

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

⊗ **HYMN #760**

“Bring Many Names”

WESTCHASE

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

ONE: Do you feel it? God’s realm of grace is opening to us, even now.

**ALL: We live in the new creation  
shaped by God out of our brokenness.**

Do you know it? God’s reconciling love in Christ has shattered our ways of viewing our neighbors.

**No longer will we label our sisters and brothers:  
we welcome each, with open arms.**

Do you believe it? God has made everything, including us, new,  
**and sends us out to share this good news with everyone!**

## RESPONSE IN SONG

“Lead Me, Guide Me”



Lead me, guide me a-long the way; For if You lead me, I can-not stray.



Lord, let me walk each day with Thee: lead me, O Lord, lead me.

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## **CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

We know our faults -- the way we have treated others, our alienation from God, our unwillingness to be faithful people. We will not hide our sin or remain silent, but confess them to the One who embraces us with steadfast love. Please join me as we pray, saying,

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**On this very day, Waiting God,  
we admit the lengths to which we go so we might avoid you.  
You offer us a realm of joy and wonder,  
yet we would hide in places where temptation waits.  
You invite us to feast on your grace and peace,  
but we stubbornly refuse, because accepting your invitation means  
letting go of our irritations and self-righteous indignations.  
We are quick to see all the mistakes that those around us make,  
and still hope you will ignore our foolish choices.**

**Celebrating God, even before we come to our senses  
we find you running towards us: sweeping us up in your arms,  
tears of mercy mingling with our cries of confession,  
a mighty river washing away our sinful ways to restore us to new life.  
In Jesus Christ, Love's Own Self, we find no limitations on your grace,  
no reservations about your love — but a feast that overflows with  
wonder, a place we can finally call home.**

*(Silence is kept)*

## **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

God rolls away everything that stands in our way - our past, our sin, our pain, our hesitation, and reshapes us into new people living in the new creation. What wonderful grace. In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven!

**Broken, God makes us whole;  
lost, God brings us home;  
empty, God fills us with songs of gladness.  
Thanks be to God who has graced us with mercy. Amen.**

## **RESPONSE IN SONG**

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

**RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15**

ONE: It is good to give thanks to GOD MOST HIGH,

**ALL: to sing praises to the holy name**

**that echoes through the universe;**

to declare your steadfast fatherly love in the morning,

**and your faithful presence by night,**

to the music of the piano and the organ,

**to the melody of the choir.**

For you, ALMIGHTY, have lifted my heart by your doings;

**I see your hand at work: I sing for joy.**

By your grace I can see it: the righteous flourishing like the azalea,

**growing like a the tallest spruce.**

The righteous are planted in the house of the God above all Gods;

**they flourish in the wherever our God is present.**

In old age they still produce;

**always, God fills them with vitality and spirit,**

showing that THE ALMIGHTY is upright;

**God is my rock,**

**and in God is righteousness everlasting.**

**A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS**

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

*Hymnal, p. 35*

⊗ **HYMN #418**

**“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”**

THOMPSON

*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 Alzheimer’s Association.***

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

### ✘ 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

**All things belong to you, generous God: we are your caretakers.  
You gave us everything and you keep on giving. To each of your  
children — each of us,— you give an inheritance of love and passion  
and compassion. May we spend them richly, freely, extravagantly! We  
ask in Jesus' name: Amen.**

### MODERN TESTIMONY

On Fatherhood

Christopher Hitchens

### ANCIENT TESTIMONY

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*New Testament, p. 95*

### SERMON

“Every Way You Look”

Pastor John A. Nelson

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### ✘ HYMN #366

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

HYFRYDOL

### BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

### POSTLUDE

## 760

## Bring Many Names

Capo 1: (D) (Em7) (G2) (G) (Em) (A2) (A7)  
 E<sup>b</sup> Fm7 A<sup>b</sup>2 A<sup>b</sup> Fm B<sup>b</sup>2 B<sup>b</sup>7



1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good,  
 2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day,  
 3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child,  
 4 Old, ach - ing God, gray with end - less care,  
 5 Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger, on the move,  
 6 Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,

(D) (Em7) (D/F#) (Em) (Asus) (A7)  
 E<sup>b</sup> Fm7 E<sup>b</sup>/G Fm B<sup>b</sup>sus B<sup>b</sup>7



cel - e - brate, in par - a - ble and sto - ry,  
 plan - ning all the won - ders of cre - a - tion,  
 feel - ing all the strains of hu - man liv - ing,  
 calm - ly pierc - ing e - vil's new dis - guis - es,  
 say - ing no to false - hood and un - kind - ness,  
 joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing,


(D) (Em7) (G2) (G) (Em) (A2) (A7)  
 E<sup>b</sup> Fm7 A<sup>b</sup>2 A<sup>b</sup> Fm B<sup>b</sup>2 B<sup>b</sup>7



ho - li - ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.  
 set - ting each e - qua - tion ge - ni - us at play:  
 car - ing and for - giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled:  
 glad of good sur - pris - es, wis - er than de - spair:  
 cry - ing out for jus - tice, giv - ing all you have:  
 clos - er yet than breath - ing, ev - er - last - ing home:

1-5 6

(D) (Em) (D) (A) (G) (D/F#) (Em) (Asus) (A) (D/F#) (Em) (A) (D)  
 E<sup>b</sup> Fm E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/G Fm B<sup>b</sup>sus B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/G Fm B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>



Hail and Ho - san - na! Bring man - y names!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na, strong moth - er God!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na, warm fa - ther God!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na, old, ach - ing God!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na, young, grow - ing God!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na, great, liv - ing God!

This text affirms that the images we use for God can be inspired by either gender because both males and females reflect the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). Similarly, since God is with us at all stages of life, all ages hold the potential to reveal something about God.

# 418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*

watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,


Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

# 366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to  
2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;  
find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means “delightful”) gives us a foretaste of endless song.



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

## 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

*Guest musician:* Barbara Collins

*Ushers:* Allison Gray, Sharon Tingley

*Reader:* Sharon Tingley • *Deacon:* Theresa Carroll • *Fellowship time host:* Emily Elliot

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.)

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### New concerns:

*Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries*, for the people of Germany and for mission partners the Union of Evangelical Churches, in their urgent task to remember and teach the stories of victims and survivors.

David Chamberlain, bypass surgery • Stephanie, with liver cancer, and her husband Brent, her caregiver, recovering from knee surgery.

### 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

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 those who grieve.

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**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

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### SUNDAY, 16 JUNE

10AM Worship *followed by fellowship &  
refreshments in the Parish Hall*  
11:30AM Board of Trustees meeting

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### MONDAY, 17 JUNE

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club  
5:30PM Corner Food Pantry meeting

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### WEDNESDAY, 19 JUNE

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

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### FRIDAY, 21 JUNE

8:45AM Men's Bible Study



*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