

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

11 May 2025 • 10AM



### BELL CHOIR PRELUDE

*Joy in the Morning*  
*Hymn of Promise*  
*Simple Gifts*  
*Exuberant Joy*  
*A Jubilant Rondo*

by Natalie Sleeth, arr. Martha Lynn Thompson  
by Natalie Sleeth, arr. Martha Lynn Thompson  
trad. Shaker tune, arr. Kevin McChesney  
by Arnold B. Sherman  
by Cynthia Dobrinski

### WELCOME

#### ✘ HYMN #250

#### “Hymn of Promise”

PROMISE

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



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)  
 F7 B<sup>b</sup> Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)  
 B<sup>b</sup> Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."  
 Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to  
 be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

TEXT and MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth, 1986  
 Text and Music © 1986 Hope Publishing Company

PROMISE  
 8.7.8.7.D

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

### CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Frayed and frazzled, our lives jangling with tension and anxiety,

**ALL: we gather to find that place of peace  
 which God offers to us.**

Awash in worries and doubts, drowning in a sea of fears,

**we gather beside the still waters  
 where Jesus offers us a cup of grace.**

Weakened by the burdens of life, wandering as if lost in a wilderness,

**we gather so the Spirit can restore our souls  
 and show us the path to the kin-dom of healing wonder.**

**RESPONSE IN SONG**

Rooted and Grounded in Love

PACIFIC GROVE

Root-ed and ground-ed in love, root-ed and ground-ed in love,  
 here in this place we find mer-cy and grace, root-ed and ground-ed in love.

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**PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION****ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news: God will lead us into places of hope; God will give us the waters of life to strengthen us; God will be with us in every moment, in every place of our lives.

**Anointed with grace, fed with joy and wonder, we offer blessing and thanksgiving to the One who forgives us now and forever. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*debts/debtors*)*Hymnal, p. 35***RESPONSE IN SONG**

Rooted and Grounded in Love

PACIFIC GROVE

**A LITANY IN HONOR OF NURSE'S WEEK AND MOTHER'S DAY**

One: Blessed be nurses and mothers, who have faced the mystery of life itself.

**Many: Blessed be all women who have soothed pain.**

Blessed be the women who have answered sadness with a compassionate embrace.

**Blessed be the mothers and nurses who have dared to confront abuse and apathy with righteous anger.**

Blessed be the nurses who have practiced the ancient, holy art of healing.

**Blessed be the women who have created safe places, making way for the restoration of dignity and comfort.**

Blessed be the nurses and mothers who have anointed the sick and offered blessings.

**Blessed be the mothers and nurses who have faced the mystery of death, filled with grief and awe.**

Blessed be the nurses who have rejoiced in the delights of living.

**Blessed be all who act as mothers, leading us in the dance of love.**

Blessed be the women who remind us they are made in the image of God,  
and that she is an awesome God indeed.

**Blessed be nurses and mothers,  
holding life in their bodies, hearts, and minds.**

Blessed be mothers and nurses, Holy God,  
**for they do your work and bear your grace.**

## A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

“Contredanse Tres Vive”  
from *Les Boreades*

J. Rameau  
arr. by Sean Brown

## ✕ HYMN #247

“Now the Green Blade Rises”  
*All attending Sunday School may leave as we sing the hymn.*

NOËL NOUVELET

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain;

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;

love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Although there were some traditional Easter carols, this hybrid one has been created by grafting a 20th-century English text onto a late 15th-century French tune. The allegory of the dying and rising grain as a parallel for Christ's Resurrection is probably based on John 12:24.

TEXT: John M. C. Crum, 1928, alt.  
MUSIC: French carol, 15th cent.; harm. Martin Shaw, 1928  
Text and Music Harm. © 1928 Oxford University Press

NOËL NOUVELET  
11.10.10.11

## OFFERTORY

### THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

Karin Noyes

*Offerings not specifically designated for the Church (including any checks with "Light of Service" or "LOS" in the memo line) will be given to the **Caron Treatment Center**, and its mission to transform lives impacted by drug and alcohol addiction through proven, evidence-based, comprehensive, and personalized behavioral healthcare.*

**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: My Shepherd Will Supply My Need**

WORDS: Isaac Watts, from Ps. 23  
MUSIC: Trad., arr. Virgil Thomson

*My Shepherd will supply my need; / Jehovah is His Name;  
In pastures fresh He makes me feed / Beside the living stream.  
He brings my wand'ring spirit back / When I forsake His ways,  
And leads me, for His mercy's sake, / In paths of truth and grace.*

*When I walk thru the shades of death,  
Thy presence is my stay;  
A word of Thy supporting breath  
Drives all my fears away.  
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes,  
Doth still my table spread;  
My cup with blessings overflows;  
Thine oil anoints my head.*

