



Salisbury United Church
May 11, 2025
Welcome to Worship!



**We express our faith in song, in prayer,
 in readings from God's sacred story.**
 We gather up our thoughts and reflections and
 direct them along
 pathways of belonging and relationship with each
 other and with God.
**Connected in heart, mind and spirit,
 we worship together in community with God.**



(Source: "Kin to One Another", <https://united-church.ca/worship-special-days/christian-familysunday>)

Welcome & Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

Hymn Medley:

Rise Up, Rise Up; #130MV

Rise up, rise up, rise up, O my soul.
 Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name.
 Rise up, rise up, rise up, O my soul.
 Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name.



Come and Fill Our Hearts; #16MV

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.
 Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia!

I Can Feel You Near Me God; #48MV

*And I'll jump for joy
 I'm singing Alleluia
 Jump for joy for you
 I will jump for joy
 I'm singing Alleluia
 Jump for joy for you.*

I can feel you near me God I can feel you near
 Yes I know you're with me God I feel you here
 I can feel you near me God I can feel you near
 Yes I know you're with me God Heaven is here. (R)

I can feel you loving me yes I know you care
 God I know you're loving me always everywhere
 I can feel you loving me yes I know you care
 God I know you're loving me I know you're there. (R)

Call to Prayer: *(all remain standing)*

Created in God's love, we are called beloved children of God.
**Friends, neighbours, cousins, siblings in faith,
 we are all related to each other.**
 We are all kin.

Welcoming Each Other:

(We greet each other with open hands of hospitality before sitting down)

Welcoming the Light of Christ:

Let us proclaim the welcoming presence of the light of Christ together:
The light of Christ is with us, between us and all around us.
Thanks be to God.

(The Christ candle is lit)



A Time to Rest in Peace: *(a time to sit quietly
 & be open to the peace we all desire for
 ourselves and the world)*

May the peace of Christ be with you all!
And also with you!



Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer:

God of the ages, God of today,
 you are compassion; our cup overflows.
You are hope; you lead us into green pastures.
 You are truth; you lead us beside quiet streams.
You are life; you restore our souls.
 Morning, noon and night, O God, you are the source of our joy.
**We gather to worship you as one family of your people,
 honoring you as our Creator,
 trusting you as our Saviour,
 celebrating you as the Spirit who gives us life.**

And so we pray together, trusting in your compassion and grace,
 saying, ...

Our Father, who art in heaven,

**Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
Lead us not into temptation but
deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory,
for ever and ever, Amen.**



(Source: "4th Sunday of Easter", <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>)

Hymn: God Is My Shepherd, Psalm 23; #748VU, vv. 1-3

God is my shepherd, I'll not want, I feed in pastures green.
God grants me rest and bids me drink from waters calm and clean.
Through daily tasks, I'm blessed and led by one I have not seen.

Restored to life each morning new, I rise up from the dust
to follow God whose presence gives me confidence and trust.
I praise the name of God today; in God I put my trust.

When I must pass through shadowed vale, where loss and death await,
I will not fear for God is there, my shepherd strong and great,
whose rod and staff will comfort me and all my fears abate.

Discovery Time:

Hymn: I Know Your Word; #108MV

I know your Word, your Word is a lamp to my feet, O God.
I know your Word, your Word is a lamp to my feet, O God.
I know your word is a lamp, O God, to light my path forever.
I know your word is a lamp, O God, to light my path forever.

Scripture Reading: John 10:22-30 (NIV) *(read responsively)*

Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, **"How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."**

Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no

one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

All: Acclamation

This is the Word of God.

Herein lies wisdom. Thanks be to God!

Salisbury Singers: Would You Bless Our Homes and Families; #556VU

Would you bless our homes and families,
Source of life who calls us here;
in our world of stress and tension
teach us love that conquers fear.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles,
love's expressed in many ways.

When our way is undemanding,
let us use the time that's ours
to delight in simple pleasures,
sharing joys in gentle hours.
When our way is anxious walking
and a heavy path we plod,
teach us trust in one another
and in you, our gracious God.

