



**Salisbury United Church
Revelation Series, Service #3
November 5, 2023**



Welcome & Announcements

Acknowledgement of Territory

Hymn Medley:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty; #315VU, v. 1 & 2

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty; #220VU, v. 1 & 4

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;
O my soul, praise him, at all times your health and salvation.
Come, all who hear:
brothers and sisters draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
sound from God's people again:
gladly with praise we adore him.

Come, Let Us Sing; #222VU

Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,
we have stood silently too long;
surely the Lord deserves our praise,
so joyfully thank God for our days.

O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;
God's living waters will never fail.
Surely the Lord will help you to stand,
strengthened and comforted by God's hand.



You dwell among us and cause us to pray,
and walk with each other following your way;
our precious brothers and sisters will grow
in the fulfilling love they know.

Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing
to the desire of all living things.
Come, all you creatures, high and low,
let your praises endlessly flow.

Call to Prayer:

The multitude of God's people cry out, "Amen!"
**The people gather together today saying,
"Amen and Amen!"**

All creation joins the great chorus of praise.
Saints and angels add their voices to the chorus.
"Come," says the Spirit, "Come and enter into
the praise and prayer of the great multitude.
The veil between heaven and earth lifts.
We are drawn into the great ongoing worship of God.



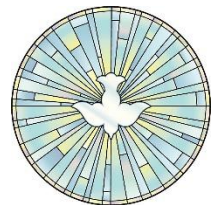
Welcoming the Light of Christ:

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:

Great and ever-present God,
veiled but never absent,
known but never contained,
moving but never random,
in this time of worship the curtain between
what is seen and unseen parts and a door opens.
We are invited to enter in and glimpse what others have already
dreamed.
Open our minds and sharpen our insight,
you who never want us to be uninformed
or left to the whims of those who misrepresent you.

This we pray as we say...

**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!

Salisbury Singers: "O Jesus Joy of Loving Hearts"

Scripture Reading: Revelation 4: 1-5, 5 (*responsive reading*)



Next, I, John, looked and saw an opening in the veil between heaven and earth.

A voice like a trumpet continued speaking to me.

I listened and heard, "Enter further in and I will show you what will happen next."

I looked in and saw a great sacred being seated on a throne surrounded by a rainbow.

24 elders encompassed the throne and four creatures stood with the elders.

A scroll with seven seals was held in the right hand of the Sacred One sitting on the throne.

Before the throne stood seven burning lamps set on lampstands.

An archangel was there weeping, for no one there was worthy to receive the scroll and open it.

But one of the elders spoke up and said, "Look, there *is* one who is worthy to receive the scroll, who is the Lion of Judah, the root of David, who has triumphed."

I looked and I saw, not a Lion but a Lamb with seven horns and seven eyes who was wounded as if slain.

Then I saw the Lamb take the scroll from the right hand of the Sacred One who sat on the throne.

The elders, who were holding harps and bowls of incense, bowed before the Lamb, and joined by the four living creatures and thousands upon thousands of angels begin to sing:

"Worthy is the Lamb, worthy to receive honour and glory and praise."

Then every creature in heaven and on earth, every creature under the earth and in the sea, also began to join the chorus.

The four living creatures, one like an eagle, one like an ox, one like a lion, and one like a human being, paused and shouted, "Amen".

The elders along with all beings on earth and in heaven continued their song,

"Glory be to God, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen."

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

God *is speaking* to the people, Hallelujah.

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Scripture Reading:



I watched as the Lamb opened the scroll with the seven seals.

One of the four living creatures stopped singing and said to me four times, "Come further in."

I entered further into the dream where I saw the Lamb opening each seal on the scroll, one by one.

The first four seals opened to reveal four horses and four riders, one for each of the four directions of the earth.

Each rider had power to bring great afflictions upon the face of the earth: oppression, war, hunger and death.

One rider carried a bow, one a sword, one a set of scales and the last one was followed by Hades.

Then the Lamb opened the fifth seal.

I saw the souls of all those executed on account of the way and witness of Jesus the Christ.



They wore white robes and cried out, "How long, O Lord. How long must this go on?"

They were told to persevere, to wait but a little while longer until the number of the faithful dead was complete.

Then the Lamb opened the sixth seal and the sun turned black, the moon turned red, the stars began to fall, the earth shook.

The kings and princes of the earth, the generals and the rich and mighty shook with fear of the wrath of God.

All these along with every free person and every slave fled with them to take shelter in the mountains.

Then I saw the servants of God numbering 144,000 or 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel.

I also saw a great multitude gathered with them in numbers too vast to count.

They were all wearing white robes and holding palm branches.

They all joined the great chorus, "Amen be to our God forever. Amen and Amen."

One of the elders said, "These are the ones who have overcome, who will never again hunger or thirst nor will they ever be scorched by the heat of the sun."

The Lamb will become their shepherd and will lead them beside living waters.

