

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**PRELUDE**

*Fugue in G minor, 'Little'*

J.S. Bach

**WELCOME**

⊗ **HYMN #37**

“Let All Things Now Living”

ASH GROVE

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

G D G Am D

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks-giv - ing  
2 By law God en - forc - es, the stars in their cours - es,

G C G D G

to God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;  
the sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

G D G Am D

who fash-ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us,  
the hills and the moun-tains, the riv - ers and foun-tains,

G C G D G

by guid - ing us on to the end of our days.  
the depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

Harmony G E Am D

God's ban - ners are o'er us; pure light goes be - fore us,  
We too should be voic - ing our love and re - joic - ing;

G Em D A7 D

a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:  
with glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise,

G D G Am D

till shad - ows have van - ished, all fear - ful - ness ban - ished,  
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing:

G C G D G

as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!

Written for an easy-to-sing folk melody familiar in England as well as Wales, this 20th-century North American text bears many resemblances to both Psalm 148 and the traditional canticle *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini* (Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord).

TEXT: Katherine K. Davis, 1939, alt.  
MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; harm. Gerald H. Knight, 20th cent.  
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company  
Music Harm. © Royal School of Church Music

ASH GROVE  
6.6.11.6.6.11.D

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

### CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Listen! God, our beloved Creator, whispers to us:

**ALL: echoes of grace sound in our hearts, hope resonates in our souls.**

Listen! Christ, our Beloved friend, calls to us:

**faithfulness is the life he shares,  
generosity and service is the path we will follow.**

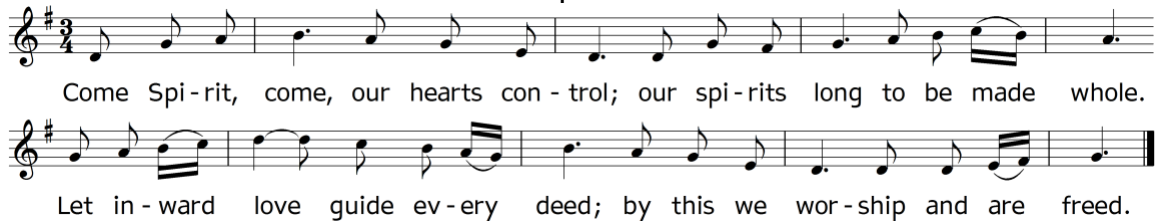
Listen! The Holy Spirit, our beloved breath of God, transforms us:

**the voice of our Beloved sounds through all creation,  
welcoming all into the household of God.**

### RESPONSE IN SONG

“Come Spirit, Come”

O WALY WALY



Come Spi-rit, come, our hearts con - trol; our spi - rits long to be made whole.  
Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed; by this we wor - ship and are freed.

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### 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**

"Come Spirit, Come"

### **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 **Centros Solares**, bringing light and power to marginalized communities in Guatemala.*

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**

*Gymnopedie*

Erik Satie

✘ 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

Let us be slow in our yearning to hang on to our blessings, and quick to share them — with the hungry, the lonely, the forgotten, and the hurting of our world — that the gifts God has entrusted to our care might become bread and hope for our neighbors. This we pray in Jesus' name: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9  
James 1:17-27

Old Testament, p. 200  
New Testament, p. 278

SERMON

“Love Letters”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ HYMN #39

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

1 \*Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.  
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.  
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!"

## 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*.

**Thanks be to you, O Holy One, for the goodness you have poured into all things. Our hearts fill with joy and wonder as we answer your call to be your people.**

## **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 heard again your call to live as 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 #767

“Together We Serve”

SAN ANSELMO

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm7)  
 B<sup>b</sup> F Gm Dm7

1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,  
 2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,  
 3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,  
 4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,

(C) (G) (Am7) (Dsus) (D)  
 E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Cm7 Fsus F

in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.  
 a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
 the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.  
 re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.

(G) (D) (C) (Bm)  
 B<sup>b</sup> F E<sup>b</sup> Dm

We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,  
 We learn, year by year, to let love shine through  
 We of - fer a home to those who will come,  
 To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,

(G) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)  
 B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Cm F7 B<sup>b</sup>

ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.  
 un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.  
 our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.  
 re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

The first three words of this text appear in the website address for First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo, California, for whose centennial the hymn was commissioned. The text draws on Ephesians 4:11-16, a passage describing the many gifts and ministries within the body of Christ.

## BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Jacques Lemmens



### Welcome to Church!

Gathered in 1744, the Congregational Church of Salisbury is an Open and Affirming member of the United Church of Christ, in a “net zero” building powered by clean energy. Our church 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: Sarah Morrison, Kevin Wolgemuth*

*Reader: Janet Offensend • Deacon: Tony Good*

*Communion servers: Dave Heck, Tony Good • Fellowship hosts: Hospitality Committee*

Today’s liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2024 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); 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:** Charlie Noyes, *moderator*;  
Janet Offensend, *treasurer*; Liz Wing, *clerk*

**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 Zambia and for mission partners:  
United Church of Zambia • Theological Education  
by Extension in Zambia • Mindolo Ecumenical  
Foundation • Council of Churches in Zambia.

### Continuing concerns:

Margaret Haubrich • Fr. Danny Lennox, family  
health crisis

Peace in Israel/Palestine, Ukraine, Haiti, Myanmar,  
Sudan, the Sahel region

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In treatment for cancer —

Shawn Dreyer • Deborah Moore • Stephanie (and  
husband Brent) • Peter (and Janet) •  
Deborah Lifton • Peter Kiernan • Jenny •  
David Douyea • Deborah Merwin — prayers for  
healing and strength.

Friends and family now serving our country in the  
armed forces • All those serving or living in war or  
conflict zones around the world.

**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, 1 SEPTEMBER

- 10AM Worship  
*followed by fellowship & refreshments  
in the Parish Hall*
- 11:30AM Church Council meeting

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### MONDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER

- Labor Day: Church offices closed*
- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

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### TUESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER

- 4PM Board of Christian Action meeting

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### WEDNESDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER

- 9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
- 12:30PM Staff Meeting
- 2:30PM Board of Deacons meeting
- 4PM Women's Bible Study

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### THURSDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER

- 5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER

- 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*

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Office Hours: 8:30am – 1:30pm, Monday-Friday