



**Salisbury United Church**  
**Revelation Series, Service #5**  
**November 19, 2023**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Acknowledgement of Territory**

**Hymn Medley:**

Praise to the Lord; #835VU, Psalm 113

Praise to the Lord, all of you God's Servants.  
Blessed be the name of our God, now and ever.  
From the rising up of the sun may the Lord be praised,  
praise to the name of the Lord!



There is none like our God, in the heavens, or on earth,  
who lifts the poor from the dust,  
seating them with the mighty,  
who stoops to raise the weak and low,  
may the Lord be praised, praise to the name of the Lord.

Lift Up the Gates Eternal, #750VU, Psalm 24, refrain only

*Lift up the gates eternal, lift up your voices:  
for God in glory comes, the nation rejoices.*

Never Ending Joy; #40MV

*Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy,  
Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy!*

God of every tribe, every language, God of every river and sea,  
God of every mountain and island, you bring joy to me. (R)

God of every hill, every valley, God of every leaf, every tree,  
God of every cloud, every raindrop, you bring joy to me. (R)

God of every song, every story, God of every captive set free,  
God of every dance, every footstep, you bring joy to me. (R)

**Call to Prayer:**

**O God, we arrive today troubled and world-weary.**  
We come seeking encouragement, peace and  
consolation.

**You challenge us to see with eyes of hope that  
which is eternal and not of this world.**

Joining with saints and angels and all of creation,  
we turn to you searching for a graceful word for our  
lives, which shall also be for the whole created earth.

**With the multitude of God's people we cry out, "Hallelujah,  
Amen!"**

And heaven and earth together reply saying, "Amen and Amen!"



**Welcoming the Light of Christ:**

Let us proclaim the presence  
of the light of Christ together:

**The light of Christ is with us,  
between us and all around us.  
Thanks be to God.**



**Passing of the Peace: (placing a hand over the heart)**

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



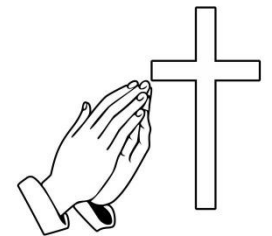
**Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer:**

O Holy God, we gather hardly knowing what to expect, but offering  
ourselves to this moment with you. May all judgment fall silent in  
expectation of your mercy. May all warring impulses grow calm in the  
presence of your peace. May all scorn and ridicule be set aside in the  
presence of your Love. May we be open to mercy, peace and love as  
we gather together today.

**This we pray together, 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.**



**Hymn:** Holy, Holy, Holy, (Santo, Santo, Santo); 951VU  
(Spanish, beginning only)


Santo, Santo, Santo, my heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, God!



**Discovery Time:**

**Hymn:** Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New; #115MV

Behold, behold, I make all things new,  
beginning with you and starting from today.  
Behold, behold, I make all things new,  
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

**Scripture Reading:** Revelation 18-20 (*responsive reading*) 

Next, I saw seven angels holding seven bowls, and one of the angels carried me away in the Spirit to the desert.

**There I saw a woman wearing purple and scarlet, dripping with gold and carrying a cup filled with indecency, sacrilege and poison.**

She rode the great beast from the sea with seven heads and ten horns, who once was, is no longer, but will come again.

**Her forehead was marked, “Babylon, Source of all Idolatry and Abominations,” and she was full of the blood of the holy ones who follow Jesus.**

Then a great and powerful angel spoke, one whose gleaming splendour filled all the earth.

**“Fallen! Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! All nations have drunk of her poison and God remembers such crimes.”**

Another powerful voice spoke and said, “Come out of her my people so that you will not share in her sins.”

The kings of the earth have idolized and consorted with her and have grown rich from her excesses and luxuries.”

**The merchants and sea captains who gained their wealth from the city will cry out, along with the kings of the earth, saying, “Woe, Woe!”**

No one will be able to ply their trade or buy her cargo of fine cloth and rich spices, of rare wood and luxurious metal, of wine and olive oil and flour;

**Neither will anyone buy her cargo of the bodies and souls of human beings.**

They will all cry, “Woe! Woe, O great and glittering city. In one hour all has been brought to ruin!”


**Then another mighty angel stood forth and threw a great boulder into the sea, proclaiming, “See how violently and utterly the city of Babylon the Great is thrown down!”**

Your merchants and workers and musicians were the greatest in the world, yet by your influence the nations of the world were led astray.

**No light from a burning lamp will ever shine out again from you!**

For in you has been found the blood of prophets and saints, and indeed of everyone who has been killed on the face of the earth.

**Salisbury Singers:** “Dear God Who Loves All Humankind”

**Scripture Reading:** Revelation 19 (*responsive reading*) 

After this I heard what sounded like the rising song of a great multitude from heaven.

