

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## REFLECTING AS WE GATHER

We have become, by the power of a glorious evolutionary accident called intelligence, the stewards of life's continuity on earth. We did not ask for this role, but we cannot abjure it. We may not be suited to it, but here we are.

— *Stephen Jay Gould*

The Holy Land is everywhere.

— *Black Elk*

## We Gather as the Church

### PRELUDE

*Prelude and Fugue in G major*

J.S. Bach

### WELCOME

#### ⌘ HYMN #23

“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

PLEADING SAVIOR

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life, in the name of Christ, the pulse of life, and in the name of the Spirit, the breath of life. Amen.

**All: Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.**

We gather in the presence of our God:

**ALL: where those bearing grief, and those with seeking solace,  
and those with skinned knees have our tears wiped away.**

We gather as God's children:

**to worship the One who provides our deep needs,  
even before we know them.**

We gather, summoned by grace,

**to taste the goodness of God, to drink deeply from God's mercy.**

## **RESPONSE IN SONG**

“Creation Introit”

NIC/AE

## **CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

Knowing how easy it is to wander from the paths of right living; aware of the shadowed valleys we wander; remembering how we have failed to place our trust in God — how can we not come to God with our confessions?

## **UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**Comfort of your people: we confess the emptiness of our souls that sends us searching for all those things which cannot nourish us. Our restless longing for the goods of the world fills us with every envy and thirst. Our belief that still waters are stagnant causes us to long for whitewater thrills and adventures. Our trust in the hollow promises of our culture turns us away from the shelter you offer to us.**

**Forgive us, Goodness Incarnate. Call us back from our wayward lives,  
so we may find rest in the stillness of your gentle heart;  
we may find healing from your scarred hands;  
we may find that life for which we yearn,  
together in you and through Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior.**

*(We pray in silence)*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

This is the good news: God will walk with us in every moment,

God will fill us with goodness and mercy, God will bring us home to live forever.

**Anointed with grace and forgiveness, our lives overflow with love for all. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## Holy, Holy, Holy! Creator God Almighty

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Cre - a - tor God Al - migh - ty! Swirl of stars and reach of space are full of life from Thee. Earth and air and all that breathes: each re - veals Thy glo - ry. Christ through-out cre - a - tion: praise and ho - nor be!' The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

TEXT: J.A. Nelson, 2023  
MUSIC: John B. Dykes, 1861

NICÆA  
11 12 12 10

### RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 23

ONE: God is my shepherd: I have everything I need.

**ALL: The Most High makes me lie down in green pastures;  
leads me to water in places of repose;**

God refreshes my soul.

**God guides me on the paths of righteousness,  
as befits the Holy name.**

Though I walk through the valley of deepest gloom,  
or stand in the shadow of death,

**I am not afraid, for you are with me.**

Your rod, Your staff — they comfort me.

**You spread a full table before me, even in the midst of fearful pain;**

You feast me with your abundance  
and honor me as Your chosen one,

**Anointing my head with sweet oil, filling my cup to the brim.**

Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life,

**And I will live in God's radiance forever and ever.**

## A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

*Hymnal, p. 35*

✕ **HYMN** (*insert*)

“And Did Those Feet in Ancient Time”

JERUSALEM

*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” in the memo line) will be given to an organization doing work that complements our church’s mission. This week, we share our gifts with **350.org**, working locally and globally for a safe climate and a renewable energy future.*

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

*Deep Peace*

Bill Douglas

*Deep peace of the running wave to you  
Deep peace of the floating air to you  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you*

*Deep peace of the gentle night to you  
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you  
Deep peace to you.*

# And Did Those Feet in Ancient Time

William Blake (1757–1827), *adapt.*

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)



And did those feet in an-cient time Walk up-on these, our mount-ains green?



And was the Ho - ly Lamb of God On Litch-field's plea-sant pas - tures seen?



And did the coun - te-nance di-vine Shine forth up - on our cloud-ed hills?



