



Salisbury United Church
October 22, 2023
Revelation Series: Part I

Welcome & Announcements

Acknowledgement of Territory

Hymn Medley:

Shall We Gather at the River; #710VU, v. 1 & 2

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. (R).

For the Healing of the Nations; #678VU, v. 1 & 4

For the healing of the nations,
God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that, by our response and service,
earth its destiny may find.

Over My Head; #88MV, v. 1, 2 & 4

*Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere.*

When the storms of life are ragin' I hear music in the air. (3x)
There must be a God somewhere. (R)



When the winds of strife are blowin', I hear music in the air. (3x)
There must be a God somewhere. (R)

King Jesus is a-callin', I hear music in the air. (3x)
There must be a God somewhere. (R)



Call to Prayer:

We are a part of a great multitude,
gathered in from the four corners of creation.
We are part of a great multitude,
gathered in from every nation, tribe, people and language.
We are part of a great multitude,
**gathered in from every circumstance, frame of mind,
background, ability, or identification.**
We are part of a great multitude gathered in for worship.
The Spirit says, "Come!"
The multitude of God's people cry out, "Amen!"
The people gather together today 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.**



Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy; 951VU (English, repeated)

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

Holy One, Alpha and Omega,
Our Beginning and our Ending,
we gather, listening for a word
that is trustworthy and true.

We have had our fill of slick and empty words
that smooth over the ache of our hearts
but do not ever yield a real vision
of a new heaven and a new earth.

String together, here, this morning,
a few words that open us up to hope.
Help us to believe that you are still
speaking through dreamers
who remind us that in spite of tears and terror
you are even now fashioning a Holy City, a New Jerusalem,
where the homeless find shelter and
the heartless discover love.

Help us to hear your words with wonder,
that your Commonwealth of Love
is on its way among us,
and that through seers and blessed poets
we have been shown that your dwelling place
is with all of creation.

This we pray in the name of Jesus,
who is both the lamb and shepherd of your heart,
Amen.

*(Source: "Sentenced to Hope", in If Darwin Prayed,
by Bruce Sanguin, pp. 121, adapted B. Aerhart)*

Discovery Time:

Salisbury Singers: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Scripture Reading: Revelation 21:1-22:7, *arranged responsively*
(Inclusive Bible)



Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The former earth and the former heavens had passed away.

And I saw the Holy City coming down from God,
as beautiful as a bride and groom on their wedding day.

**And I heard a loud voice calling, "Look! God's dwelling place
will be among the multitude, and they will be God's people,
and God will be fully with them.**

The Most High will wipe away every tear from their eyes,
and death and mourning and pain will be no more,
for the old order has fallen.

**The one on the throne said, Look! I am making all things new!
Write this for it is trustworthy and true!**

It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the
end, and I give those who are thirsty drink from the spring of the water
of life.

**They shall overcome and become my legacy, my beloved
children.**

But the legacy of those who are unfaithful, corrupt, and deceitful,
who commit murder and sexual violence and corrupt the image of
God is the second death, and they shall be no more.

**An angel then carried me up to a high mountain and I could see
the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of the
clouds of glory.**

**It shone like a precious jewel and angels stood at its gates and
kept watch.**

Each gate was made of pearl and the streets were pure gold, as pure
as glass.

There were three gates which stood open in each direction,
and the gates are never closed and the city is filled with eternal light.

**There is no temple in the city for God is there and so is the
Beloved, who is both lamb and shepherd,
who is the living lampstand for the glory of God's presence
which lights the city.**

There is room enough in the City of God for the glory of every nation
to enter in, and nothing unwholesome or loathsome will ever find a
refuge there.

Those whose names are written in the Book of Life will live there.

And, there they will see a river which runs through the middle of the
City of God, and along its banks grows the Tree of Life whose leaves
are medicine for the healing of the nations.

**The seat of God and the presence of the Beloved who is both
Lamb and Shepherd will be there.**

God's people will see them face-to-face and God's name shall be on
their foreheads.

These words are trustworthy and true.

The God who speaks by the spirit of prophets has shown the faithful
what must soon take place.

Happy are you who heed the prophetic message of this book.