**They were singing, “Alleluia, salvation and honour and glory belong to our God, whose judgment is true and just”.**

The twenty-four elders and four living creatures fell down and worshipped God who sat enthroned above the earth.

**“Praise our God, they sang, all you servants great and small!**

**This is the great and glad wedding day of the Lamb!”**

The angels then said to me, “Write this down, Blessed are they who have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.”

**I fell down to worship the angel who said, “Don't do that, I am a servant just like you.”**

Then I saw heaven standing wide open, and another rider appeared, with a sword in his mouth, a great warrior for justice, a judge with integrity called the Word of God.

**A great host followed the warrior and a battle raged with the terrible beast and all the rulers of the earth.**

The beast was cast down and thrown into a fiery lake of burning sulphur. All the rest were slain. I saw that the dead will remain dead for a thousand years.

**Then the great dragon will rise again to march the length and breadth of the earth.**

Then the great dragon will be thrown into the fire where it and the terrible beast will be tormented for ever and ever.

**Death and the netherworld, who will give up their dead, will also be hurled into the pool of fire.**

Then I looked and saw a new heaven and a new earth for the former heavens and the former earth had passed away.

**I saw Jerusalem, the holy city of God, coming out of heaven.**

I heard a voice say, "God's dwelling place is now among the people. The most high will live with them, and will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

**"Death and mourning will be no more, crying and pain will be no more."**

"The old order has fallen and the day of God is at hand."

**Hymn:** Open Your Ears, O Faithful People; #272VU, *chorus*  
(note: words changed)

God *is speaking* to the people, Hallelujah.  
God *is speaking* to the people, Hallelujah.

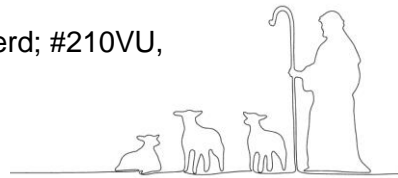
**Sermon:** "The Resistance of God's People"

**Hymn:** You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd; #210VU,  
(Tune: *Westminster Abbey*, #325VU)

You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd.  
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.  
You, peacemaker and sword-bringer  
of the way you took and gave.  
You, the everlasting instant;  
you, whom we both scorn and crave.

Clothed in light upon the mountain,  
stripped of might upon the cross,  
shining in eternal glory,  
beggared by a soldier's toss.  
You, the everlasting instant;  
you who are both gift and cost.

You, who walk each day beside us,  
sit in power at God's side.  
You, who preach a way that's narrow,  
have a love that reaches wide.  
You, the everlasting instant;  
you who are our pilgrim guide.



Worthy is our earthly Jesus!  
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!  
Worthy your defeat and victory.  
Worthy still your peace and strife.  
You, the everlasting instant;  
you, who are our death and life.

**Acknowledgement of Offering:** (with introduction by Rev. Britt)

We offer ourselves with our gifts, confident that you have a purpose for them and for us. Expand our limited vision to embrace new possibilities. May our offering reach beyond the barriers of our former thinking and doing.  
In the Spirit of Christ, we would pray and live. Amen.



(Source: *Flames of the Spirit*, page 91)

**Prayers for the Journey:**

Lord you said, 'See, I am making all things new.'  
**'Amen, Amen, make all things new!'**

Gracious Creator, we marvel at the glory of your creation, at the grandeur of your creatures and, above all, at the way you have fashioned each to enrich the other. Yet, in city after city, town after town, village after village, we have marred the glory and grandeur of your handiwork. We did not do it by design; it happened by drift.

We failed to resist the evil we fear. We failed to do the good we praise. And now, as a consequence, our communities have fallen victim to persons and pressures that turn them away from your will.

Lord you said, 'See, I am making all things new.'  
**'Amen, Amen, make all things new!'**

Forgive us, and enable us to repair by design what we allowed to happen by drift. Let us envision communities in which all human beings live in houses fit for human habitation; in which all children attend schools staffed for quality education; in which medical care is quickly and generously dispensed; in which the elderly live and die in dignity; in which leaders not only proclaim values that enrich life but proceed to enrich life by the values they practice. Then send us forth to clothe this vision in human flesh.

Lord you said, 'See, I am making all things new.'  
**'Amen, Amen, make all things new!'**

Holy God, make us living signs of your power to turn our earthly communities into your heavenly city. Open all our doors to the four corners of creation, that we might consider all of earth's inhabitants to be our Kin. Make real in us compassion, generosity and a love of justice that enrich human life.

*(prayers in silence)*

Deliver us from temptation, renew us with your presence and empower us to overcome evil with good. Come, Spirit of the living God, descend upon us. Deliver us from the ambition that divides and confuses, and restore us to the mission that unites us with you and one another.

