

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in C major

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #22**

“God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale”

ROEDER

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP (*based on Psalm 98*)

Congregational response:

Let us worship the God who made us!

RESPONSE IN SONG

“O Sing to Our God”

O sing to our God, O sing God a new song, O sing to our God,
O sing God a new song, O sing to our God,
O sing God a new song, O sing to our God, O sing to our God!

A PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

ONE: Holy God, Maker of all

ALL: Have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, Breath of life

Have mercy on us.

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

(Prayer in silence)

Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness:
to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

**May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Amen.

**Before God, with the people of God,
we confess to our brokenness:
to the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.**

May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

With the whole church,

**We remember that we are forgiven by God,
befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere,

**We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

With all creation,

**We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life: the unfolding
purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.
Thanks be to God!**

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

Hymnal, p. 35

RESPONSE IN SONG

“O Sing to Our God”

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 **Greenwoods Counseling & Referrals**.*

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.

ANTHEM

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Virgil Thomson

✠ 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

Take our gifts, God of all harmony, and weave a song of healing for the broken, of nourishment for the hungry, of hope for those who despair, and restoration for those torn by violence. We offer our treasures, as well as our hearts, in the name of Jesus: Amen.

MODERN TESTIMONY

God’s Dream

Archbishop Desmond Tutu
and Douglas Carlton Abrams

ANCIENT TESTIMONY

I John 5:1-6

New Testament, p. 293

SERMON

“Faith Without Magic”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ HYMN #754

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

BARONITA

We Feast at God's Table

INVITATION

RESPONSIVE THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is good and right to give God our thanks and praise.

O God, we thank you for the rich blessing of your Creation, and come to offer our whole selves as you call us to live for your realm of *shalom*.

Our hearts fill with joy and wonder as we answer your call to be your people. Thanks be to you, O Holy One, for the goodness of your creation.

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of life, to drink the cup of the new covenant.

Jesus said, I am the bread of life.

She who comes to me shall never hunger;

he who believes in me shall never thirst.

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said, This is my body which is for you; do this remembering me.

After supper Jesus took the cup and said,

This is the cup of the new covenant.

Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.

And so we breathe out hope as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Come, Holy Spirit. Continue to pour out your life-giving, healing power on us, and on this meal that nourishes us. As we share this food and drink, may we become, for each other, the hope that Jesus has awakened in us. In this meal we celebrate the promised banquet when

all shall be fed abundantly, and all shall drink from the river of the water of life. Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

We celebrate an open communion and welcome every person to the table. We understand the sharing of the bread and the cup in Jesus' name to be a reenactment of an ancient vision of God's feast for all people. We don't require you to be a member of our church, or any church, to participate with us in this feast of grace: all that is needed is that you desire God's nurture. (We use gluten-free bread and unfermented grape juice in an effort to remove barriers to anyone's participation in the sacrament.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ONE: Eternal and gracious One, though we live in a world of need,

**ALL: here we have tasted your goodness
and been fed by your vision of fullness of life for all creation.**

Though afflicted by brokenness and division,

here we have received your call to become a Beloved Community.

Though daily we touch our limits,

here we have received the abundance of your grace.

You have filled us, O God:

inspire us to live in love and to share your *shalom!* Amen.

✘ **HYMN #853**

“We Are Marching in the Light of God”

SIYAHAMBA

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Fugue in D major

J.S. Bach

22

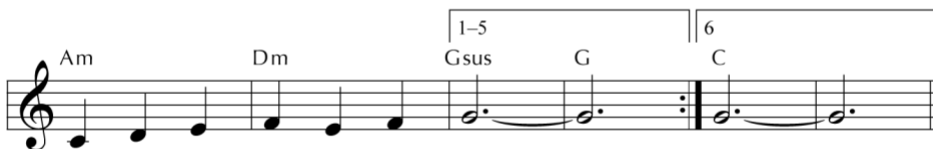
God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the



swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy



How does the crea - ture say Praise
 How does the crea - ture cry Save
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 How does the crea - ture say Life
 How does the crea - ture say Peace
 How do your chil - dren say Home

Though a lack of punctuation makes this text appear freeform and the flowing tune enhances a sense of movement, each stanza here is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world.

TEXT: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983
 MUSIC: Carl F. Schalk, 1983
 Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House
 Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

ROEDER
 9.6.7.7

All rights reserved. Reprinted under & streamed OneLicense.net A-725033.

Help Us Accept Each Other 754



1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1974
 MUSIC: Doreen Potter, 1974
 Text and Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

BARONITA
 7.6.7.6.D

853 We Are Marching in the Light of God

Siyahamba

We are march-ing in the light of God; we are march-ing in the
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -

light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God;
nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of, the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

This lively Zulu/Xhosa freedom song originated in a Methodist young men's group in South Africa and has gone on to become popular in many other languages around the globe. Some additional stanzas are suggested, but others may be improvised as appropriate to the occasion.

We are march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba

oo
oo

We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,
Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,

we are march - ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march - ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

We are march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba

oo
oo

We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,
Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,

we are march - ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:
We are dancing...
We are praying...
We are singing...



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: Kevin Wolgemuth, Deborah Moore
Reader: Avery Clark • Deacon: Patricia Palmer
Fellowship time host: Ron Collins*

Flowers have been placed in the Meeting House by Helen Ong.

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 the Republic Congo and for
mission partners, Disciples of Christ Church of
Congo, who send this prayer:

O God of love and fidelity,
You send us as Disciples to care for one another,
live the Gospel, and dwell in hope.

Receive our prayer and supplication for:

All our brothers and sisters who are sick, isolated,
persecuted, and battered by life;

All unloved, abandoned, exploited, and starving children;

All the men and women in authority in our country,
instill in them your love and wisdom so that the
decisions they make are dictated by love, justice, and
fairness and not by partisan considerations;

In every country of the world, inspire men and
women of peace, dialogue, justice, and tolerance.

For the Disciples Church in the Congo, may the
love of Christ be the concrete model and
reference that underpins our community.

Make us, Lord, attentive to the cries of those
whose most basic rights are being trampled
underfoot and allow that one day, your law of love
may be the only law observed in our country and
throughout the world. Amen.

Continuing concerns:

Margaret Haubrich • Fr. Danny Lennox, family
health crisis

Peace in Israel/Palestine, Armenia/Azerbaijan,
Sudan, Ukraine

For those in treatment for cancer — Peter (and
Janet) • Deborah Lifton, Peter Kiernan, Jenny,
David Douyea, Deborah Merwin — prayers for
healing and strength.

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!

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 5 MAY

- 10AM **Worship** followed by fellowship & refreshments in the Parish Hall, and meeting with Julia Jagger, Community Outreach & Recovery Navigator of Greenwood's Counseling & Referrals.
- 11:30AM Church Council meeting

MONDAY, 6 MAY

- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club
- 7PM Corner Food Pantry Board

TUESDAY, 7 MAY

- 2:30PM Board of Deacons meeting
- 4PM Board of Christian Action meeting
- 5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY

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

THURSDAY, 9 MAY

- 5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 10 MAY

- 8:45AM Men's Bible Study

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 jbritts@salisburyucc.org.



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