



The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Meeting in Grace • Transformed by Love • Serving with Joy*



*Easter Sunday* 20 April 2025 • 9:45AM

**HANDBELL CHOIR PRELUDE**

*Hail Thee, Festival Day*

*Easter Rondo*

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today: Prelude on Llanfair*

arr. Wagner

arr. Helman

arr. Helman

Williams, arr. Dobriski

**OPENING ANTHEM**

“I Know that My Redeemer Liveth”  
from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel

**WELCOME**

✠ **HYMN** (insert)

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”  
verses 1, 2, 3

EASTER HYMN

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day,  
2. Ri - sen, glor - ious Life we sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3. Hail the Source of Earth and Heav - en,  
4. Soar we now where Christ has led,

All cre - a - tion, ev - er say:  
Where, O death is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
Praise to Thee by all be giv - en,  
From the seed to liv - ing Bread!

Raise your joy - ful voi - ces high,  
Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Life we greet tri - um - phant now!  
Made like Thee, like Thee we rise!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth, re - ply:  
Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
Hail the Re - sur - rec - tion, Thou!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: This is the day the Lord has made!

**MANY: We will rejoice in it!**

This is the day God has made; and what a day!

**When God wipes away our tears, so we can see the empty tomb!**

What a day! Easter day!

**When God opens our hearts' tombs as Jesus calls us by name.**

## RESPONSE IN SONG

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”  
verse 4

EASTER HYMN

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In our foolishness, we thought this old story has nothing to do with us, God of Imagination — and so we miss the incredible news that love has triumphed over hate, that goodness has defeated evil, that life has broken the power of death and the grave.

Yet, this is a day of joy and wonder that never end, God of every life, God of life itself. You are pushing aside the stone of indifference we had rolled across our hearts. You are reminding us that this old story is new every moment. May we take to heart that your ancient promises still hold true: by grace, resurrection life is rising in us; by grace, Jesus is sending us to tell the news of unconditional love and forgiveness.

*(Silence is kept.)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God, our Creator, gives us new life;

Christ, our Redeemer, prepares a place for us;

Holy Spirit, our Joy, calls us to service.

This is the good news: the tomb is empty, sin is powerless, death is defeated forever!

**ALL: On this very first day, and every day, we walk as God's people, forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24**

ONE: God Most High is my strength and my song;

**ALL: The Holy One has become my deliverance.**

Glad songs of triumph resound in the tents of the faithful,

"The right hand of the Almighty does valiant deeds;

**The right hand of the Holy One is exalted;**

The right hand of the Holy One does valiant deeds."

**I shall not die,**

**But I shall live, and recount the deeds of the God of Deliverance.**

The Almighty has taught me rigorously,

**But has not given me over to death.**

Open to me the gates of good will,

**That I may enter through them**

**and give thanks to God the Almighty.**

This is the gate of the Holy One;

Those who walk in God's ways shall enter through it.

**I thank You that You have answered me**

**and have become my salvation.**

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

**This is the Holy One's doing;**

**It is marvelous in our eyes.**

This is the day that the Holy One has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS**

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

*Hymnal, p. 35*

✘ **HYMN #236**

"The Strife Is O'er"

VICTORY

*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 **Corner Food Pantry**, and its mission to live our faith by feeding our neighbors.

ONE: Generous and startling God, when we thought that death had claimed your Son, and our hope, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again, we pray, by turning these humble offerings into gifts that will transform the world. We lay our very lives at your feet, Holy One, that you may use us to proclaim and embody the great good news of irrepressible life and love.

**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

*Amabile Alleluia*

Sarah Quartel

#### ✠ 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

**Astonishing God, very early in our lives you crept in to anoint us with your overflowing abundance. We offer our gifts in thanksgiving, so they may be used to serve all whose mornings bring heartache, whose nights wrap their souls with fears and worries. Send the offering and send us, we pray, to bring comfort and companionship to every hurting, hoping neighbor. We ask it in Jesus' name: Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 10:34-43

*New Testament, p. 157*

Luke 24:1-12

*New Testament, p. 109*

#### SERMON

“Irrepressible!”

Pastor John A. Nelson

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

## CLOSING WORDS

ONE: Jesus, resurrected,  
has met us again on the far side of death  
and transformed us with the fullness of life: Alleluia!

**ALL: Alleluia! With joy we embrace it!**

Jesus, Love's Own Self,  
has called us into the power, the potential,  
and the vibrant possibilities of God's realm of grace: Alleluia!

**With conviction we will live it! Alleluia!**

✘ HYMN #238

"Thine Is the Glory"

JUDAS MACCABEUS

## BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Hallelujah Chorus, from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel

POSTLUDE

*Toccata*  
(from *Symphony for Organ No. 5*)

Charles-Marie Widor



## Today's Worship Leaders

*Ushers:* Allison Gray, Sarah Morrison, Joanne Taber, Anne Williams

*Reader:* Patricia Palmer • *Deacon:* Don Mayland

*Fellowship time hosts:* Emily Elliot and Karin Noyes

*Guest musicians:* Jules Chetcuti, *violin* • Liz Handman, *violin* • Suzanne Wagor, *viola*

Kyra Saltman, *cello* • Jay Bradley, *percussion*

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2025; 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

## Easter Flowers are given:

*In memory of Murial and Gerdes Kuhbach,*

*Mary and Wilton Andrews, and Bill Andrews, by Sherrell Andrews & Rob Kuhbach*

*In memory of family, by Elizabeth Dobrwado*

*In memory of our dear families, by Sarah and Tom Morrison*

*In memory of Tessie and Walter Crain, by Roger and Maggie Crain*

*In memory of Bob and B.J. Christinat, by Roger and Maggie Crain*

*In memory of parents and grandparents  
in the Kimmel and Sieff families, by Beverly Kimmel*

*In honor and memory of loved ones, both here and beyond, by the Beck family, with love*

*In memory of Jim Rogers, and George & Gertrude Stoneman, by Jennifer Oberto*

*In memory of loved ones, by Patricia Palmer*

*In memory of Angelo Lomanto and Douglas Nelson, and  
in honor of Grace Ann Daniels & Dean Alexander Daniels, by Angela Lomanto & Pastor John*



## 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).**



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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