And was Je - ru - sa-lem build-ed here A-mong these dark sa-tan - ic mills?



Bring me my bow of burn-ing gold! Bring me my ar-rows of de - sire!



Bring me my spear! O clouds, un - fold! Bring me my char - i-ot of fire!



I will not cease from men-tal fight, Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,



'Til we have built Je-ru - sa-lem In this, our green and plea-sant land.

✘ **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**

**God, we make offerings in your name that they may be a part of your creative, generous, liberating rule in our world. With them we offer our intentions and actions, today and in the days ahead, that by your grace we may be part of your answer to the hopes and needs of all that lives in earth, sea, and sky: Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Acts 4:5-12  
Genesis 1:1-5, 24-31

*New Testament, p. 147*  
*Old Testament, p. 1-2*

**SERMON**

“First of All ...”

Pastor John A. Nelson

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

✘ **HYMN #32**

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

ELLACOMBE

**BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

*Agincourt*

David Hicken

# God, You Spin the Whirling Planets 23

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D) (G)  
 E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

1 God, you spin the whirl-ing plan - ets, fill the seas and  
 2 You have called us to be faith - ful in our life and  
 3 God, your word is still cre - at - ing, call - ing us to

(D) (A) (D) (Bm) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D)  
 E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> Cm A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

spread the plain, mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, call forth  
 min - is - try. We re - spond in grate-ful wor-ship joined in  
 life made new. Now re - veal to us fresh vis - tas where there's

(G) (D) (A) (D) (G) (D) (A)  
 A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>

sun - shine, wind, and rain. We, cre - at - ed in your im - age,  
 one com - mu - ni - ty. When we blur your gra - cious im - age,  
 work to dare and do. Keep us clear of all dis - tor - tion.

(D) (Bm)(F#m) (G)(A) (D) (G)  
 E<sup>b</sup> Cm Gm A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

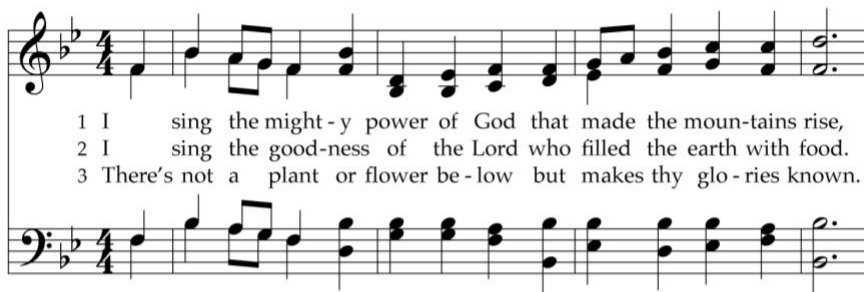
would a true re - flec - tion be of your jus - tice,  
 fo - cus us and make us whole. Healed and strength - ened  
 Pol - ish us with lov - ing care. Thus, new crea - tures

(D) (G) (A) (D) (G) (Em) (D) (A) (D)  
 E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> Fm E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

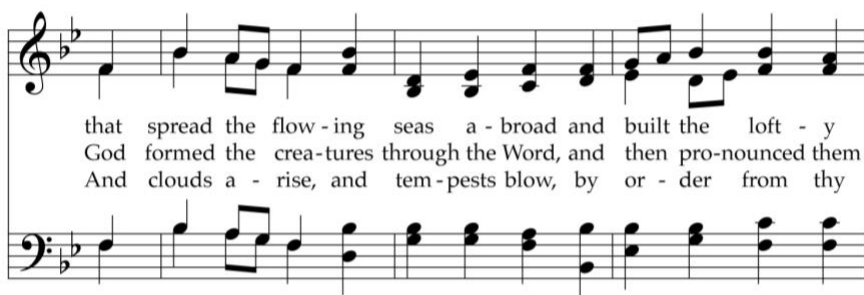
grace, and mer - cy and the truth that makes us free.  
 as your peo - ple, we move on - ward toward your goal.  
 in your im - age, we'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery - where.

