

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## PRELUDE

*Adagio in C minor*

J.S. Bach

## WELCOME

### ☒ HYMN #686

“God of Our Life”

SANDON

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: If your clothes are fine and you have lots of gold rings, you're welcome here.

**ALL: If your clothes are well-worn and you don't have a place to sleep, you're welcome here.**

If you're feeling alone and you have no one you can call a friend, you're welcome here.

**If your soul is hurting and you need some comfort and peace, you're welcome here.**

If you're filled with anxiety and you seek renewal, you're welcome here.

**Welcome, everyone, to this house — where we praise the One who calls each of us by name, to be transformed by the power of grace.**

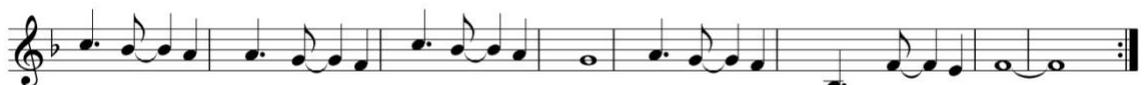
## RESPONSE IN SONG

“Rooted and Grounded”

© 2011 Barbara Hamm



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.

## **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**

“Rooted and Grounded in Love”

## 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 **East Mountain House**.*

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

*God Be in My Head*

Sarum Primer, 1558

Robert Benford Lepley, 1977

*God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at my end, and at my departing.*

#### ✠ 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

**All that we call “ours” comes from you, Holy One: we are stewards of your bounty. Here we return a portion and pray for your blessing: may our offerings be used to sow your justice, to feed the hungry, and to bring hope to neighbors near and far. We ask in Jesus’ name: Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Philemon 1-21

*Old Testament, p. 233  
New Testament, p. 263*

#### SERMON

“On the Basis of Love”

Pastor John A. Nelson

## PASTORAL PRAYER

✕ HYMN

“Your Love, O God, Is Broad Like Beach and Meadow”

GUDS KÄRLEK



1. Your love, O God, is broad like beach and mead - ow,  
2. We long for free - dom where our tru - est be - ing  
3. But there are walls that keep us all di - vi - ded;  
4. O, - judge us, God, and in your judg - ment free us,



wide as the wind, and our e - ter - nal home.  
is giv - en hope and cour - age to un - fold.  
we fence each oth - er in with hate and war.  
and set our feet in free - dom's o - pen space;

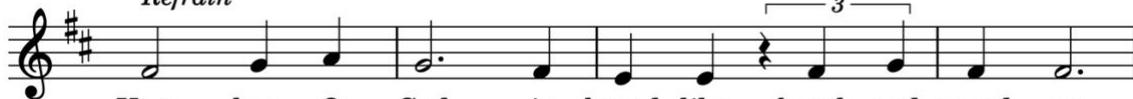


You leave us free to seek you or re - ject you,  
We seek in free - dom space and scope for dream - ing,  
Fear is the brick - and - mor - tar of our pris - on,  
take us as far as your com - pas - sion wan - ders



You give us room to an - swer “yes” or “no.”  
and look for ground where trees and plant can grow.  
our pride of self the pris - on coat we wear.  
a - mong the chil - dren of the hu - man race.

*Refrain*



Your love, O God, is broad like beach and mead - ow,



wide as the wind, and our e - ter - nal home.

## We Feast at God's Table

### 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

## BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

*The Woods so Wilde*

**ORLANDO GIBBONS**



**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 & Deborah Moore • *Reader:* Anne Williams  
*Deacon:* Betsy Beck • *Communion servers:* Betsy Beck & Dean Haubrich  
*Fellowship host:* Hospitality Committee

A NOTE ON TODAY'S ANTHEM. The prayer "God be in my head" first appeared in English in a Book of Hours printed in 1514, and was later included in the *Sarum Primer* of 1558. "Sarum" is an abbreviation for Sarisburium, the Latin name for Salisbury, England. The Rev. Robert Benford Lepley, a jazz pianist and colleague of Pastor John, has often composed in a style inspired by chant traditions of the church.

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2025 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission.  
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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

### Faith Formation

**Sunday School Coordinator:** Holly Tierney  
**Sunday School Assistant:** Stephanie Tierney  
**Youth Group Leader:** Dan Baker  
**Youth Group Assistant:** Sarah Lesch

### Holding the Parts Together

**Church Administrator:** Catherine Chatham  
**Sexton:** Richard Tietjen

**Church Officers:** Charlie Noyes, *moderator*;  
Janet Offensend, *treasurer*; Liz Wing, *clerk*

**Pastor and Teacher:** The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

## This Week at Salisbury UCC

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### SUNDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER

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

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### MONDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

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### WEDNESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER

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, 12 SEPTEMBER

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER

8:45AM Men's Bible Study

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### SUNDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER

*EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME SUNDAY!*

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, Tuesday, Friday