

*The Congregational
Church of Salisbury*
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

4 October 2020 • 10:00AM
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi



WELCOME TO THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALISBURY, UCC! While we limit meetings 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 below).

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/

REFLECTING AS WE GATHER

“The world can create trouble in peace, but God can create peace in trouble.”

— Thomas Watson, *The Ten Commandments*

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

“Kyrie” from Missa degli Apostoli

Girolamo Frescobaldi

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: From north and south,
from east and west, we come:

**MANY: God’s people called to the Table
where simple grace nourishes us.**

From down the street to across town,
from single households to apartment dwellers:

**God’s people are called to community,
where we live and serve one another.**

From every class, every race, every status;
from little one with sippy cups to elders with overflowing hearts:

**God’s people are called to witness to God’s hope,
to offer peace to a shattered world.**

HYMN #15

“All Creatures of Our God and King”
verses 1, 2, 3

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 19

ONE: The heavens declare the brilliance of God;

MANY: The skies proclaim God’s handiwork.

Day after day they pour forth speech;

Night after night they disclose understanding.

Yet there is no speech, nor are there words;

Their voice cannot be heard;

Yet their voice goes out through all the earth,

And their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens The Almighty has pitched a tent for the sun.

The sun comes forth with eagerness,

like one betrothed emerging from the wedding canopy,
seeking the beloved;

Like a champion the sun runs its course with joy.

It rises from one end of the heavens, and journeys to the other end;

Nothing can hide from its heat.

The dominion of the Holy One is all-embracing,
Restoring life.
The teachings of the Most High are trustworthy,
Making the simple wise.
The designs of the Eternal One are life-giving,
Rejoicing the heart.
The word of the Redeemer is radiant,
Lighting up the eyes.
Faithfulness to the Creator brings enduring strength;
God's ways are faithful and loving,
More to be desired than gold, even much pure gold;
Sweeter also than honey, than honey from the comb.
Your ways are the passage to life;
All other paths are raging with peril.
But who can keep always on course?
Prevent me from wandering.
Let me not be beguiled by the arrogant,
who boast of their own powers.
Then I shall ever lodge my trust in You,
And keep to Your ways.
**May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to You, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS: A BLESSING OF ANIMALS

ANCIENT TESTIMONY

Exodus 20

SERMON

“Soul Work”

John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

PASTORAL PRAYER | SILENT PRAYER

OFFERTORY

While the people of God wandered in the desert, God provided manna from heaven, water from a rock, and a law to guide their way and to shape their life together. God has fed us, too, and stayed with us every moment of our own journey so that we are never alone. We are here today to be fed, and to gather strength in numbers and in the Spirit of God, so we can reach out in ministry to the world God loves.

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

MUSICAL OFFERING Hommage a Frescobaldi - I. Prelude au Kyrie

Jean Langlais

✠ 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

We can hang onto the gifts with which you bless us, God of generosity, or we can share them with others. May what we offer in these moments be the very blessing, the very hope, the very peace others need. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

WE FEAST AT GOD'S TABLE

INVITATION

RESPONSIVE THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is good and right to give God our thanks and praise.

O God, we thank you for the rich blessing of your Creation, and come to offer our whole selves as you call us to live for your realm of *shalom*.

**Our hearts fill with joy and wonder as we answer your call to be your people.
Thanks be to you, O Holy One, for the goodness of your creation.**

CONFESSION

ONE: Creator God, your Spirit brings us many different gifts:

ALL: forgive us when we have coveted only the spectacular ones ...

We unburden ourselves in silence

Your Spirit speaks to us through many different voices:

forgive us when we have cut off the disconcerting ones ...

silence

Your Spirit offers us many different insights:

forgive us when we have considered only the comfortable ones ...

silence

Your Spirit invites us into many different moments of possibility:

forgive us when we have closed down the costly ones ...

silence

Spirit of the living God, beyond time, and yet here with us now –
give us the wisdom to receive and treasure all your gifts,
the discernment to hear and respond to your voice,

the understanding to see and follow your patterns,
and the courage to recognize and seize your moments.

