

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We are grateful for this time to unburden the weight of self-judgment. We proclaim that we speak to an Absolutely Loving Being who hears us when we pray.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Holy one of 100 names, three of which are Compassion, Love, and Mercy, we acknowledge our offenses against you and your creation. In our attempts to be good people, we have often listened to others instead of trusting our own God-given instincts. We have accepted distorted images of women for so long that we no longer recognize that godly goodness of our own voices.

We have tarnished the unique God-shaped image that is tenderly inside each of us, female and male. We confess that often, in our busyness we have not loved you or our neighbors. We have not cherished our own well-being, nor Precious Creation. Often we have quenched the divine spark we have sensed in the moment. We ask you to blow away the cobwebs of temptation and to blot out our offences that Light may shine through us and we may be who we were created to be.

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God rolls away everything that stands in our way. Behold, in this moment, we release our burdens of doubt, guilt, annoyance and judgment. What wonderful grace. In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven!

Where can we go from your Spirit? Or where can we flee from your presence? *God knit me together in my mother's womb. I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

We can do nothing but accept your mercy and grace. And so we do. Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

ONE: Into your heart, O God, commend those who live on the edge through no fault of their own.

ALL: Teach us to love, O Lover of Life.

Into your rest, O God, we commend those who live in a whirlwind of activity.

Teach us to love, O Lover of Life.

Into your presence, O God, we commend the thousands who are homeless, wounded and frightened.

Teach us to love, O Lover of Life.

Into your hands, O God, we commend our loved ones and the strangers in our midst

Teach us to love, O Lover of Life.

Into your depths, O God, we commend our inner lives and our outer journeys.

Teach us to love, O Lover of Life. So May it Be.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✠ HYMN #326

“For All the Saints”

SINE NOMINE

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 **Salisbury Housing Trust** and **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

✘ DOXOLOGY

**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

We give thanks for you have blessed us with all we need. Help us to share who we are in everything we do. In the name of our ever generous Jesus: Amen.

MODERN TESTIMONY*Barbara Crooker*

SOMETIMES, I AM STARTLED OUT OF MYSELF,
 like this morning, when the wild geese came squawking,
 flapping their rusty hinges, and something about their trek
 across the sky made me think about my life, the places
 of brokenness, the places of sorrow, the places where grief
 has strung me out to dry. And then the geese come calling,
 the leader falling back when tired, another taking her place.
 Hope is borne on wings. Look at the trees. They turn to gold
 for a brief while, then lose it all each November.

Through the cold months, they stand, take the worst
 weather has to offer. And still, they put out shy green leaves
 come April, come May. The geese glide over the cornfields,
 land on the pond with its sedges and reeds.
 You do not have to be wise. Even a goose knows how to find
 shelter, where the corn still lies in the stubble and dried stalks.
 All we do is pass through here, the best way we can.
 They stitch up the sky, and it is whole again.

ANCIENT TESTIMONY

2 Samuel 7:1-13
Mark 6:30-34

Old Testament, p. 349
New Testament, p. 50

SERMON: “Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time”

The Rev. Dr. Eileen L. Epperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ **HYMN #298**

“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

ABBOT'S LEIGH

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE



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.

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright 666

1 O Splen - dor of God's glo - ry bright, from light e -
2 Come, Ho - ly Sun of heaven - ly love, rain down your
3 O joy - ful be the pass - ing day with thoughts as
4 O Lord, with each re - turn - ing morn, your im - age

ter - nal bring - ing light; O Light of Light, light's
ra - diance from a - bove, and to our in - ward
clear as morn - ing's ray, with faith like noon - tide
to our heart is born; O may we ev - er

liv - ing spring, true Day, all days il - lu - min - ing;
hearts con - vey the Ho - ly Spir - it's cloud - less ray.
shin - ing bright, our souls un - shad - owed by the night.
clear - ly view our Sav - ior and our God in you.

This morning hymn is based on a Latin text attributed to a 4th-century bishop. It weaves various images of Christ as Light with light-based descriptions of each day's passing. It is set to a dance-like tune from at least the 15th century that enhances the energy in the text.

