

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALISBURY

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

29 September 2019 • 10:00AM  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Season of Creation  
Cosmos Sunday



*Welcome!*

We worship this Sunday with the entire universe, conscious that the cosmos is a vast, sacred space of which we humans on Earth are a such a small but privileged part. We join the Psalmists and call on the sky above and the deep below to shout with songs of praise. We celebrate the wondrous spiritual force called Wisdom which permeates, activates, and unifies the web of worlds that is the home God has created.

## CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

“Tambourin”

*Philippe Rameau*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

### GATHERING

ONE: Risen Christ,

**MANY: Your presence fills the universe.**

Cosmic Christ,

**Your presence pulses through the galaxies and universe,  
across light years of time.**

Living Christ,

**in this moment we call “now,” in this place we call “here,”  
make your presence felt among us.**

**Yes, make your presence known!**

**INTROIT #768**

“Somos el cuerpo de Cristo”

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: We invite all creation to worship with us.

**MANY: We invite glittering galaxies high above to radiate the splendor of God’s presence.**

We call distant domains of space to celebrate with us.

**We invite quarks and nebulae and red giant stars to thank God for their formation in the universe.**

We summon that domain of stardust called Earth:

**To pulse with the rhythm of God’s presence and celebrate God’s glory in this planet garden.**

We invite every creature in the web of creation:

**To consciously connect with others in this cosmic community called the universe.**

Dance, creation, dance!

**Dance with God’s life abundant in this new day!**

✘ **HYMN #26**

“Earth and All Stars”

EARTH AND ALL STARS

**REMEMBERING**

Take a few breaths of silence, now, to recall a moment when you were especially aware that you are intricately connected with a vast world of time and space.

**(silent reflection)**

We are conscious of our place in the universe.

**We remember moments of wonder, sensing the infinite world of space, connecting with endless networks in time and feeling the mystery of the moment.**

We remember and rejoice.

**Thank you, God, for making us aware of our special place in your web of creation.**

**CONFESSION**

Knowing our intimate connectedness with God’s creation, we also remember and confess that we have often been selfish, polluting our atmosphere and disregarding

✘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit*

the needs of others, human and non-human alike, with whom we are bound in that part of the web of creation called planet Earth.

**We are sorry. We have failed to revere God's creative work.**

**We have defended ways of life that damage Earth;**

**we have exploited the poor and the vulnerable.**

**We have loved progress more than the planet.**

**We are sorry. We are sorry.**

We are sorry.

**We are sorry. We are sorry.**

As we celebrate our place in God's creation.

**Christ, have mercy.**

As we connect with our kin in creation.

**Teacher, have mercy.**

As we care for our home in creation.

**Christ, have mercy.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

Christ hears your confession and forgives your sins against creation. I speak for Christ: I invite you to celebrate Earth as your home: a precious part in the vast interconnectedness of creation.

***Shalom! Shalom! Earth is our home!***

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*ONE: Let us affirm our faith together.*

**NORTH SIDE: We believe that God creates all things,  
renews all things, and celebrates all things.**

SOUTH SIDE: We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

**NORTH SIDE: We believe that God became flesh and blood,  
became part of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ,  
who lived and breathed and spoke among us,  
suffered and died on a cross,  
for all human beings and for all creation.**

SOUTH SIDE: We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation, reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the universe.

**NORTH SIDE: We believe the Spirit renews life in creation  
groans in empathy with a suffering creation,  
and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.**

ALL: We believe that with Christ we will rise  
and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation!

**GLORIA #584**

“Glory, Glory, Glory”

## **WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD**

### **A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS**

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER** (*debt*)

✕ **HYMN** (*insert*)

“Ye Boundless Realms of Joy”

CROFT’S 136TH

Children (PreK–8<sup>th</sup> grade) attending Church School may leave as we sing the hymn.

### **RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 148**

ONE: Hallelujah!

**MANY: Give honor to the Holy One from the heavens;  
Give honor to God in the heavens of the heavens!**

Honor the Holy One, all you angels of God;

**Honor the Holy One, all you heavenly multitude!**

Honor the Holy One, sun and moon;

**Honor the Holy One, all you shining stars!**

Honor the Holy One, you highest heavens,

**and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them Honor the Holy One’s purposes,

**for God willed it and they were created.**

The Almighty established them to endure forever;

**The Author of Life gave a decree that will never pass away.**

Honor the Holy One all who are on the earth,

**you sea monsters and all ocean depths,**

fire and hail, snow and mist,

**stormy wind that blows God’s will!**

## Ye Boundless Realms of Joy

1. Ye bound - less realms of joy, ex - alt your Mak - er's  
2. Thou moon, that rules the night, and sun, that guides the  
3. Let them a - dore our God, and praise that ho - ly  
4. U - ni - ted zeal be shown Cre - a - tor's fame to

fame, God's praise your song em - ploy a -  
day, ye glit - tering stars of light, to  
name, by whose al - might - y Word they  
raise, whose glo - rious name a - lone de -

- bove the star - ry frame; your voi - ces raise, ye  
God your ho - mage pay. Loud praise de - clare, ye  
all from no - thing came; and all shall last from  
- serves our end - less praise; earth's ut - most ends God's

cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim, to sing God's praise.  
heavens a - bove, and clouds that move in li - quid air.  
chang - es free; God's firm de - cree stands ev - er fast.  
power o - bey; God's glo - rious sway the sky tran - scends.

