



Salisbury United Church
Revelation Series, Service #2
October 29, 2023

Welcome & Announcements

Acknowledgement of Territory

Hymn Medley:

The Kingdom of God; #146MV

The kingdom of God is justice
and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open in us
the gates of your kingdom.

Let There Be Light; #679VU, v. 1, 2 & 5

Let there be light,
let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather,
let them be face to face;

open our lips,
open our minds to ponder,
open the door of concord
opening into grace;

your kingdom come,
your spirit turn to language,
your people speak together,
your spirit never fade;

Dance With the Spirit; #156MV, (walk, pray, sing, rise)

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
pray with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.



Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
sing with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
rise with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Call to Prayer:

A voice speaks to us as if in a daydream.
Is it God, or are we only speaking to ourselves?
Turning, we behold a vision both ancient and new.
God shows us what is now and is to come.
God says, "Be not afraid."
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.



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:

How is it that we have come this far O God, and still do not hear your Spirit speaking to us?
The times weigh heavily on us, and our sense of future is precarious.
We wonder if you are really playing your part in our story.
We forget that it is the other way around, that it is your story that we are part of.
Your plans and purposes are beyond us and yet also run through us, through heartbeat, bone and breath.
Strengthen us, then, for resilient faithfulness which listens for the movement of your Spirit in these times of upheaval and great challenge.
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!

Discovery Time:

Salisbury Singers: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Scripture Reading: Revelation 1 (responsive reading)



This is the revelation of Jesus the Christ, given by God to the faithful
to show what must happen soon.

**From John, your companion in the patient endurance that is ours
in Jesus, to the seven churches in Asia,**

"Grace and peace to you from the One who is, who was and who is to
come, Jesus the Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, the faithful
witness, the firstborn from the dead.

I am writing to you from my place of exile.

I was living in exile on the island of Patmos on account of the word of
God and the testimony of Jesus, and it was the Lord's Day.

**I was in the Spirit, and while praying I heard a voice like the
sound of a trumpet saying:**

"Write what you see and send it to these seven churches in Asia:
Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and
Laodicea"

**I turned around and saw seven shining lampstands which I took
to be the seven churches.**

In the middle of the lampstands, I saw a robed figure wearing a
golden sash.

**His hair was white as snow, his feet shone like polished bronze,
his voice resounded like ocean waves surging on the shoreline.**
He held seven stars in his right hand and a sharp sword was coming
out of his mouth.

**I fell down as though dead but he touched me and said, "Be not
afraid."**

"Write what you see," he said. "Write things as they are now and as
they will come to be."

And that is what I did.

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.

Scripture Reading: Revelation 2-3



(Read by Grant Lovig & Frieda Lovig)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches!
To those with ears to hear, let them listen!



To the angel of the church in *Ephesus*, you have endured! You have
even resisted the Nicolaitans who I can't abide. But, be warned! You
have forgotten your first love. Remember the good you did at the first?
Beware, or you will lose your lampstand and your light will go out.

*To the angel of the Church in Smyrna. Hardships, poverty, and
slander! These you have endured! Don't be afraid. A time of trial and
even imprisonment is at hand. Be faithful! The crown of life is yours.*

To the angel of the church in *Pergamum*, you have been faithful even
though Antipas was arrested and put to death. It is hard to live near
the throne of Satan! So, why do you put up with the teachings of
imposters like Balak and the Nicolaitans? Beware, or the sword of my
mouth will prick you.

*To the angel of the church in Thyatira, I know your works, your love
and faith, your service and endurance. Yet you tolerate that imposter,
Jezebel, who leads you backwards into worshiping idols with your
bodies and your stomachs! Beware! Remember what I did to Pharaoh
in the days of Egypt.*

To the angel of the church in *Sardis*, I know you have the reputation of being alive. Truly, you are almost dead. Wake up and strengthen what remains, or there will be no one left to walk with me! I will come to you at a time you cannot foretell, like a thief in the night.