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 End Is Our Beginning”

Hymn: I See a New Heaven; #713VU

*I see a new heaven. I see a new earth as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.*

There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,
yielding her fruit, firm in her root, the Tree of Life will be. (R)

There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,
body and soul, struggling but whole like flowers after the rain. (R)

There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light, reveals the promise of love.
(R)

There, there where we work with the love of healing hands.
Labour we must, true to our trust to build a promised new land. (R)

Acknowledgement of Offering:

Generous God, you grant us bread for our bodies and grace that is renewed everyday. In these uncertain times, help us to trust your way more fully, living one day at a time, loving and serving as we can. Make of us and our gifts of time, talent and treasure offerings which serve you and your good purposes in the world. Amen.



Prayers for the Journey:

Lord you said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’
‘Amen, Amen! Make all things new!’

Holy God, you speak to our hearts
and sometimes you speak in images and words
that seem fantastical or troubling.

Help us to open our ears and our minds
so that we can receive your vision
of the Holy City coming into being

on earth as in heaven.
The old order of things shall pass away,
and all shall be made new,
therefore we open our hearts
and pray with hope this day.

Lord you said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’
‘Amen, Amen! Make all things new!’

Holy God, who is, was and ever shall be,
we pray today for those who are lonely.
We hope in the consolation that the home of God will be among
people:
that you will dwell with us, that we will be your people and that you
yourself will be the light we walk by.

Lord you said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’
‘Amen, Amen! Make all things new!’

We open our hearts to those who need your presence now, we know
especially those who are feeling isolated.
We pray for those who are crying;
who are sad, depressed and anxious.
We hope in the promise that God will wipe every tear from our eyes.

Lord you said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’
‘Amen, Amen! Make all things new!’

We open our hearts to those we know who are sad and who know
tears.
We pray for those who are experiencing the consequences of death,
the bereaved and those who are mourning.
We hope in the promise that death and mourning will be no more.

Lord you said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’
‘Amen, Amen! Make all things new!’

We open our hearts to those we know
who are affected by death and sorrow.
We pray for those who are in pain,
and are suffering from illness either physical or mental.
We hope in the promise that crying and pain will be no more.

Lord you said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’
‘Amen, Amen! Make all things new!’

We open our hearts to those we know who are suffering.
We pray for those who are thirsty for truth, love and grace;
those who seek the waters of life with earnest hearts.
We hope in the promise that you will give water to the thirsty without
cost from the spring of the water of life.

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

We open our hearts to those we know who hunger and thirst for God.
We pause for a time of personal silent prayer for all that remains
unspoken in our hearts.

(Pause)

Lord, your words are trustworthy and true.
We pray all this in your name, and in the name of your Beloved, Jesus
the Christ, the beginning and end, Amen.
Amen.

*(source: by Sarah Hargreaves, posted on re:Worship,
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/search?q=new+jerusalem.>)*

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: O Holy City, Seen of John; #709VU, v. 1, 4 & 5
(note: verse change, v. 4)

O holy city, seen of John, where Christ, the Lamb, doth reign,
within whose four-square walls shall come no night, nor need, nor pain,
and where the tears are wiped from eyes that shall not weep again!

Give us, O God, the strength to build the city that hath stood
too long a dream, whose laws are love, whose summons servant-hood,
and where the sun that shineth is God's grace for human good.

Already in the mind of God that city riseth fair.
Lo, how its splendour challenges the souls that greatly dare,
yea, bids us seize the whole of life and build its glory there!

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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I See a New Heaven; Carolyn McDade, 1979
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MEAT PIE FUNDRAISER - ORDER PICK-UP

Oct. 28th, 10am-12pm

Thank you for your Meat Street Pie orders in support
of our church fundraiser. Orders have been placed and will be ready for
pick-up on Saturday, October 28th from 10am to 12 noon at the church.



ECUMENICAL MISSION SERVICE - OCTOBER 22ND @ 7:00PM

The 32nd Ecumenical Mission of Strathcona County is from October 22nd
– 25th, with the first Ecumenical Mission Service at Sherwood Park
United Church (20 Fir Street, Sherwood Park) on Sunday, October 22nd at
7:00 pm. This service is co-hosted by Salisbury United Church.
Nicholas Jesson & Rev. Amanda Currie will share sessions throughout
the Mission including evening worship services, a morning Bible study
and afternoon teas. For more information, please see the poster or
brochure in the Narthex.

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