

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



HYMN SING

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #645** “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”
(✘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

MIT FREUDEN ZART

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Here in this place of worship, with the congregation of the faithful,

ALL: we lay down our fears, to boldly sing God’s praise.

Here in the vineyard of God, with our sisters and brothers in Christ,

**grandparents tell stories of faith
to little ones sitting on their laps.**

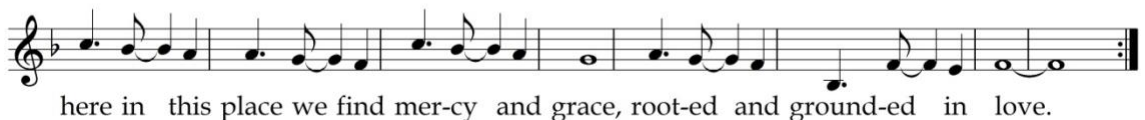
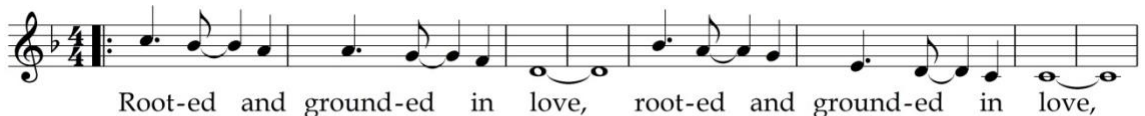
Here where God’s own self waits to serve us,

**we shall be so filled with love
that we will run to serve others.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Rooted and Grounded in Love”

Barbara Hamm



CALL TO RECONCILIATION

The seeds of grace, hope, joy, and love are planted deep with us, so they can bear fruit in our lives. But we resist staying connected to the Vine, thinking we can flourish on our own. Let us confess our sins, so we can once more feel God abiding deep within us. Please join me as we pray, saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**O God, Compassion Incarnate: called to be one body,
we fragment ourselves into a million selfish pieces.
Made as your children of love,
we insist on the right to judge our sisters and brothers.
Though your Perfect Love was broken for us,
we are afraid to give of ourselves to the world.
Abide in us, we pray.
Forgive us of our sins, so we may live boldly, love fearlessly,
and proclaim unceasingly that Jesus Christ is our Teacher and Savior.**

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Do you feel it – there, deep down in your hearts? God’s love is alive, beating, breathing – in you!

Because God abides in us, we can live for others, allowing God’s love to bear fruit in us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Rooted and Grounded in Love”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

ONE: Hallelujah!

ALL: How good it is to sing honor to our God;
For the Holy One is gracious,
And a song of acclaim is fitting.
The Most High rebuilds the holy city;
And gathers up the outcasts.
The Almighty heals the brokenhearted,
And binds up their wounds.

The Holy One determines the number of the stars;

And gives to each its name.

Great is our Creator, and abundant in power;

God's wisdom is beyond measure.

The Holy One lifts up the downtrodden;

And brings the oppressors down to the dust.

Sing to the Most High with thanksgiving;

Make melody on the lyre to honor our God,

Who covers the heavens with clouds,

Prepares rain for the earth,

Makes grass grow on the hills.

Who provides food for the beasts of the field,

And for the raven's brood when they cry.

The Author of Life does not prize the strength of the horse,

Nor value the speed of the runner;

But the Holy One delights in those who trust in God,

In those who put their hope in God's unfailing love.

Hallelujah!

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✘ **HYMN #104**

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?”

ST. THEODULPH

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 **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**.*

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

Ubi Caritas

Ola Gjeilo

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.

*Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Christ.
Let us tremble with awe, and let us love the
living God.*

Et ex corde diligamus nos sincere.
Amen.

*And love each other with a sincere heart.
Amen.*

✘ 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

**From you, God, comes every gift we need, every blessing we have.
May we not hoard them for ourselves, but offer them back to you, that
the poor might be fed, the lonely befriended, and the despairing be
filled with hope. This we ask in Jesus' name: Amen.**

MODERN TESTIMONY

“The Day Will Come ...”

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

ANCIENT TESTIMONY

I John 4:7-21

New Testament, p. 292

SERMON

“All You Need Is ... All There Is”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ HYMN #309

“Come, Great God of All the Ages”

ABBOT'S LEIGH

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Allegro Maestoso

Felix Mendelssohn

645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
 4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

The regal divine imagery here will not be new to most singers, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.


mur - mur stilled:
all is right:
cho - sen band: to God all praise and glo - ry!
take your part:

The image shows a musical score for a choir band. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written between the two staves. The lyrics are: "mur - mur stilled:", "all is right:", "cho - sen band: to God all praise and glo - ry!", and "take your part:". The music is written in a simple, clear style, with notes and rests clearly visible. The lyrics are aligned with the notes in the treble staff.

