

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Kleine Prelude and Fugue in C major

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

✠ HYMN #234

“Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”
verses 2, 3, 4

QUEBEC

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: When fear and doubts stroll through our doors:

ALL: God stands beside us, whispering of peace.

When we toss and turn late at night:

God sits by our beds, singing lullabies of love.

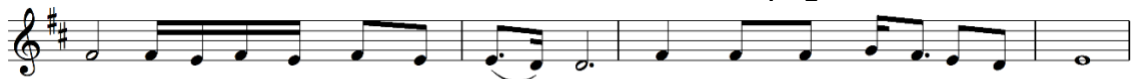
When we stumble through the shadows of sin:

God illuminates the paths of goodness and joy.

SUNG RESPONSE

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Ken Medema



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place:



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

If our actions mirrored our words, if our hands were mentored by our hearts, if we walked the talk — we would be God’s children. But too often, it is our silence, our doubts, our fears which tell others who we truly are. Let us confess to God how we have not been as faithful as we hope, as we pray, saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

God of empty tombs: Peter speaks with power and clarity of his faith, while we remain silent. The psalmist speaks of trusting in you, while our doubts overwhelm us. Jesus is ready to come and grace us with peace, but our fears keep our hearts shuttered and locked.

God of full hearts: your love can change us from scared people to children of grace. You can weed doubts from our hearts and plant seeds of joy in their place. You can silence the panic of our souls with the peace Jesus offers to each of us. Transform us into Easter people, through the power of Jesus Christ, our risen Teacher and Savior.

(We pray in silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: What marvelous love, what wondrous grace, what abundant mercy God offers — to us! We really are God’s people; that is exactly who we are!

ALL: We are God’s children: those whose lives have been changed by the One who loves us and forgives us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 4

ONE: Happy are those who consider the poor;
The Holy One delivers them in the day of trouble.

**ALL: The Author of Life protects them and keeps them alive;
They are called happy in the land.**

You do not surrender them to the desires of their enemies.

**The Almighty sustains them on their sickbed,
Transforming their bed of suffering.**

As for me, I said, "O Holy One, be gracious to me;
Restore me, for I have strayed from You."

My enemies asked in malice when I would die,

And my name pass from memory.

And when they came to see me,

They uttered empty words,

While their minds amassed tales;

When they went out, they defamed me.

All who hated me whispered together about me;

They assumed the worst for me.

They speculated that a deadly thing had fastened on me,

That I would not rise again from where I lay.

Even my closest friend

in whom I trusted,

who ate of my bread,

Turned against me.

But You, O Redeemer, had compassion on me,

And raised me up, that my life might refute their claims.

I know that You bless me,

Because the ill-will of my enemy has not triumphed over me.

You uphold me because I put my trust in You,

And let me live in Your presence forever.

Blessed be the Holy One, the God of the faithful,

from everlasting to everlasting.

Amen and Amen.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

⊗ **HYMN** (*insert*)

"Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers"

HOLY MANNA

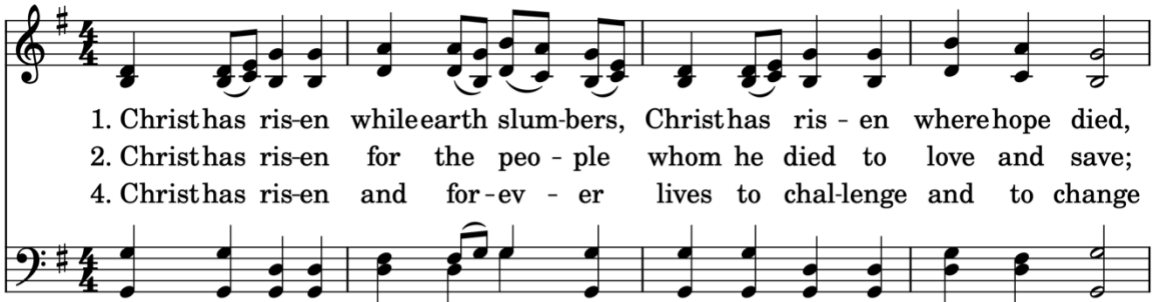
All attending Sunday School may leave as we sing the hymn.

