

The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Kleine Prelude and Fugue in C Major

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #451**

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

OPEN MY EYES

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: On an ordinary Sunday, we come to worship God.

**ALL: We come, trusting God will speak to us;
we come, hoping God will surprise us.**

On this day, like every other day,
we seek to follow Jesus:

**We follow, believing Jesus will be with us;
we follow, hoping Jesus will work through us.**

On this day, we lift our souls to God’s Spirit:

**We open our hearts, that the Spirit may fill us;
we open our hands, that we might be a gift to others.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Holy Spirit, Come to Us”

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. The first system contains the first line of the text: "Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us; kin - dle in us the fire of your love." The second system contains the second line: "Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us. Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us." The melody is simple and repetitive, with the bass line providing a steady accompaniment.

The original text of this chant from Taizé is a shortened version of a text sung in the Latin mass after the reading of the gospel on Pentecost. The full text can be translated: “Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful; and ignite the fire of your love within them.”

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1998

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1998

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TUI AMORIS IGNEM

Irregular

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We live our lives, tiptoeing around the facts that we often say words we should never have uttered, we do those things we wish we could take back. Yet, you would reach out to take us by the hand, so we walk together in the garden of grace. Let us offer our hearts, and our brokenness, to our God, who offers us mercy in these moments. Join me as we use the words found below, praying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**From the basements of our lives, we lift our prayers to you,
Parent of our hearts.**

**We are convinced we know who our sisters and brothers are,
and so ignored those you long for us to embrace.**

**Someone told us once that we had faults,
and we still try to live up to their expectations.**

**We are so intent on watching for all that could go wrong, we miss
your hope rising just over the horizon.**

**If you kept a spreadsheet of our foolishness, Creator of your family, we
would be in big trouble. But you do not let our mistakes distract you
from walking with us in every moment. And so, we hear you calling us
by name, and welcoming us into your family of faith, as we seek to
follow Jesus Christ, our Brother, in reaching out to all around us.**

(We pray in silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hope in God, dear friends. For the One who listens to our prayers is the God who loves us. The One who knows our foolish lives better than we do, is the God who forgives us.

**This is indeed good news! No longer do we need to wait, but can rush
into God's gracious embrace, knowing that God will walk with us even
when we stumble, will continue to affirm us, when everyone else
around us tears us down. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Holy Spirit, Come to Us”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 138

ONE: I give You thanks, O God Most High,

ALL: With my whole heart;

In the face of other “gods,”

I sing to You;

I bow my head before You,

And give thanks that You are Who You are,

I give thanks for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness;

Which promise to surpass even what You have already done.

On the day I cried out, You answered me,

You increased my strength of soul.

All the powers of earth shall honor You, O Holy One ,
For they have heard the words of Your mouth.
 They shall sing of the ways of the Almighty,
For great is the splendor of the Sovereign One .
 The Author of Life is magnificent,
Yet takes heed of the lowly,
 And regards the haughty from afar.
Though I walk through roiling danger,
 You preserve my life,
You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies,
 With Your strong hand You deliver me.
The Creator will bring me fullness of life;
 Your steadfast love, O God, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of Your hands.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

Hymnal, p. 35

⊗ **HYMN #727**

“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?”

THE SERVANT SONG

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

OFFERTORY

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

*Offerings not 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 **Salisbury Housing Trust** and the **Salisbury Housing Committee**.*

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

“O, for the Wings of a Dove”

Felix Mendelssohn

✠ **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**

**May the gifts we offer be used, Loving God, for sisters and brothers
who hunger for companionship, as well as food; who look for a heart
which will welcome them, as much as a place to sleep; who long for
those who will accept them for who they are, not see them as those
who have no worth. This we pray in the name of Jesus: Amen.**

MODERN TESTIMONY

“To Live Simply”

Richard Rohr OSF

ANCIENT TESTIMONY

Mark 3:20-35

New Testament, p. 45

SERMON

“Love Makes a Family”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ **HYMN #547**

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

AR HYD Y NOS

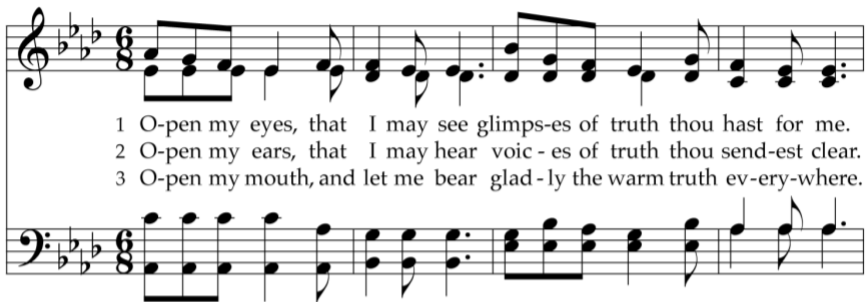
BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