This text was written for the 1979 National Meeting of United Presbyterian Women, whose theme, "In the Image of God," is variously considered here as reflection, focus, distortion, and polishing for clarity. The words are well set to an anonymous 19th-century American tune.

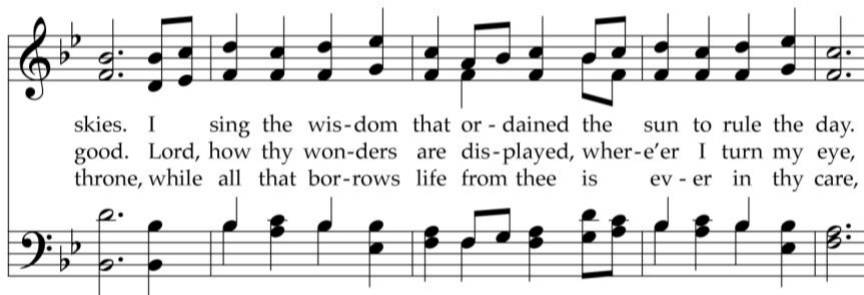
# 32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God



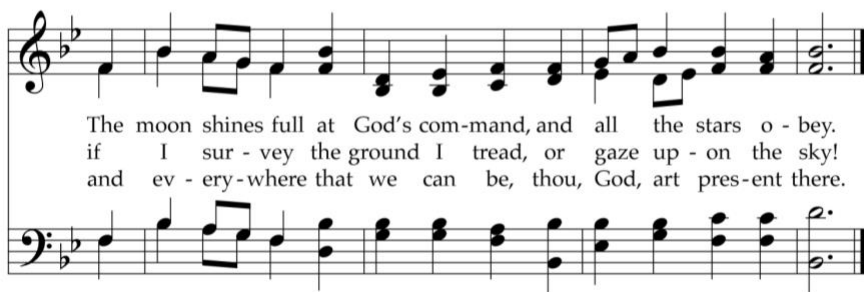
1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,  
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.  
3 There's not a plant or flower be-low but makes thy glo-ries known.



that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad and built the loft-y  
God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them  
And clouds a-rise, and tem-pests blow, by or-der from thy



skies. I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day.  
good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,  
throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev-er in thy care,



The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o-bey.  
if I sur-vey the ground I tread, or gaze up-on the sky!  
and ev-ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

With minimal revision this text brings together six of the eight four-line stanzas in an 18th-century hymn written for children and originally headed "Praise for Creation and Providence." The anonymous German tune provides a fitting sense of breadth and wonder.





## 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!*

**Kindly set phones to silent (unless you're expecting a call from Jesus).**

## 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

## Call to Meeting

The 279<sup>th</sup> 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 279<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Today's Worship Leaders

*Ushers:* Allison Gray, Joanne Taber

*Reader:* Don Mayland • *Deacon:* Janet Kaufman and Theresa Carroll

Psalm adapted from *The Psalms in Worship*, Mary Susan Gast, © 2002; used by permission.

## This Week at Salisbury UCC

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### SUNDAY, 21 APRIL

- 10AM Worship  
*followed by fellowship & refreshments  
in the Parish Hall*
- 11:30AM Board of Trustees  
11:30AM Fall Festival planning

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### MONDAY, 22 APRIL

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

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### TUESDAY, 23 APRIL

- 5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal  
7PM Board of Religious Education  
(Zoom)

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### WEDNESDAY, 24 APRIL

- 8A-2P Souper Suppers prep  
11AM Chapel worship @ Noble Horizons  
12:30PM Staff Meeting  
4PM Women's Bible Study

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### THURSDAY, 25 APRIL

- 5:30PM Project SAGE BOD meeting

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### FRIDAY, 26 APRIL

- 8:45AM Men's Bible Study  
Souper Suppers distribution



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