

*The Congregational
Church of Salisbury*
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

19 July 2020 • 10:00AM
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



WELCOME!

Welcome to the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC! While we refrain from meeting in person during the COVID-19 crisis, we continue to share in worship together, virtually. This bulletin will guide you through the process of joining us in worship.

HOW WE WILL WORSHIP TOGETHER

Today's service will be held over Zoom, which is videoconferencing technology available free of charge online. Zoom allows us to see one another throughout the service. To prevent background noise, you will be put on 'mute' for the majority of the service. Even when we can't hear you, you are invited and encouraged to speak your part in the responsive readings, sing boldly, and participate fully.

PREPARE FOR OUR ONLINE WORSHIP

1. Visit zoom.us/download to find the Zoom app for desktop, laptop, or smartphone
2. For desktop computer users, make sure your webcam is plugged in
3. To practice, join a test meeting: visit zoom.us/test and click "join."

If you are not able to use a smartphone or computer, you can also call in via any regular phone (see next page).

JOIN WORSHIP ONLINE

Link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/954580657>

Or join Worship by Phone:

Call (646) 876-9923. When prompted, enter this meeting ID: 954 580 657

Notice of Livestream on YouTube

Please note that our Zoom Worship Service will be livestreamed simultaneously on YouTube, so we can welcome as many people as possible into our worship together. If you are uncomfortable with the possibility of your name or face appearing online, you can turn off your camera or watch the service on our YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCBLRqeZ9Gxj7828rN9sp7og/

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

INTROIT

“We Are Standing on Holy Ground”

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: We are stand-ing on ho-ly ground, and I know that there are an-gels all a - round; let us praise Je - sus now; we are stand - ing in God's pres - ence on ho - ly ground.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: From the moment we open our eyes each morning,
until we close them at night, God is with us.

ALL: There is no one like you, our God!

In times when we are surrounded with struggles,
in all the surprising places we find hope, Jesus is with us.

There is no one like you, our Brother!

When we feel orphaned by the world,
when we are welcomed into faith's family,
the Holy Spirit is with us.

There is no one like you, Witnessing Spirit!

HYMN #250

“Hymn of Promise”

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you plant each of us like seeds in the same field and together we are
nourished and nurtured by the sun. We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain. We
are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be.
When we deprive others of that same opportunity,
forgive us.

When we want to uproot those whom we believe do not belong in our part of the field,
forgive us.

When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat,

forgive us.

When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives to see what is growing there,
forgive us.

O God, you know us inside and out, through and through.

You search us out and lay your hand upon us.

You know what we are going to say even before we speak.

So we pray that you will help us to reach out to the uprooted and rejected,
the lonely and the outcast,

and to develop and grow the good in ourselves, in others and in the world.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

(We pray in silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: In sorrow so deep we cannot find our way out,
God cradles us in comfort;
in moments so shadowed we trip over our fears,
God lights the way for us;
in joy which cascades into our souls,
God fills us with healing.

**ALL: Even when we cannot see it, God's hope is all around us, surrounding us
with peace and healing. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

RESPONSE IN SONG "We Are Standing on Holy Ground"

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts*)

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24

ONE: You have searched me, O God,

MANY: And You know me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

You sense my thoughts from afar.

You notice my going out and my lying down,

You are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O Holy One,

You know it completely.

You are all around me;

You lay Your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is beyond me.

It is so lofty that I cannot attain it.

Where can I escape from Your spirit?

Where can I flee from Your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, You are there;

If I make my bed in the underworld, You are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,

If I alight on the far side of the sea,

Even there Your hand will be guiding me,

Your strong hand shall hold me secure.

Though I say, "Surely the night will conceal me and provide me with cover,"

Night is not shadowed for You.

Night is bright as day.

Night is as day in Your sight.

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Examine me and know my thoughts.

See me when I drift toward the petty or corrupt,

And guide me again in the way everlasting.