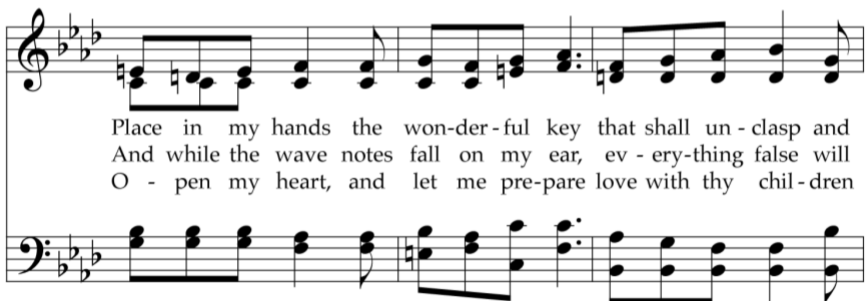
Toccata

Jacques Lemmens

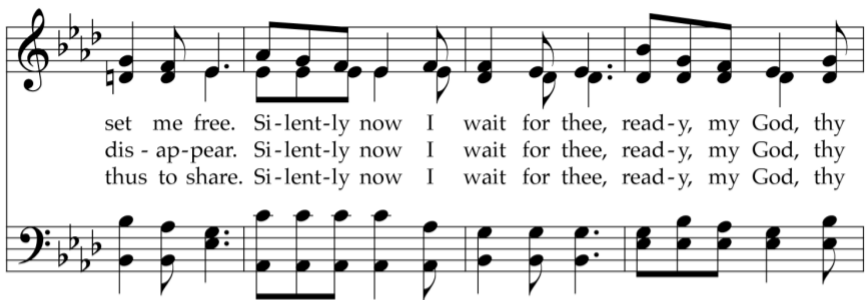
Open My Eyes, That I May See 451



1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send-est clear.
3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un - clasp and
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery-thing false will
O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
dis - ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy



will to see. O - pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
will to see. O - pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
will to see. O - pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

The Servant Song

1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall

be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
 geth - er on the road. We are here to help each
 night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out
 laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and
 find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -

grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
 oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
 to you, speak the peace you long - to hear.
 sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.
 (repeat stanza 1)

The opening and closing stanza expresses the essence of this folk-style song about the mutuality of servant ministry: those who serve must also be willing to be served. This is what Christ intended when he commanded the disciples to “wash one another’s feet” (John 13:14).

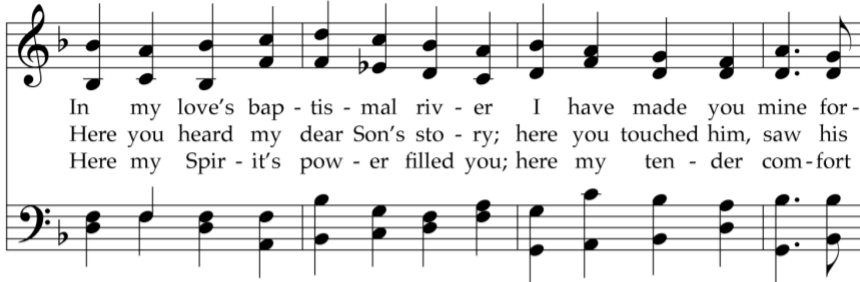
Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547



1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.



Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-
Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort



ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."
stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22-27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.



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: Anne Williams, Joanne Taber

Reader: Janet Offensend • Deacon: 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 Ghana and for mission partners:
Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana •
Christian Council of Ghana.

Continuing concerns:

Janet Accardo, in rehab after a fall • Margaret
Haubrich • Fr. Danny Lennox, family health crisis
Peace in Israel/Palestine, Armenia/Azerbaijan,
Sudan, Ukraine

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

Family & Friends who have passed away

Ed Giles

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!



“The Lord of the Parables,” by Jorge Cocco

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 9 JUNE

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

11:30AM Hospitality Committee meeting

MONDAY, 10 JUNE

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

WEDNESDAY, 12 JUNE

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
12:30PM Staff Meeting

THURSDAY, 13 JUNE

5:30PM Choir Party

FRIDAY, 14 JUNE

8:45AM Men's Bible Study



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