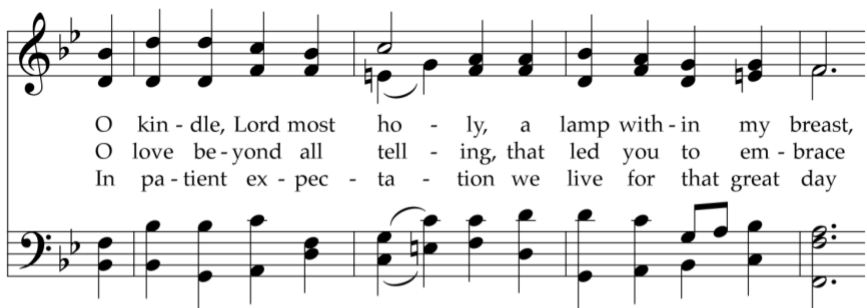
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104



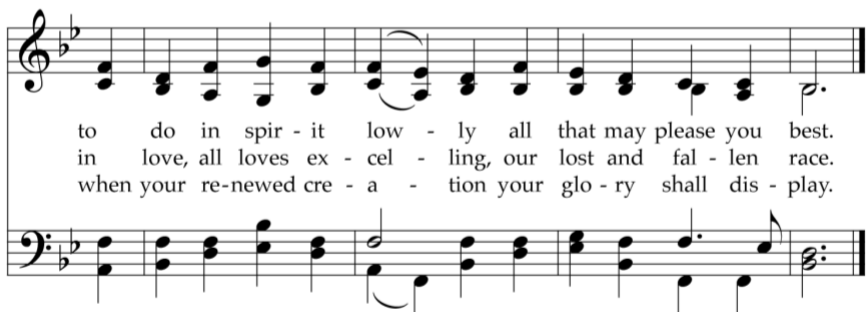
1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

309 Come, Great God of All the Ages

1 Come, great God of all the a - ges; make your earth - ly
 2 Come, Christ Je - sus, flesh and spir - it, sure foun - da - tion,
 3 Come, great Spir - it, in and with us, tune our ears to
 4 Come, O come, in cel - e - bra - tion, house - hold of the

mis - sion known; speak through ev - ery deed and per - son;
 cor - ner - stone; help us form the church e - ter - nal;
 hear your call; through the mov - ing of your pres - ence,
 one true God; in com - mit - ment and re - joic - ing

let your way and will be shown. Guide the church to true com -
 may your vi - sion be our own. Send a mes - sage to each
 let re - deem - ing love re - call min - is - try in ded - i -
 let us go where Christ has trod; as we act in faith and

mit - ment; give di - rec - tion now, we ask; fit us for the
 fol - lower; lead all peo - ple to your way; urge us to strong
 ca - tion, love em - bod - ied in our deeds; chal - lenge us to
 rev - erence, let us, Lord, the fu - ture see; place us in the

This text was written in 1987 for the capital cornerstone campaign of the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC. It is set here to a mid-20th-century tune created in wartime England to replace a Haydn tune tainted by Nazi associations.

work of build - ing; ded - i - cate us to the task.
 faith and ac - tion as we build the church to - day.
 do your bid - ding, see your pur - pose, fill all needs.
 church tri - um - phant, now and for e - ter - ni - ty.



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: Janet Kaufman, Deborah Moore

Reader: Bev Kimmel • *Deacons:* Janet Kaufman & Theresa Carroll

*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

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 Korea, for mission partners — National Council of Churches in Korea Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea Hanshin University — and for last week's "Congress for Asian Human Rights Defenders" which sought to discern what the fruit of shared discipleship looks like today and to proclaim the prophetic vision and hope of reconciliation in Korea and the world.

Continuing concerns:

Margaret Haubrich • Fr. Danny Lennox, family health crisis
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**

Daisy Wetzel

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!

An Opportunity

Dolores Sologui arrived in March from Guatemala and needs a temporary place to live. "Lola" must vacate her current room before May 15. She's been at the Interlaken Inn, thanks to the generosity of the Innkeepers, but the room is booked for 4 months. She can return to the Interlaken on Sept. 15.

Lola has a one-year visa, and her sponsor Jim Britt continues to hunt for long-term lodgings. Lola, age 31, is a massage therapist, acupuncturist, skilled embroidery artist and has other skills. She is in Salisbury to improve her English in the hopes of enrolling in massage school. Lola is from a small village in the Guatemalan highlands [which Pastor John has visited many times and knows well].

You may contact her sponsor Jim Britt at (860) 866-3973 or jbrittscs@gmail.com.

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. 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.

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 28 APRIL 2024

10AM Worship
11:00AM ANNUAL MEETING, PART II
2:30PM Youth Group
5PM Sunday Supper

MONDAY, 29 APRIL

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 30 APRIL

5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, 1 MAY

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
12:30PM Staff Meeting
4PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, 2 MAY

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 3 MAY

8:45AM Men's Bible Study
12noon First Friday Music in the Meeting House



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

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