Lord you said, 'See, I am making all things new.'  
**'Amen, Amen, make all things new!'**  
**May it be so. Amen!**

*(source: Litanies and Other Prayers, p. 165-166)*



### Saying Goodbye to The Light of Christ:

The Christ light can never be put out. Even when we blow it out, it simply changes form, and drifts like smoke into all the four directions of the world.

*(The light is extinguished)*

**The smoke rises like a blessing, until we meet again, and can put a flame to the candle wick, declaring that the light of Christ is with us, between us and all around us.**



### Hymn: Give Thanks for Life; #706VU

Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,  
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,  
yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Give thanks for those who made their life a light  
caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through the night,  
who touched the truth, who burned for what is right,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

And for our own, our living and our dead,  
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,  
a love not changed by time or death or dread,

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain  
lying in darkness does its life retain  
in resurrection to grow green again,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

### Blessing:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all God's people.  
And let the multitude of God's people say, "Amen."  
**Amen and Amen!!!** (*Revelation 22:21*)

### Sung Blessing:

*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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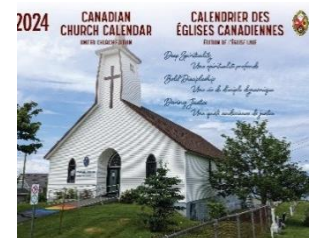
#### Music:

*Praise to the Lord; Ron Klusmeier, 1972*  
*Lift Up the Gates Eternal; Arlo D Duba & Williard F. Jabusch & The Pilgrim Press, 1986*  
*Never Ending Joy; Daniel Charles Damon, 2005*  
*Holy, Holy, Holy; Public Domain*  
*Behold, I Make All Things New; John L. Bell, 1995*  
*Open Your Ears, O Faithful People; GIA Publications, 1985*  
*You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd; GIA Publications, 1991*  
*Give Thanks for Life; Hope Publishing Company, 1986*

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### UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA CALENDARS

We have placed a small bulk order for the 2024 UC Canadian Church Calendars. If you are interested in purchasing one for \$7.50, please contact the office and we will notify you when they are ready for pick-up.



### TEA & BAKE SALE: Saturday, November 25th from 10am-1pm

Our annual Bake Sale & Light Lunch will take place on Saturday, November 25th from 10am-1pm in the Church Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 (children 6 and under are FREE). This is an excellent opportunity to enjoy a light lunch, enter your name for a door prize draw, and best of all, purchase some homemade goodies for the holidays!



### CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING: Sunday, November 26th



The annual Congregational Budget Meeting is on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> following worship service. There will be refreshments and snacks beforehand. Additional details regarding the upcoming 2024 budget will be released soon.

### TRUEARTH FUNDRAISER - Sale from Nov 1-Dec 10

Our ongoing fundraiser with TruEarth, a Canadian company which sells environmentally friendly cleaning products for your laundry, kitchen, and bathroom, is having a sale that runs from Nov 1st to Dec 10th and features some awesome bundles for amazing prices, so you won't want to miss a chance to support our fundraiser!

Also, new this year, TruEarth is offering a weekly Buy One, Get One, Give One - When you buy one item, you get the second item for Free that you can either use yourself or give to someone you know. And TruEarth will donate a third item to charity! Orders can be placed online through our fundraising link, or contact the office by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to place a bulk order.

### LOOKING FOR HELP WITH SET-UP SUNDAY MORNINGS



If you are able to help any Sunday at 10:00am, for a few minutes, to set up a few tables and chairs in the auditorium, it would be greatly appreciated.

### STRATHCONA COUNTY FOOD BANK DONATIONS



Please bring non-perishable items to donate to the Strathcona Food Bank. There is a yellow bin in the Narthex for donations along with a list of most-needed items.



### Finance Corner

Update for October 2023

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income:	\$181,021.91	\$168,678.98
Expense:	\$212,758.99	\$192,234.25
	<b>(\$31,737.08)</b>	<b>(\$23,575.27)</b>

Primarily due to ongoing inflationary pressures, Salisbury's deficit after the first 10 months of 2023 increased to -\$31,700. Though income was \$12,300 above budget, repair and maintenance expenses exceeded budget by about \$21,800, including one-time expenses such as the church lighting project and the fire alarm system upgrade.

Last year at this time our deficit totalled -\$18,500. We went on to finish 2022 with a surplus of +7,300 – a turnaround of \$25,800!

Our financial challenge is considerably larger this year. With just two months to go, we all need to pitch in if we're going to finish the year in the black. Judging by the way we rallied last year, we can do it. Thanks for doing your part!

### Thank you for your continuing support of Salisbury United Church.

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**