

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

“Andante” from *Sonata in D Minor*

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

✠ HYMN #285

“Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”

BRIDEGROOM

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Acts 2:1-4; 16-18

OPENING RESPONSES

The Day of Pentecost is here:

the day when the flames of faith dance in our hearts.

The Day of Pentecost is here:

**the day when our babbling speech
becomes the Good News for the world.**

The Day of Pentecost is here:

**the day when compassion
is seared into our souls.**

The Day of Pentecost is here:

let the people of God rejoice. Alleluia!

RESPONSE IN SONG

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come." The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a repeat sign at the beginning and end.

TEXT: Wilson Niwagila, 1965; trans. Howard S. Olson, 1968

MUSIC: Wilson Niwagila, 1965; arr. Egil Hovland, 1993

Text and Music © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira (Admin. Augsburg Fortress); Music Arr. © Egil Hovland

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

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We yearn for change, but hold close the comfort of what we have. We long for new life, but let the Holy Spirit blow past without following. We could open our arms to others, but that would mean releasing our fears. Let us pray for the Spirit to come and dance among us as we unburden ourselves together, saying:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Your Spirit moves over the waters, Gracious God, but we prefer to splash in the puddles of temptation. You would breathe life into us in every moment, but we hold our breath, wanting to get our way. You would give us the words to bring hope to the despairing, to offer healing to the broken, and to share hope in the places of anger and violence, but we often stay silent, or use words that lack compassion.

In your mercy, forgive us, God of gusty grace.

May your Spirit sing in our hearts, so we may invite others to dance in joy with us. May your Spirit be the still, small voice that silences the shouts of fear and worry all around us. May your Spirit sweep us off our feet and into the arms of Jesus Christ, our Brother, our Savior, our Companion. Amen.

We pray in silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In every breath we take, there is the Spirit;
in every word we speak, there is the Spirit;
in every heart we touch, there is the Spirit;
in every person we welcome, there is the Spirit.

In forgiveness, we are given the words to speak; the courage to reach out to others; the open heart to offer others, the breath of life to share with those around us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Come, Holy Spirit, Come”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b

ONE: O Holy One, how many and how varied are Your works!

MANY: In wisdom You have made them all;

The earth is full of Your creatures.

There is the sea, vast and spacious,

With its creatures beyond number

Living things both small and great.

There go the ships,

And the sea monster that You formed to frolic there.

These all look to You to give them their food when it is due;

When You give to them, they gather it up;

When You open Your hand,

They are filled with good things.

When You hide Your face,

They are terrified;

When You take away their breath,

They die and return to their dust.

When You send forth Your breath, they are created;

And You renew the face of the earth.

May the splendor of the Most High endure forever;

May the Almighty rejoice in the works of creation.

God is the one who looks on the earth and it trembles,

Who touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Creator as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

May my meditation be pleasing to the Eternal One,
As I rejoice in my God.
Hallelujah!

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✠ **HYMN #290**

“O Day of Joy and Wonder!”

JONATHAN'S TUNE

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 our **Greenagers**, which engages teens and young adults in meaningful work in environmental conservation, sustainable farming, natural resource management, and vocational skills building.*

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

Happy and Blest are They

Felix Mendelssohn

*Happy and blest are they who have endured.
For though the body dies, the soul shall live forever.*

✠ **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**

Spirited, in-spiring God: these gifts are but the bare bones of who we are, and what we could offer. Move over them, we pray, filling them with the breath of our lives, that they will become living gifts of hope and grace to others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

MODERN TESTIMONY

“When We Breathe Together:
A Blessing for Pentecost Day”

Jan Richardson

This is the blessing
we cannot speak
by ourselves.

This is the blessing
we cannot summon
by our own devices,
cannot shape
to our purpose,
cannot bend
to our will.

This is the blessing
that comes
when we leave behind
our aloneness
when we gather
together
when we turn
toward one another.

This is the blessing
that blazes among us
when we speak
the words
strange to our ears
when we finally listen
into the chaos
when we breathe together
at last.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:1-21

New Testament, p. 144

SERMON

“Holy Pneumatics”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN #289**

“On Pentecost They Gathered”

MUNICH

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Toccata in E Minor

Johann Pachelbel



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, Joanne Taber

Reader: Susie Belcher • Deacon: Pat Palmer

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 Venezuela and for mission partners, the Evangelical Pentecostal Union of Venezuela, who share this prayer:

Dear and loving God, our Father and Mother, thank you for your presence in Venezuela and the accompaniment and critical presence of Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ in Venezuela.

We continue to pray, our God, for the unity of the church and all creation. Venezuela and the world have become battlefields, fighting with teeth and claws. The world that you created good is deeply divided by political ideologies, gender, race, and social classes. Dear God, we pray for an ecumenism of the spirit, an ecumenism of solidarity and liberation that leads to overcoming our divisions and liberating creation from its bondage of corruption.

We pray for Christian unity, that we may all be united and together (Acts 2:1), overcoming the

divisions to which we have been submitted by those who believe themselves to be the masters of the world. Help us unite to establish your kingdom of righteousness, peace, and dignity. Our struggle, dear God, is not between Christians and atheists. Our struggle is against a predatory global system that dehumanizes us and destroys all the good you have created in our world.

Oh God, our Father and Mother, we pray for Venezuela and the whole created world. Send your holy spirit! Renew all creation! May your holy spirit anoint us in this day of prayer with Global Ministries with the same spirit that anointed Jesus of Nazareth and transform us into prophets of the poor peoples of the new times!

Renew us, God, in the strength of your spirit to continue serving and accompanying our impoverished, afflicted, disoriented, dispersed Venezuelan people. Come, holy spirit, and consecrate our lives to save our beloved Venezuelan land from the aggression, siege, threat, and plundering that it suffers so that we may cover it with beautiful and fragrant shoots of productivity and hope-filled solidarity. Amen.

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 19 MAY

- 10AM Worship
*followed by the Annual
UnBirthday Party in the Parish Hall*
- 11:30AM Board of Trustees meeting
- 2:30PM Youth Group
- 5PM Sunday Supper

MONDAY, 20 MAY

- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY

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

THURSDAY, 23 MAY

- 5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 24 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

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