

The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Prelude and fugue in C Major

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

✧ **HYMN #410**

“God Is Calling through the Whisper”

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

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

1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,

through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.

Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still - ness, rush of won - der:
 Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri - dent cry or si - lent plead-ing;
 Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing;

God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?
 God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?
 God is call - ing—and we hear! God is call - ing—and we hear!

This wide-ranging text reminds us of the many surprising and urgent ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth. In the third line of music it is especially effective at harnessing the momentum of the phrases that are each a note higher than the one before.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2003

MUSIC: Polish carol; harm. Wilbur Lee, 1958

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Music Harm. © 1958 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services)

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7

(this tune in a higher key, 128)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Now is the time to sing!
 to sing the good news of God:

**ALL: who awakens us with dawn's embrace,
 who surrounds us with joy and life.**

Now is the time to offer praise to God,
 in every place, with every voice:

**to rejoice in the One who leads us through each moment
 with a gentle hand and a word of hope.**

Now is the time to join all creation in extolling God,
 from the depths of the sea to the farthest galaxies:

We will sing the good news of Easter!
We will rejoice in the God who loves us.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“O Sing to Our God”

CANTAI O SENHOR

O sing to our God, O sing God a new song, O sing to our God,
O sing God a new song, O sing to our God, O sing God a
new song, O sing to our God, O sing to our God!

*TEXT: Brazilian folk song; trans. 1986, Gerhard M. Cartford; MUSIC: Brazilian folk melody; arr. Gerhard M. Cartford, 1982
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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

"O Sing to Our God"

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 **Greenagers**.*

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.

ANTHEM: *The Road Not Taken*

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood*

Robert Frost / Randall Thompson

*And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;*

*Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,*

*And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!*

*Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.*

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

✘ 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

**Accept the offering we bring, O God: our response to the grace that
you have poured into our hearts. May our lives bear witness to your
Way of *shalom* and may we follow, in all we say and do. We ask it in
Jesus' name: Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 9:1-20

New Testament, p. 154

SERMON

“What a Choice!”

Pastor John A. Nelson


PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ HYMN #490

“Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters”

BEACH SPRING

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (G)
F Dm B^b



1 Wash, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, new - born crea - tures
2 Ev - ery day we need your nur - ture; by your milk may
3 O how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - i - mag - ined,

(D) F (Bm) Dm

of your womb. Num-ber them a - mong your peo - ple, raised like
we be fed. Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of
all your ways! To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our

(G) B^b (D) F (A) C

Christ from death and tomb. Weave them gar - ments bright and
bless - ing, liv - ing bread. God, re - new us; guide our
lives we wor - ship, praise! We your peo - ple stand be -

(Bm) Dm (F[#]m) Am (Bm) Dm (G) B^b (A) C (D) F

spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light. Fill, a - noint them;
foot - steps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in
fore you, wa - ter-washed and Spir - it - born. By your grace, our

(Bm) Dm (G) B^b (D) F

send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.
liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.
lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text incorporates many of the images associated with the water of baptism in the Thanksgiving Over the Water in *The Book of Common Worship*, especially nourishment, the calling forth of life, cleansing and renewal, freedom from bondage, and sharing in Christ's resurrection.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1987, rev.

MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958

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Music Harm. © 1958, ren. 1986 Broadman Press/Van Ness Press, Inc. (admin. Music Services)

BEACH SPRING

8.7.8.7.D

The Sacrament of Baptism

INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATE

Dear friends, as we come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism: you are no longer a stranger and sojourner, but you are equally a citizen

with the saints and all members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus, Love's Own Self, being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together — and in whom you, also, have become a dwelling place for the Spirit of God.

For just as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one, so it is with Christ. By water and by one Spirit we were all baptized into one church--the body of Christ. As we live with Christ and with Christ's people, we grow in faith and love.

LITANY OF BAPTISM

We are gathered to present this companion to the church and to dedicate him to God. What can we affirm about him?

That he is a child of God and made in the image of God.

How will he know that he is a child of God, made in God's image?

We will welcome him, recognize God in him, and treasure each shared moment as a gift of the Holy Spirit.

How will he, and we, remember and learn of the Christian faith?

Through faithful teaching and the example of our lives.

**We will tell of Abraham and Sarah, parents of multitudes;
of Moses and Miriam who led our ancestors out of bondage;
of Ruth's faithfulness;
of the Jewish hope for a messiah;
of Mary and Joseph's openness to mystery;
of Jesus, the heart of the universe;
and of the history of the Church as the Body of Christ,
seeking always to live in God's *shalom*.**

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give our thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Gracious God, we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water....

QUESTIONS TO THE CANDIDATE AND THE CHURCH

THE ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL COVENANT

May the Eternal God, who in Christ has given us new birth by water and the Spirit, now give us the grace we need to fulfill what we have promised.

ALL: Let us be faithful to our Savior Christ, for ever and ever.

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

DEACON: Now, with joy, let us welcome the newest member of the body of Christ:

We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given to each and all. We welcome you, Robert, newly baptized, into the loving embrace of the church, which is called the Body of Christ. We covenant with you to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. In this way we shall learn from one another, grow stronger, and more often be faithful to God as servants to all people. So be it!

SUNG RESPONSE #490

BEACH SPRING

**O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.
By our grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God transform!**

The Sacrament of Communion

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 #526

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

LINSTEAD



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one; at the ta - ble he
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a



shout of joy: bread is bro - ken; the wine is poured;
sets the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:



Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain;
God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!



earth can breathe a - gain; pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

Mark Hayes



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: Joanne Taber & Anne Williams • *Reader:* Trevor Rees
Deacon: Theresa Carroll • *Communion servers:* Theresa Carroll & Sue Morrill
Fellowship hosts: Hospitality Committee

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2025
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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
Sunday School Assistant: Stephanie 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.)

New concerns:

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries,
for the people of India and for our mission
partners: Center for Social Equity and Inclusion •
Student Christian Movement of India • Christian
Medical College, Ludhiana • Christian Medical
College, Vellore • Christian Medical Association of
India • Pravaham, Vellore • Tamilnadu Theological
Seminary • Lady Doak College • Private: Henry
Martyn Institute • Family Village Farm and King's
Matriculation • Deep Griha Society, Pune •
Darjeeling Tibetan Refugee Center and Tibetan

Children's Village • Church's Auxiliary for Social
Action • Church of South India • Church of North
India • United Theological College, Bangalore.

Continuing concerns:

David Stoneman, in hospice care.
Immigrants and asylum seekers in our country
Friends and family now serving in the armed forces
• All those serving or living in conflict zones.

Thanksgiving for church leaders:

Church Staff: David Baranowski, Mary Davidson,
Holly Tierney, Stephanie Tierney, Sarah Lesch,

Dan Baker, Jennifer Oberto, Richard Tietjen,
Pastor John

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

SUNDAY, 4 MAY

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

MONDAY, 5 MAY

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 6 MAY

4PM Board of Christian Action meeting
5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, 7 MAY

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

THURSDAY, 8 MAY

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 9 MAY

8:45AM Men's Bible Study

SUNDAY, 11 MAY

10AM Worship and Sunday School
11:30AM Music Committee meeting



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