

*The Congregational
Church of Salisbury*
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

27 September 2020 • 10:00AM
“River Sunday”
Fourth Week of the Season of Creation



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

Lascia Ch'io Pianga

G.F. Handel

GREETING

INTROIT

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

J. Nelson

Ho-ly! Ho-ly! Ho - ly! Cre - a - tor God Al - migh - ty! Fo - rest, land, and
wil - der - ness are full of life from Thee. Wa - ter, air, and spi - rit,
each re-veals Thy glo - ry. Christ in all cre - a - tion: praise and ho - nor be!

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life,
in the name of Christ, the pulse of life,
and in the name of the Spirit, the breath of life. Amen.

ALL: Holy! Holy! Holy!

Earth is filled with God's presence.

Christ, we come into your presence to worship in this sanctuary called Earth:

**A planet pulsating with your presence —
a presence quivering in the forests,
a presence vibrating in the land,
a presence pulsating in the wilderness,
a presence shimmering in the rivers and ocean.**

God, reveal yourself to us in this place, and show us your face in all creation.

Holy! Holy! Holy!

The whole earth is filled with your glory!

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: In this sanctuary, set apart to give praise to God,
we remember the sanctuary of God’s creation,
flowing with the power of life.

**ALL: We remember the rivers God created
in Eden and across our planet,
rivers that are the lifeblood of Earth
and the soul of all that lives.**

Jesus Christ, living water, hear our cry.

**We regret that we have become alienated from Earth
and treated this garden planet as a beast to be tamed,
as a domain to be dominated,
and as a place to be ruled for our gain.**

We remember and confess how we have violated and polluted the
rivers of our garden planet.

We are sorry.

We have damaged your rivers with poisons.

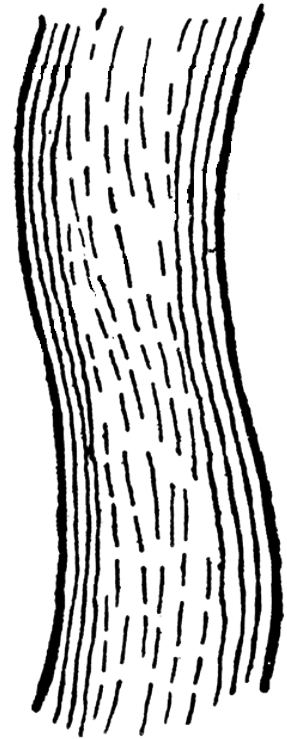
We have treated marshes as waste dumps.

We have drained our wetlands of life.

We have turned living waters into currents of death.

We are sorry. We are sorry.

We pray in silence

**ABSOLUTION**

ONE: Christ hears your confession from the Jordan, forgives your sins against the rivers, and
calls you now to open your ears and your hearts to revive rather than to desecrate the
waters pulsing through our planet.

**ALL: Christ, teach us to love Earth as our home
and all living creatures as our kin.**

Help us to return home to Earth.

I speak for Christ:

I invite you to come home to Earth,
and I call you to care for this planet with love,
to care for its rivers as I have cared for you,
and to join me in healing creation.

Shalom! Shalom! We are coming home!

As we come home to Earth,

Christ, have mercy.

As we seek to love our home,

Christ, have mercy.

As we seek to care for our kin,

Christ, have mercy.

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts*)

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 104:27-33

ONE: May the splendor of the Most High endure forever;

ALL: May the Almighty rejoice in the works of creation.

God is the one who looks on the earth and it trembles,

Who touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Creator as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

May my meditation be pleasing to the Eternal One,

As I rejoice in my God.

Honor the Holy One, O my soul.

Hallelujah!

MODERN TESTIMONY

“What the Water Knows”

by Sam Hamill

What the mouth sings, the soul must learn to forgive.
A rat's as moral as a monk in the eyes of the real world.
Still, the heart is a river
pouring from itself, a river that cannot be crossed.

It opens on a bay
and turns back upon itself as the tide comes in,
it carries the cry of the loon and the salts
of the unutterably human.

A distant eagle enters the mouth of a river
salmon no longer run and his wide wings glide
upstream until he disappears
into the nothing from which he came. Only the thought remains.

Lacking the eagle's cunning or the wisdom of the sparrow,
where shall I turn, drowning in sorrow?
Who will know what the trees know, the spidery patience
of young maple or what the willows confess?

Let me be water. The heart pours out in waves.
Listen to what the water says.
Wind, be a friend.
There's nothing I couldn't forgive.

ANCIENT TESTIMONY:

Revelation 22:1-5

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

PASTORAL PRAYER | SILENT PRAYER

OFFERTORY

ONE: Generous God, you pour goodness into all creation with the rush and power of a mighty river. We don't always notice. But you send your Word to remind us of the wonder in which we live — and we give thanks for your astonishing gift. With praise and gratitude, we return our tithes and offerings: a portion of the abundance you have given us.

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

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

✘ **DOXOLOGY**

OLD 100TH

**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.**

✘ **UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Creator God, your spirit hovered over the waters of creation, blessing them with your goodness. We were baptized in those same holy waters; we live with life-sustaining water inside us and around us. We bless these tithes and offerings, that they may serve your realm of grace, ever flowing through us and all creation. In Jesus' name; Amen.

HYMN #375

“Shall We Gather at the River”

HANSON PLACE

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN (Hymnal, #600)

POSTLUDE

Fughetta in D major

G.F. Handel



Participants in Today's Celebration

Members and Friends of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC	<i>Worshippers</i>
Jennifer Oberto	<i>Cantor</i>
Sue Morrill	<i>Reader</i>
Salisbury UCC Choir	
Nicholas O'Neil	<i>Video production</i>
Dr. Samuel Lord Kalcheim	<i>Music Director</i>
The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson	<i>Preacher</i>