Text: Ps 148, para. Nahum Tate (1652-1715) and Nicholas Brady (1659-1726)  
Music: William Croft (1678-1727)

66 66 44 44  
CROFT'S 136TH

You mountains and all hills,  
**fruit trees and all cedars!**  
Wild animals and tame,  
**creeping things and winged birds!**  
All monarchs of the earth and all peoples,  
**the rulers and the mighty of the earth!**  
Young men and young women alike,  
**old people and children together!**  
Let them Honor the Holy One's purposes,  
**for God's renown alone is exalted;**  
**God's splendor is greater than earth and heaven.**  
The Holy One has raised up the people to dignity,  
**ALL: The faithful themselves are an honor to God,**  
**God's people, who are close to the Almighty. Hallelujah!**

**GOSPEL READING:** Colossians 1:15-20

**SERMON**

“Wisdom of the Cosmos”

John A. Nelson

## **WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH**

**PASTORAL PRAYER | SILENT PRAYER**

### **OFFERTORY**

ONE: We worship the God who is in all and above all: our all in all! We worship the One who made us and all things, and made us new. We worship the mystery of life in the seed, in the flower, in the heartbeat, in the atom and in the stars. To honor our God, who pours out life and goodness so generously through all the cosmos, we summon our own generosity, with our tithes and offerings.

**ALL: With all creation, and with all our giving, we bless our Creator.**

### **RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS**

**MUSICAL OFFERING** “O Give Thanks Unto the Lord”

*Henry Purcell*

### **✠ CREATION DOXOLOGY**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**To you, O God all creatures sing,  
And all creation, everything**

**sings your praises, alleluia!  
Praise the Creator; Christ we praise!  
And for the Spirit joy we raise!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**✘ UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Mighty Creator, all things belong to you: we are your caretakers. We pray that these gifts, which you gave that we might be of service, will now be a blessing to your world. We pray they may multiply, as we join with all creatures who revere you, the source of life and love. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**✘ HYMN #37**

“Let All Things Now Living”

ASH GROVE

**BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN (Hymnal, #600)**

**POSTLUDE**

“Chaconne in F Major”

*Henry Purcell*



## **WELCOME TO CHURCH!**

Gathered in 1744, the Congregational Church of Salisbury is an Open and Affirming member of the United Church of Christ. It is also a welcoming home to people from a great variety of church backgrounds and life experiences. Your presence here today is a gift to us! We hope you will feel God's Spirit here today through our worship and fellowship.

We seek to love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds and love our neighbors as ourselves. This Church is Open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment regardless of race, ancestry, class, gender identity, physical and mental ability or sexual orientation. We Affirm each individual as a child of God, celebrating the total identity of each person.

As an Open and Affirming Congregation, we commit to work toward ending ignorance, fear, hatred, prejudice, and discrimination against any person.

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!

If you are visiting us today, Welcome! Please sign our guest book and introduce yourself to our Pastor or to one of the Deacons. Fill out a welcome card in the pew to be put on our email list — and please join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship following worship.

Assistive Listening Devices are available. Please ask an usher for assistance!

**Please set cell phones and pagers to silent mode  
(unless you're expecting a call from Jesus)**

**Today's Worship Leaders**

**Ushers:** Deborah Moore & Roger Crain

**Worship Leader:** Jenn Good

**Deacon:** Carol Magowan

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God.

Today's service is adapted from materials sponsored by Norman Habel and the Justice and International Mission unit within the Commission for Mission of the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. Used with permission. Psalm 148 adapted from *The Psalms in Worship*, Mary Susan Gast, © 2002; used by permission. Cover art:

**OUR MINISTRY TEAM**

**Ministers:** All Participants in the Life of the Congregation

**Worship & Music**

**Music Minister:** Dr. Jack Bowman

**Bell Choir Director:** Mary Davidson

**Technical Minister:** Lee Collins

**Education & Youth**

**Christian Education Minister:** Barbara Collins

**Youth Minister:** Jennifer Surdam

**Holding the Parts Together!**

**Administrative Assistant:** Kathleen Wiggins

**Finance and Communications Assistant:**  
Melissa Adam

**Sexton:** Cory Wiggins

**Church Officers:** Betsy Beck, *moderator*;  
Jennifer Weigel, *treasurer*; Jennifer Oberto, *clerk*

**Pastor and Teacher:** The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson



**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN!**



*The Congregational Church of Salisbury*

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey: you are welcome here.*

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