From the homes in which we're nurtured,
with the love that shapes us there,
teach us, God, to claim as family
every one whose life we share.
And through all that life may offer,
may we in your love remain;
may the love we share in families
be alive to praise your name.

Let us reach beyond the boundaries
of our daily thought and care
till the family you have chosen
spills its love out everywhere.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles
love's expressed in many ways.

Scripture Reading: Revelation 7:9-17 (NIV) *(read responsively)*

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

**“Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”**

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

**“Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!”**

Then one of the elders asked me,
“These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great time of trial; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

**The elder further said,
“they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.
‘Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.
The sun will not beat down on them,
nor any scorching heat.
For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;
‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’
‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”**

All: Acclamation

Here is God’s holy word.

Let us listen for what the Spirit is saying to the church! Amen.

Sermon: Rev. Britt Aerhart

Hymn: Who Is My Mother; #178MV

Who is my mother, who is my brother?
All those who gather round Jesus Christ:
Spirit blown people born from the Gospel
sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.

Differently abled, differently labelled,
widen the circle round Jesus Christ:
crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas,
all come together round Jesus Christ.

Love will relate us, colour or status
can't segregate us round Jesus Christ:
family failings, human derailings
all are accepted round Jesus Christ.

Bound by one vision, met for one mission
we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:
here is my mother, here is my brother,
kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ.

Acknowledgement of Offering:

God has blessed our lives with relationships—joy inspiring and challenging.

**In response to God’s blessings in our lives,
we are invited to share our offerings.**

We daily offer gifts to continue to
build relationships with one another
and with the whole creation.

**May God bless our offerings that
they may help bring wholeness
and life abundance to all our kin.
Amen.**



Prayers for the Journey:

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Shepherding God,
you walk with us and show us how to love each other.
We turn to you as children turn to a mothering soul who loves them.
Draw near to us and to all those for whom we pray, so that your love
will be known in the world this day.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, on Mother's Day and Christian Family Sunday we pray
for the families we belong to in which we received some reflection of
your unconditional love.
We thank you for parents, grandparents and great-grandparents,
for the generations who started our families and all they gave to us.
Today we thank you for all those who mothered us and we pray for
loving mothers and fathers throughout the world, especially those in
places of conflict and violence who are worried for their children and
the future.

Keep a brief silence.

Strengthen every caregiver's hope and courage by the power of your
Spirit, and create peace in the world so children can grow up in
safety.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God who holds all people in your hands,
we pray for families in our community and around the world
in these uncertain times.
We remember families in need:
those struggling with economic upheaval, unemployment and the high
cost of living,
those who know sorrow because someone has died or gone away,
those who live in pain or fear, or face some kind of discrimination.

Keep a brief silence.

Surround all people with your love and courage;
bring them support from their neighbours,
and guide each child and young person into the future.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of the heavens and the earth,
we pray for the family of nations in this time of threat and conflict.
Change the hearts of leaders bent on destruction or conquest, greed
and self-promotion.
Give wisdom and courage to those who seek justice through
negotiation,
and protect all those who offer themselves in aid and advocacy work.

Keep a brief silence.

Bring peace with justice to this troubled world.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of love, we pray for each other and for our loved ones,
including this church family.

We give you thanks for friendships and relationships we share
and the unique gifts each one brings to life together.
Rekindle our energy for love and for ministry and mission
and show us our path into the future, even as we pray for
those who we hold in concern and encouragement.

Keep a brief silence.

Make us a beacon of hope in your name.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Caring God, the Good Shepherd,
guiding us through dark valleys and green pastures,
we thank you for your presence with us in all times and situations.
You are the Risen One, alive in the world and in our hearts.
Be for us our comfort and stay as our journey continues.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.



(Source: "4th Sunday of Easter", <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>)

Saying Goodbye to the Light of Christ:

The Christ light can never really be put out.
**Even when we blow it out,
it simply changes form.
And becomes like smoke,
drifting as a blessing toward all
the four directions of the world.**



(The light is extinguished)

Hymn: You Shall Go Out with Joy; #884VU

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!

