

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## PRELUDE

*Little Fugue in G minor*

J. S. Bach

## WELCOME

### ✠ HYMN #754

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

BARONITA

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

G                      Em                      Am7                      B7                      C

1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept-ed us;  
2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life  
3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved  
4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,

C                      G                      A                      A7                      D

teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.  
we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.  
in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;  
who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,

G                      Em                      Am7                      B7                      C

Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve  
Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,  
to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart  
we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:



we are our-selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.  
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.  
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.  
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1974  
 MUSIC: Doreen Potter, 1974  
 Text and Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

BARONITA  
 7.6.7.6.D

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

### CALL TO WORSHIP *(inspired by Psalm 148)*

One: Celebrate our God, from the plains to the mountains!

**Many: Celebrate our God, from the waters and hills.**

Sing to our God who designed creation.

**Fill the air with song to the One who painted the world with love.**

Let us praise our God, the author of grace.

**Let us worship our God, the composer of joy.**

### RESPONSE IN SONG

“Weave”



Weave, weave, weave us to-gether. Weave us to-gether in u-ni-ty and love.



Weave, weave, weave us to-gether. Weave us to-gether, to-gether in love.

*WORDS and MUSIC: Rosemary Crow, 1979. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725033.*

### PRAYER OF REFLECTION AND GROWTH

God of Awe and Harmony,

**We were given the great commandment to love one another the way you, the Christ, the Spirit loves us. And yet, the ways we love become**

**conditional. Our suffering, our distance from you distorts our view of Divine Love. How can we learn again your life-giving way of loving? Transform our hearts, we pray, as we seek to deepen our compassion.**  
*(Silence is kept)*

### **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

With God, all things are possible. With God, forgiveness is ours.

**The Spirit of God heals our hearts, blessing us with grace, and working through us to bring compassion to the world. May it be so! Amen.**

### **RESPONSE IN SONG**

“Weave”

### **RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 148**

ONE: Hallelujah!

**MANY: Give honor to the Holy One from the heavens;**

Give honor to God in the heavens of the heavens!

**Honor the Holy One, all you angels of God;**

Honor the Holy One, all you heavenly multitude!

**Honor the Holy One, sun and moon;**

Honor the Holy One, all you shining stars!

**Honor the Holy One, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them honor the Holy One's purposes,

**For God willed it and they were created.**

The Almighty established them to endure forever;

**The Author of Life gave a decree that will never pass away.**

Honor the Holy One all who are on the earth,

**you sea monsters and all ocean depths,**

fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind that blows God's will!

**You mountains and all hills,**

**Fruit trees and all cedars!**

Wild animals and tame,

Creeping things and winged birds!

**All monarchs of the earth and all peoples,**

**The rulers and the mighty of the earth!**

Young men and young women alike,

**Old people and children together!**

Let them honor the Holy One's purposes,

**For God's renown alone is exalted;**

God's splendor is greater than earth and heaven.

**The Holy One has raised up the people to dignity,**

The faithful themselves are an honor to God:

**God's people,**

**Who are close to the Almighty. Hallelujah!**

## A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

*Hymnal, p. 35*

#### ✕ HYMN #769

#### “For Everyone Born, a Place at the Table”

FOR EVERYONE BORN

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



1 For	ev -	ery -	one	born,	a	place	at	the	ta -	ble,
2 For	wom -	an	and	man,	a	place	at	the	ta -	ble,
3 For	young	and	for	old,	a	place	at	the	ta -	ble,
4 For	just	and	un -	just,	a	place	at	the	ta -	ble,
5 For	ev -	ery -	one	born,	a	place	at	the	ta -	ble,



for	ev -	ery -	one	born,	clean	wa -	ter	and	bread,
re -	vis -	ing	the	roles,	de -	cid -	ing	the	share,
a	voice	to	be	heard,	a	part	in	the	song,
a -	bus -	er,	a -	bused,	with	need	to	for -	give,
to	live	with -	out	fear,	and	sim -	ply	to	be,



a	shel -	ter,	a	space,	a	safe	place	for	grow -	ing,
with	wis -	dom	and	grace,	di -	vid -	ing	the	pow -	er,
the	hands	of	a	child	in	hands	that	are	wrin -	kled,
in	an -	ger,	in	hurt,	a	mind -	set	of	mer -	cy,
to	work,	to	speak	out,	to	wit -	ness	and	wor -	ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,  
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,  
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,  
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,  
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

*Refrain*



and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus-tice and joy!

This hymn from a noted New Zealand hymnwriter affirms that God's hospitality transcends the barriers erected by human society and that we who have been created in God's image are called to live in ways that reflect our Creator's values: justice and joy, compassion and peace.

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1998

MUSIC: Brian Mann, 2006

Text © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

Music © 2006 Brian Mann (admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBCMusik)

FOR EVERYONE BORN

11.10.11.10 with refrain

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## 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) in today's service will be given the church's*

*Prayer Shawl Ministry, supplying yarn and other materials so that anyone who wishes, may participate in this act of care.*

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** *Hallelujah Round of Praise* W.A. Mozart, arr. Lovelace

## **✠ 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**

**Holy One, we glorify you by sharing our gifts with this  
community, and by stretching ourselves to give ever more  
widely and freely. We celebrate your presence by caring for  
your creation. May these offerings today nourish a world that  
longs for your *shalom*: wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy.  
We ask in Jesus' name: Amen.**

**MODERN TESTIMONY** "Grace Party" N. Gordon Cosby

**ANCIENT TESTIMONY** Acts 11:1-18 *New Testament, p. 158*

**SERMON** "Church Unbounded" Pastor John A. Nelson

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm7)  
B $\flat$  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 $\flat$  B $\flat$  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 $\flat$  F E $\flat$  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 $\flat$  E $\flat$  B $\flat$  Cm F7 B $\flat$



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

*Allegro and Maestoso*

Felix Mendelssohn



### 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: Allison Gray & Deborah Moore • Reader: Janet Kaufman*

*Deacon: Theresa Carroll • Fellowship host: Emily Elliot*

Today’s liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2025 (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  
**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.)

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### New concerns:

*Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries,*  
for the people of Puerto Rico and for our mission  
partners: AMANESER 2025 • Amnesty  
International • Hope Builders Home • Puerto Rico  
Council of Churches • United Evangelical Church  
of Puerto Rico • Evangelical Seminary of Puerto  
Rico • Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
in Puerto Rico.

### Continuing concerns:

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

### Family & Friends

#### who have passed away

Robbie Duff (cousin of David Baranowski) •  
Michael Aitchison (nephew of Barbara Collins)

We thank God for the gift of life, and pray for the  
Spirit's strong presence with family and friends  
who grieve.

### Thanksgiving for church leaders:

*Board of Trustees:* Lee Collins, Roger Crain, Carr  
Ferguson, Susan Hassler, Kerry Noble;  
*departing Trustees:* Janet Accardo, Gordon Johnson,  
*incoming Trustees:* Lorna and Dan Edmundson,  
John Merwin

## This Week at Salisbury UCC

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### SUNDAY, 18 MAY 2025

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

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### MONDAY, 19 MAY 2025

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

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### WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2025

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

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### THURSDAY, 22 MAY 2025

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY, 23 MAY 2025

8:45AM Men's Bible Study

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### SUNDAY, 25 MAY 2025

10AM Worship and Sunday School  
2:30PM Youth Group

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*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