326

For All the Saints



1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might;
 3 O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
 5 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
 We fee - bly strug - gle; they in glo - ry shine; yet
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and
 gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong,
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,



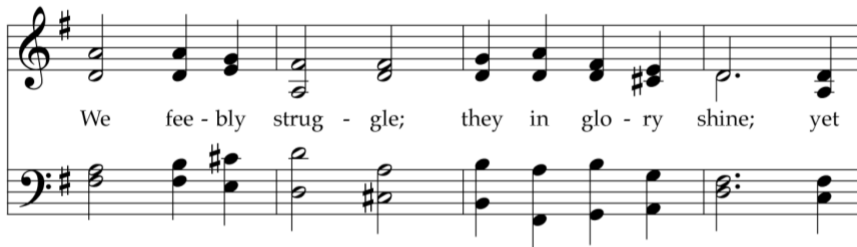
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The broad and sweeping tune with which this hymn is so closely identified was created to be sung during a reverent but dramatic procession at the beginning of an All Saints' Day service, an enacted representation of the enduring "fellowship divine" celebrated by this text.

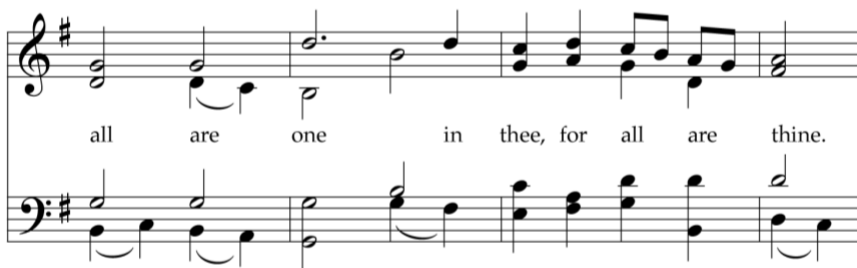
Harmony, stanza 3



3 O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!



We fee - bly strug - gle; they in glo - ry shine; yet



all are one in thee, for all are thine.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! *to stanza 4*

298 Lord, You Give the Great Commission



1 Lord, you give the great com-mis-sion: "Heal the sick and
2 Lord, you call us to your ser-vice: "In my name bap-
3 Lord, you make the com-mon ho-ly: "This, my bod-y;
4 Lord, you show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa-ther, what they
5 Lord, you bless with words as-sur-ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne-glect its mis-sion, and the
tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom-ise, life a-
this, my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo-ry, dai-ly
do, for-give." Yet we hoard as pri-vate trea-sure all that
to the end." Faith and hope and love re-stor-ing, may we



gos-pel go un- heard, help us wit-ness to your
bun-dant meant for each, give us all new fer- vor,
lift life heav-en-ward, ask-ing that the world a-
you so free-ly give. May your care and mer-cy
serve as you in-tend, and, a-mid the cares that

United by the refrain after each stanza, this text relies on passages from Matthew and Luke to highlight various dimensions of the church's mission and ministry in the world. It was written for use with this tune, composed in the village near Bristol, England, for which it is named.

TEXT: Jeffery W. Rowthorn, 1978
MUSIC: Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941
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Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company

ABBOT'S LEIGH
8.7.8.7.D

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pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty: with the Spir - it's
 lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

gifts em-power us for the work of min - is - try.

Kindly set phones to silent (unless you're expecting a call from Jesus).

Today's Worship Leaders

Guest Minister: The Rev. Dr. Eileen L. Epperson

Ushers: Kevin Wolgemuth, Anne Williams

Reader: Terre Lefferts • *Deacon:* Sue Morrill

Fellowship time hosts: Hospitality Committee

Cover art: James Tissot (Nantes, France, 1836–1902, Chenecey–Buillon, France). *The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes (La multiplication des pains)*, 1886–1896. Opaque watercolor over graphite on gray wove paper. Brooklyn Museum.

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: Charlie Noyes, *moderator*;
Janet Offensend, *treasurer*; Liz Wing, *clerk*

Pastor and Teacher: The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson



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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