OFFERTORY

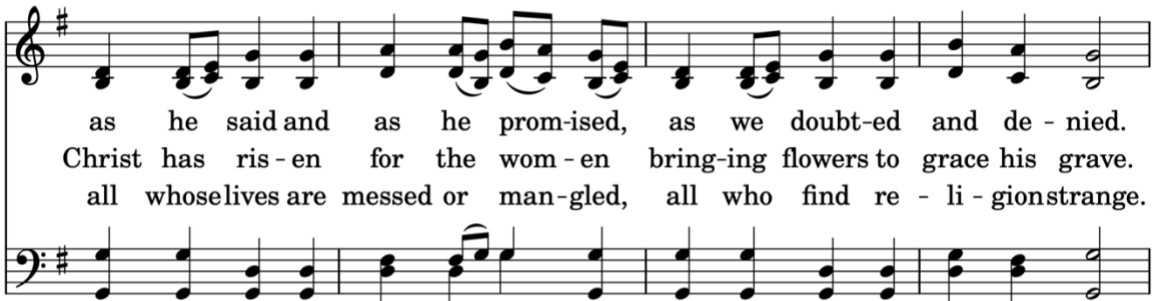
THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

*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 **Hispaniola Health Partners**.*

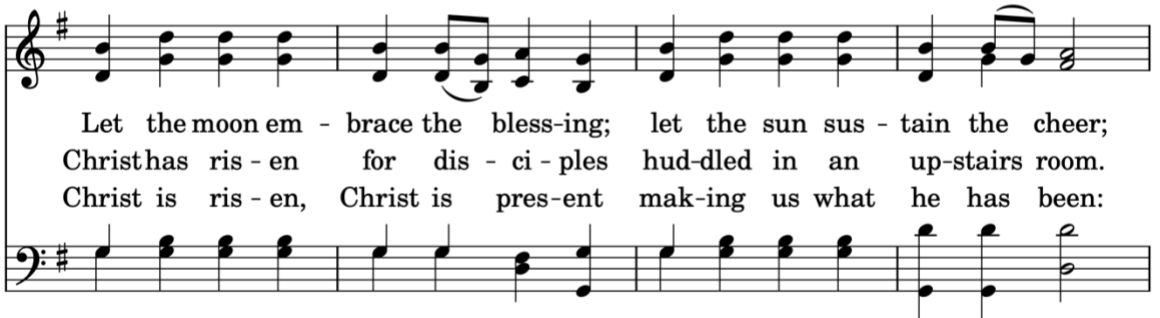
Christ Has Risen



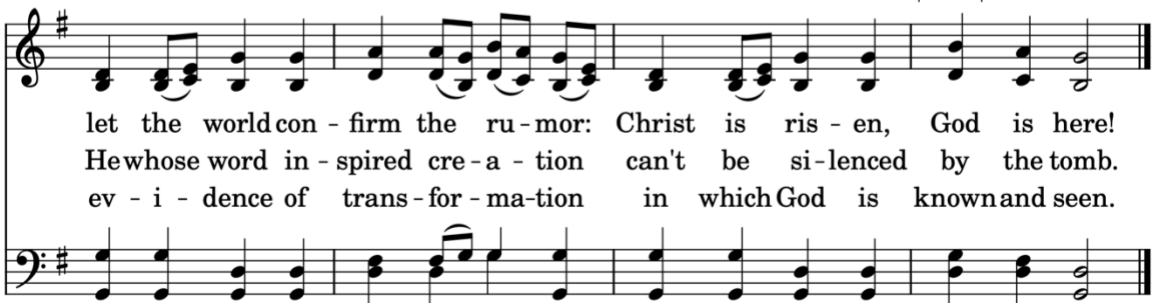
1. Christ has ris-en while earth slum-bers, Christ has ris - en where hope died,
2. Christ has ris-en for the peo - ple whom he died to love and save;
4. Christ has ris-en and for-ev - er lives to chal-lenge and to change



as he said and as he prom-ised, as we doubt-ed and de - nied.
Christ has ris-en for the wom-en bring-ing flowers to grace his grave.
all whose lives are mess-ed or man-gled, all who find re - li - gion strange.