To the angel of the church in Philadelphia, I know your strength is slipping. I love you and soon those imposters who have belittled and scorned you will be forced to admit it. I will uphold you and keep you safe in the trial that is coming. No one will take your crown from you.

And lastly, to the angel of the church of *Laodicea*, you are rich, you say! You want for nothing. If only you were poor, blind and naked! You would at least realize that you are barely alive. I stand at your door knocking. Hear me and I will surely enter in and eat with you.

To the one who overcomes, you will eat from the Tree of Life.
You will wear robes as white as snow.
You will become like a pillar in the Temple of God and I will give you the morning star.
You will receive a new and glorious name, one which shall be recorded forever in the Book of Life.

Sermon: "Light Walking Around"

Hymn: My Life Flows On; #713VU

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing:
It finds an echo in my soul – how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? My Saviour still is living.
What though the shadows gather 'round? A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging:
since Love commands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells ringing:
when friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging:
when friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;
and day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing:
all things are mine since I am Christ's – how can I keep from singing?

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)

Prayers for the Journey:

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



Eternal God who is, was and ever shall be, you have given us the gifts which we know through the moving strains of music, through a smile and a tear, a sigh and a shout, through laughter and weeping, a prayer, silence, the beauty of such a day and place, ...God, for these gifts and the meaning of them for each of us, know our gratitude and our expressions of praise.

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

We pray for this and any community of faith – sometimes triumphant and present, while at other times, seeming to be failing and distant. Sometimes we are together and at-one – uniting the variety of parts that we are, even the smallest, into a whole that transcends our limits and boundaries. At other times, we are scattered and divided – torn and hurting, afraid and self-righteous. Sometimes we are truly serving, while at other times, we demand and want only to be served. Sometimes we are filled with your Spirit, which enlivens, empowers, and transforms, while at other times, we are only a skeleton that settles for what is – afraid and yes, silent. Holy One, your Spirit catches us and fills us and frees us. Help us to be your church, to appreciate the gifts which we are given and share them gratefully that we may be a stronger, serving, enlivening, empowering, and transforming body of faith in this world.

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

Bless, dear God, this particular congregation and the worldwide body we call the church of which we are part. Forgive us when we think of ourselves first. Forgive us for the foolish pride that we sometimes feel – both expressed openly and secretly – that ours is better or ours is more faithful, or ours is the only real way of being a church. At the same time, know our gratitude for the freedom and the variety that we enjoy as members and sufferers of this church and of the United Church of Canada. Bless us with liveliness, steadfastness and a good spirit as we work in and through the changing ways of being faithful in community in our day and time.

Lord, you said, “See, I am making all things new.”
“Amen, Amen. Make all things new.”

We pray for the world – this one world in which we live –in which there is abundance and yet limits, in which there is food and yet hunger, in which there is healing and yet hurting, in which there is peace and yet war. We pray for the world which you so love, that you sent us the Christ to believe, to trust and to follow, that there might be life and freedom forever. Help us truly to hope and by so hoping, to do what needs to be done, until there is enough for all in just proportions. And, Sovereign God, may there be peace.

Lord, you said, “See, I am making all things new.”
“Amen, Amen. Make all things new.”

You know the particular concerns that lie heaviest in our hearts and minds. Receive these our silent prayers as we offer them to you...

(Prayers in silence)

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 Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end, Amen.
Amen and Amen.

(Source: Flames of the Spirit, page 96)

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: Deep in Our Hearts; #154MV

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our heart there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

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.*



Copyright Permissions

Music:

The Kingdom of God; Taizé Community, 2001
Let There Be Light; Frances Wheeler Davis & Margaret Fleming, 1976
Dance With the Spirit; Jim Strathdee, 1995
Holy, Holy, Holy; Public Domain
Open Your Ears, O Faithful People; GIA Publications, 1985
My Life Flows On; Public Domain
Deep In Our Hearts; John Oldham & Ron Klusmeier, 1996

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-620863. All rights reserved.



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

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.