The Lamb will wipe every tear from their eyes while the multitude cries, "Amen and Amen!"

Now let God's people say, "Amen!"

"Amen and Amen!"

Sermon: "The Lion who is the Lamb"

Hymn: What Wondrous Love Is This; #147VU

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul.
to lay aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I am,
while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Acknowledgement of Offering:

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)

The Sacrament of Communion

The Invitation:

This is the taste of hopeful expectation.

**To everyone, east and west, north and south,
the Spirit says, "Come!"**

Multitudes will come from east and west, north and south,
to sit at the great banquet table of God.

**Until that day, we keep the feast and invite everyone gathered
here to keep the feast with us.**

Hymn: Let us Break Bread Together; #480VU

Let us break bread together on our knees,
let us break bread together on our knees.

*When I fall down on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.*

Let us drink wine together on our knees,
let us drink wine together on our knees. (R)

Let us praise God together on our knees,
let us praise God together on our knees. (R)



Prayer Before Sharing:

The Spirit of God be with you all!

And also with you!

Be not afraid and lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God!

Let us give God thanks and praise!

Amen!



Holy, holy, holy God!

God of power and might!

Before all that is, you were.

Beyond all we know, you are.

After all is finished, you ever will be.

Archangels sound the trumpets,

All beings join in song with the angels,

All creation sings your praise.

Holy, holy, holy God,

you beyond all galaxies,

you under all oceans,

you within the quiet frozen earth,

you sustaining the trees in winter,

you circling with the birds on frosty wings,

you shining through the warming of the sun,

you embracing us as day sinks to night,

you calling us through dreams and visions,

you approaching us in Jesus.

And so we cry Mercy!

Mercy!

And so we cry Glory!

Glory!

And so we cry Blessing!

Blessing!

Holy Holy Holy God,

we remember your Beloved Word, Jesus.

Who lived as one among us.

**We remember his life of healing and teaching
among the humble,**

We remember his wisdom which
taught us about justice and strength

**We remember his death among those made
wretched and outcast by human powers,**

We remember his resurrection for us all,
turning us toward you and one another.

Holy God, we pray for your Spirit to move among us
as we remember that on the night he was betrayed
he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, saying,
“Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you.”

We also remember that on that same night,
he took a cup of wine and gave it to all to drink, saying,
**“Take, drink, this is the cup of the new covenant
poured out for you and for all people.”**

We do this in remembrance and faithfulness.

Holy, Holy, Holy God,

by the power of your Spirit

enliven this bread,

awaken this body of faith,

pour us out for each other,

transform our minds and hearts,

ignite your church,

nourish the life of the earth,

make us while many, united,

make us while broken, whole,

make us, despite death, alive.

And so we cry,

Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the earth!

And so the church shouts, with the multitude,

Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the earth!

And the earth pleads,

Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the earth!

Holy, Holy, Holy God,

praise now,

praise yesterday,

praise tomorrow

praise forever.

And so we cry, Amen!

Amen and Amen!

(Source: Prayer I, Celebrate God's Presence, The United Church of Canada)

Sharing of Communion:

The gifts of God, for the people of God.



Prayer After Sharing:

Eternal and gracious One,
though we live in a world of need,
**here we have tasted your goodness
and hungered for a world more just.**
Though afflicted by brokenness and division,
**here we have heard your call
to be a people of healing community.**
Though daily we touch our limits,
**here we have received
the fullness of your grace.**
Send us forth, O God,
in faith, in hope, and in love.
Amen.

(Source: Celebrate God's Presence, page 303)

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: Sent Forth by God's Blessing; #481VU

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us
to work for the kingdom and answer its call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.

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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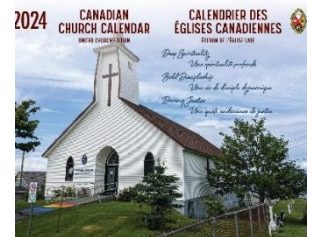
Music:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty; Public Domain, 1971
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty; Public Domain
Come, Let Us Sing; Desert Flower Music, 1976
Holy, Holy, Holy; Public Domain
Open Your Ears, O Faithful People; GIA Publications, 1985
What Wondrous Love Is This; Public Domain
Let us Break Bread Together; Public Domain

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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!

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 25th 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 September 2023

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income:	\$158,940.86	\$151,228.50
Expense:	\$185,194.34	\$168,705.11
	(\$26,253.48)	(\$17,476.61)

With just three months to go in our fiscal year, we're currently facing a \$26,000 deficit, which is \$8800 more than budgeted. There's still hope of finishing the year in the black however. Typically, givings increase and expenses level off as we near the Christmas season. Year end fundraisers also help out.

In 2022, 38.6% of the year's revenue was received in the last quarter, even though that three-month period accounted for only 25% of the year. If that trend continues this year, we just might break even or perhaps wind up with a small surplus.

So, folks, it's up to us to ensure we finish 2023 in good financial shape. We can do it!

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