Let the moon em - brace the bless-ing; let the sun sus - tain the cheer;
Christ has ris - en for dis - ci - ples hud-dled in an up-stairs room.
Christ is ris - en, Christ is pres-ent mak-ing us what he has been:



let the world con - firm the ru-mor: Christ is ris - en, God is here!
He whose word in - spired cre-a - tion can't be si-lenced by the tomb.
ev - i - dence of trans - for - ma-tion in which God is known and seen.

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

“Gloria in excelsis Deo”

A. Vivaldi

✠ **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 and gracious God, you have given us all that we call our own. We are returning a portion of that abundance, and now pray your blessing upon the giving, that what you send through us might make a difference in the lives of your children, our kindred, around this world. Amen!

MODERN TESTIMONY

Brenda Ueland

ANCIENT TESTIMONY

Acts 3:12-19

New Testament, p. 146

SERMON

“Keeping It Real”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ **HYMN #251**

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia
verses 1, 4, 5

MFURAHINI, HALELUYA

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Festive Trumpet Tune

David German

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain 234

2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,

and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.
 with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor - tal:

All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
 but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing

from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel - comes in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
 your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.

One of the many ancient hymns translated into English in the 19th century, this 8th-century Eastertide hymn was originally part of a longer Greek liturgical text. This tune was created for this text by a church organist who later rose to fame as a composer of operettas.

TEXT: John of Damascus, 8th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1859, alt.
 MUSIC: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1872, alt.

ST. KEVIN
 7.6.7.6.D

251 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia. Re - joice and
 2 For three long days the grave did its worst un - til its
 3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear. You look for
 4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave. He has a -
 5 Christ has a - ris - en to set us free. Al - le - lu -

praise him, al - le - lu - ia. For our re - deem - er
 strength by God was dis - persed. He who gives life did
 Je - sus who is not here. See for your - selves the
 ris - en this world to save. Je - sus' re - deem - ing
 ia, to him prais - es be. Je - sus is liv - ing!

burst from the tomb, e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
 death un - der - go, and in its con - quest his might did show.
 tomb is all bare. On - ly the grave clothes are ly - ing there."
 la - bors are done. E - ven the bat - tle with sin is won."
 Let us all sing; he reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.

The good news of the Resurrection is retold in this lively hymn from Tanzania, blending 20th-century words with a traditional melody. In African call-and-response practice, the stanzas would ordinarily be sung by a soloist or small group and the refrain by the whole congregation.



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: Sharon Tingley, Kevin Wolgemuth

Reader: Emily Elliot • *Deacons:* Theresa Carroll & Janet Kaufman

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2024 (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

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 14 APRIL

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

2:30PM Youth Group
3pm “Glory”: Church Spring
Concert

MONDAY, 15 APRIL

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

TUESDAY, 16 APRIL

5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL

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

THURSDAY, 18 APRIL

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 19 APRIL

8:45AM Men’s Bible Study

Call to Meeting

The 279th Annual Meeting, Part II, of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ, will be held following the 10am worship service on Sunday, 28 April 2024, for the purpose of:

1. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 279th Annual Meeting, Part I, of 29 October 2023
2. Presentation of Reports from Boards and Committees
3. The Election of Officers, Boards, and Committees
4. Any other business that needs to come before the congregation.

All Covenant Partners of the Church are requested to attend and vote. All friends of the church are encouraged to attend and participate.



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