ANCIENT TESTIMONY:

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

SERMON

"The Plucky and the Unplucked"

John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

PASTORAL PRAYER | SILENT PRAYER

OFFERTORY

ONE: We look around and see the healthy green crops of *shalom* determined to grow, mixed in with the weeds of violence and suffering and war. The gifts we bless in this moment are one way we tend God's garden, daring to believe that love is stronger than death, staking our hope on God's beauty and promise.

**ALL: Let us gather our gifts with grateful praise,
and offer them to God's purposes.**

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

✠ DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit ever more;
One God of grace, whom we adore! Amen.**

OLD 100TH

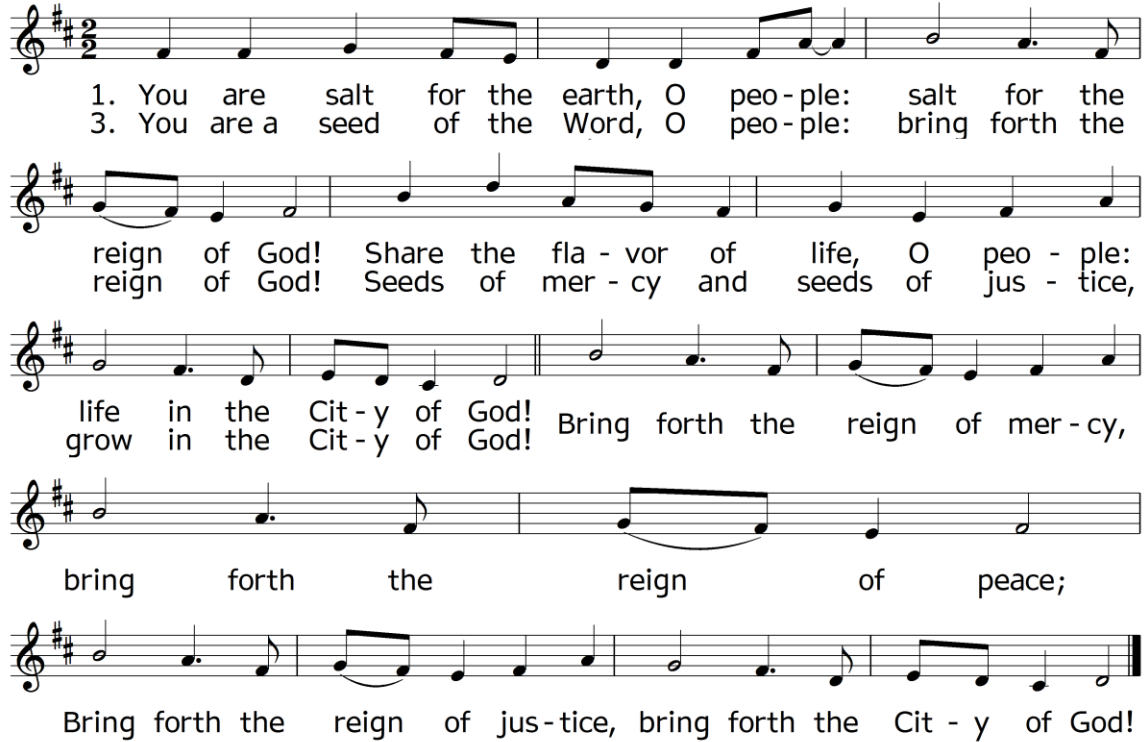
✘ UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Your steadfast love is but one of the many gifts you pour into us. Our offerings are but a part of the ways in which we can serve you and your people. Bless them, and bless us, to ministries of healing and hope. Amen.

HYMN

“You Are Salt for the Earth, O People”

BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM



1. You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the
3. You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the
reign of God! Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple:
reign of God! Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice,
life in the Cit - y of God! Bring forth the reign of mer - cy,
grow in the Cit - y of God!
bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of jus - tice, bring forth the Cit - y of God!

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BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN (Hymnal, #600)

POSTLUDE