**So may we grow in knowledge of Christ's realm,
deepen in dependence on its grace,
and love in accordance with its measures. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts*)

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of life, to drink the cup of the new covenant.

**Jesus said, I am the bread of life. She who comes to me shall never hunger;
he who believes in me shall never thirst.**

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said, This is my body which is for you; do this remembering me.

**After supper Jesus took the cup and said, This is the cup of the new
covenant. Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.**

And so we breathe out hope as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

**Come, Holy Spirit. Continue to pour out your life-giving, healing power on
us, and on this meal that nourishes us. As we share this food and drink, may
we become, for each other, the hope that Jesus has awakened in us. In this
meal we celebrate the promised banquet when all shall be fed abundantly,
and all shall drink from the river of the water of life. Amen.**

SHARING THE MEAL

COMMUNION HYMN

“Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup”

J. Berthier

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ONE: Eternal and gracious One, though we live in a world of need,

**ALL: here we have tasted your goodness
and hungered for a world more just.**

Though afflicted by brokenness and division,

here we have heard your call to be a people of healing community.

Though daily we touch our limits,

here we have received the fullness of your grace.

You have filled us, O God:

inspire us to live in love and to share your *shalom*! Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Peter Alexander Robertson

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free —and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)



LITANY OF BAPTISM

PASTOR: We are gathered to present this child to the church and to dedicate him to God. What can we affirm about him?

PEOPLE: That he is a child of God and made in the image of God.

As he grows in our congregation, how will he know that he is a child of God, made in God's image?

We will give him our love and include him in the life and ministries of this church.

How will he learn of the Christian faith?

Through our teaching and the example of our lives. We will tell him about Abraham, the father of our faith; about Sarah, the mother of Isaac; about Moses and Miriam who led our ancestors out of bondage; about Ruth's faithfulness; about the Jewish hope for a messiah; about Mary and Joseph's openness to mystery; about our Savior, Jesus; and about the history of the Church as the people of God.

And what, in turn, will we expect of him?

We look forward to sitting with him at the Lord's Table, sharing with him the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with him in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God's son, Jesus.

QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

QUESTIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

DEACON: And do you, the congregation of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC, pledge to work toward creating and maintaining a nurturing and challenging Christian environment for this child?

PEOPLE: We do, for he belongs to us as well.

Then, may God be with us.

God help us. Amen.

POURING OF WATER

BAPTISMAL PRAYER

PASTOR: God be with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give our thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life....

THE PRAYER AND ACT OF BAPTISM

RENEWAL OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

PASTOR: May the Eternal God, who in Christ has given us new birth by water and the Spirit, now give us the grace we need to fulfill what we have promised.

PEOPLE: Let us be faithful to our Savior Christ, for ever and ever.

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

DEACON: Now, with joyful hearts let us welcome the newest member of the body of Christ:

PEOPLE: We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given to each and all.

We welcome you, Peter Alexander, newly baptized, into the loving embrace of our church, which is called the Body of Christ. We promise to pray for you, to seek the depths of faith with you, to support you, and to love you.

We covenant with you to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. In this way we shall learn from one another, grow stronger, and more often be faithful to God as servants to all people. So be it!

HYMN #488

“I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry”

TENDERNESS

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN (Hymnal, #600)

POSTLUDE

“Toccata” from Missa degli Apostoli

Frescobaldi



Participants in Today's Celebration

Members and Friends of the
Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC *Worshippers*

Jennifer Oberto *Cantor*

Lorna Edmundson *Reader*

Salisbury UCC Choir

Nicholas O'Neil *Video production*

Dr. Samuel Lord Kalcheim *Music Director*

The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson *Preacher*

*Cover image: A statue of St. Francis of Assisi looks out from Monterosso al Mare, Cinque Terre, Italy
(Wikimedia Commons/Gianfranco Negri)*