*The sure provisions of my God  
Attend me all my days;  
O may Thy house be mine abode,  
And all my work be praise!  
There would I find a settled rest  
(While others go and come),  
No more a stranger or a guest,  
But like a child at home.*

✠ **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**

**There are those who have no place to rest:  
may our gifts provide shelter.  
There are those who are parched for justice:  
may our generosity quench their thirst.  
There are those who wander the streets alone and afraid:  
may our witness of compassion provide a way.  
There are those who are in the valleys of suffering:  
may we offer ourselves as companions on the journey.  
In Jesus' name, we pray: Amen.**

**PSALTER: Psalm 23**

**The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

**He restoreth my soul:**

**he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;**

**thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;**

**thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Acts 9:36-43

*New Testament, p. 156*

**SERMON**

“Signs of Life”

Pastor John A. Nelson

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

✠ **HYMN #324**

**“For All the Faithful Women”**

NYLAND

Capo 3: (C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C)  
E<sup>b</sup> Cm7 A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>



1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in  
2 We praise your name for Mir - iam, who sang tri -  
3 We sing of bus - y Mar - tha, who toiled with  
4 Lord, hear our praise of Dor - cas, who served the

(G) (C) (Am7) (Dm) (G)  
B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> Cm7 Fm B<sup>b</sup>



days of old, to you shall thanks be giv - en; to  
um - phant - ly while Pha - raoh's vaunt - ed ar - my lay  
pot and pan while Mar - y sat in si - lence to  
sick and poor. Her hands were cups of kind - ness, her

(C) (G7) (C) (Am)  
E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>7 E<sup>b</sup> Cm



all, their sto - ry told. They served with strength and  
drowned be - neath the sea; for Ruth, who left her  
hear the word a - gain. We praise the oth - er  
heart an o - pen door. O God, for saints and

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



glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave. To you their  
 home - land and ven - tured forth in faith, who pledged to  
 Mar - y, who has - tened to the tomb and found her  
 ser - vants, our fer - vent prayer we raise, that, faith - ful

(Am7) (F) (G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)  
 Cm7 A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> Fm B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>



lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your power to save.  
 serve and wor - ship Na - o - mi's God till death.  
 Lord a - ris - en, dis - pel - ling doubt and gloom.  
 in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Created to honor the tenth anniversary of the first ordination of a woman in the Lutheran Church in America, this text celebrates representative women of the Bible: Miriam and Ruth from Hebrew Scripture, Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene from the gospels, and Dorcas from Acts.

TEXT: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1975, alt.  
 MUSIC: Finnish folk melody; adapt. and harm. David Evans, 1927  
 Text © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.  
 Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

NYLAND  
 7.6.7.6.D

## BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

### POSTLUDE

### March of the Priests

### 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:* Janet Kaufman & Sarah Morrison • *Reader:* Janet Accardo  
*Deacon:* Theresa Carroll • *Fellowship time hosts:* Ron and Parker Collins

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2025 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission. Cover art: Isaac Horton, "Tabitha Raised to LIFE!" (2019)

## 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



Masolino, *Resurrezione di Tabita*

## 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 Palestine and Israel — those who mourn, those who wait, and those who work each day for peace with justice; those threatened with extermination, forcible displacement, and despair.

For our mission partners: Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees • YWCA of Palestine • Tantur Ecumenical Institute • Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center • Rawdat el-Zuhur • Kairos Palestine • Friends Meeting in Ramallah • Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land • Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem • Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel • East Jerusalem YMCA • Diyar Consortium • Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem • B'Tselem.

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### Continuing concerns:

David Stoneman, in hospice care •  
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.

### Thanksgiving for church leaders:

“The Green Team”: Theresa Carroll,  
Angela Lomanto, Kerry Noble, Karin Noyes

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PASTORAL VISIT**, please call the church office (860-435-2442) or email Pastor John ([jnelson@salisburyucc.org](mailto:jnelson@salisburyucc.org)). Sometimes we don't find out about an injury or illness or other need until long after — so please call!



Guercino, Raising of Tabitha (1618); Palazzo Pitti, Florence

## This Week at Salisbury UCC

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### SUNDAY, 11 MAY

- 10AM Worship and Sunday School  
*followed by fellowship & refreshments  
in the Parish Hall*
- 11:30AM Music Committee meeting
- 2:30PM Youth Group

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### MONDAY, 12 MAY

- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

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### WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY

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

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### THURSDAY, 15 MAY

- 5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY, 16 MAY

- 8:45AM Men's Bible Study

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### SUNDAY, 18 MAY

- 10AM Worship and Sunday School
- 11:30AM Board of Trustees meeting



*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