*And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap, clap)
while you go out with joy.*

(repeated several times)

Blessing:

The heart of Christ will show the way,
The love of God will bless each day,
The Spirit's call will open lives,
May hope and joy begin to rise.
Let us go forth as new creations in Christ.



*(Source: Written by Walter Murray. Gathering,
Lent/Easter 2019, page 36. Used with permission.)*

Sung Blessing: May the Love of the Lord; #218MV

*May the love of our God, rest upon your soul,
May God's love dwell in you throughout every day.*

*Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.*

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Music:

Rise Up, Rise Up; Linnea Good, 2003

Come and Fill Our Hearts; GIA Publications, 1982

I Can Feel You Near Me God; Pat Mayberry, 2000

The Lord's My Shepherd (God Is My Shepherd); public domain

I Know Your Word; General Board of Global Ministries, 2000

Who Is My Mother; Hope Publishing Company, 1992

You Shall Go Out with Joy; Lillenas Publishing Company, 1975

May the Love of the Lord; GBGMusik, 2000

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NO COFFEE AFTER WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY, MAY 11TH

We will not be having coffee after church on May 11th,
which is Mother's Day. Coffee after worship will resume
next Sunday, May 18th.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL RENEWAL MEETING

Sunday, May 25th

Every year in May, we have an annual renewal
meeting to celebrate the life and work of our
congregation in worship and afterwards to
receive the past year's Annual Report. This
year's Renewal Meeting is planned for Sunday, May 25th after worship. Please
join us as we review the Annual Report, which will be sent out in the coming
weeks leading up to the Renewal Meeting.



MEDITATION CIRCLE - WEDNESDAYS @ 10am

Please join us in-person each Wednesday at 10am in the Church's Meditation Room.



BROADVIEW SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

If you would like to renew or begin a subscription to Broadview Magazine, please contact the church office by Friday, May 23rd. With our group subscription rate, an annual subscription is just \$30 each! Cash, cheque or e-transfers are welcome!



INVITATION TO COMPLETE A GOOGLE REVIEW OF SALISBURY UNITED CHURCH

If you have had a meaningful experience at Salisbury United Church, we would greatly appreciate it if you could share your thoughts by leaving a Google review. Your testimonials not only help us grow as a congregation but also assist others in discovering the warmth and support our community offers.



To make this process as simple as possible, we've provided a QR code below. By scanning the code, you will be directed to the Google review page for Salisbury United Church.

****How to complete your review:****

1. Open the camera app on your smartphone or any QR code scanning app.
2. Point your camera at the QR code provided.
3. Tap the link that appears to access the review page.
4. Share your thoughts and rate your experience.



Your voice matters, and your review can inspire others to join our vibrant community of faith. Thank you for taking a moment to help us spread the message of love and fellowship.



LOOKING FOR HELP SUNDAY MORNINGS

If you're able to help Sundays at 10:00am, to set up a few tables & chairs in the auditorium, it would be greatly appreciated.



Finance Corner

Update for April 2025

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income:	\$83,248.56	\$83,227.32
Expense:	\$84,289.86	\$91,405.41
	(\$1,041.30)	(\$8,178.09)

Financial results to the end of April 2025 are still looking better than budgeted. Here are the year-to-date highlights compared to budget as of April 30th:

Net Income (total income less total expenses)

We have a deficit for the first time this year of \$1,041, which is about \$7,000 better than the budgeted deficit of \$8,178.

Income (revenue)

Income is slightly higher than budgeted, by about \$20. While offerings and rental income are higher by +\$700 each, fundraisers are lower than expected, at -\$1,500.

Expenses

Expenses are coming in \$7,116 less than budgeted with Property expenses making up a majority of that by coming in -\$7,230.

Thanks for helping our new year get off to a positive start!

If you need any help with giving envelopes – new supply, pick-up, etc. – or other giving options (monthly giving through PAR, e-transfer or donating online through Canada Helps on the Salisbury Website), please contact: Brittany at the Church Office.

Phone: 780-467-7310