza 4)*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; the vic - to -  
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their  
 3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped; Christ ris - es  
 4 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph  
 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shouts of ho - ly  
 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our  
 sting thy ser - vants free, that we may live, and

has be - gun.  
 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ris - en Head!  
 sing to thee:

The Latin text from which this hymn has been translated may well be older than its earliest printing in a 17th-century collection published in Cologne. It is set to an adaptation of a portion of the Gloria Patri section from a 16th-century choral version of the Magnificat.

## 238

## Thine Is the Glory

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering Son; end - less is  
 2 Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is naught

the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 he greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad - ness  
 with - out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than con - querors

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

*Refrain*

where thy bod - y lay.  
 death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering  
 to thy home a - bove.

This Easter text, first in French and later in English, was written to fit the music, a chorus created for Handel's oratorio *Joshua* and moved to *Judas Maccabeus* in 1751. It grew widely popular following its use at the First Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1948.



JESUS CHRIST: RESURRECTION

Son; end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.



## Today's Worship Leaders

*Ushers:* Sharon Tingley, Joanne Taber, Allison Gray, Kevin Wolgemuth, Janet Kaufman

*Reader:* Tony Good • *Deacon:* Theresa Carroll and Tony Good

*Fellowship time hosts:* Emily Elliot and Karin Noyes

Steve Hoagland, *baritone* • Gabe Larsen, *trumpet*

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2024 ([lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://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



*Please Recycle this Bulletin!*





## 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).**



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