

*The Congregational
Church of Salisbury*
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

8 November 2020 • 10:00AM
Twenty-third 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 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

You may also view the worship on YouTube, has slightly better audio quality (though we'll miss visiting with you in the Zoom meeting!):

www.youtube.com/channel/UCBLRqeZ9Gxj7828rN9sp7og/

REFLECTING AS WE GATHER

"If you believe what you like in the Gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself."

Augustine of Hippo, 5th century

"I want to be ready
I want to be ready
I want to be ready
to walk in Jerusalem just like John."

African-American spiritual

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

GREETING

INTROIT #469 "God, Listen to Your Children Praying"

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: If we will but listen,

Many: God will speak to us in parables,

God will tell us stories lived out by our grandparents.

If we will but remember,

we will discover all we have heard and known,

all the wonders God has in store for us.

If we will but share,

we can tell our children and grandchildren —

even those not yet born —

the glorious stories of our God.

HYMN #12

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

ST. DENIO

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

One: How quickly we forget - our faith, our calling, our hope. All because we try to do everything our way, rather than God's. But God is quicker to forgive, and to restore us to new life. Let us confess to our God, as we pray, saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

It is never easy to admit how foolish we are, Approaching God.

You have chosen us for yourself —

and we continue to shelter false gods in our hearts.

You promise to be with us in every moment —

but we find little time for you.

You send your Word to us —

but we are too distracted by the noise of the day to pay attention.

Have mercy, Eternal One, and forgive us.

Speak to us, so we might listen — and in hearing, be transformed into your people. Fill us with holiness, so we might give ourselves wholly to others.

Enable us to serve you faithfully and completely, even as did our Teacher and Savior, Jesus Christ.

(We pray in silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: This is our assurance: God forgives us.

This is our hope: God's love is everlasting.

This is our truth: God is with us always.

All: We will speak the truth;

we will live the hope;

we will share God's mercy. Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG #469 "God, Listen to Your Children Praying"

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 78:1-7

ONE: O my people, hear my teaching;

ALL: Turn your ears to what I say.

I will open my mouth to expound a theme;

I hold forth on the lessons of the past,

Things that we have heard and known,

That our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their children;

We will tell to the coming generation

the glorious deeds of the Holy One,

And God's might,

And the wonders that the Almighty has done.

The Author of Life decreed statutes and instituted a teaching,

Commanding our ancestors to make them known to their children;

That the next generation would know,

Children yet unborn,

Who in turn would tell their children,

That they should set their hope in God,

And not forget the works of the Almighty,

But adhere to what the Holy One had intended.

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts*)

SCRIPTURE READING: Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16

¹² Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. ¹³ She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. ¹⁴ One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate. ¹⁵ To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, ¹⁶ because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:1-13

SERMON

"Readiness Is All"

John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

PASTORAL PRAYER | SILENT PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Our generous God gives blessings beyond counting. However we give — through the ministries of the church, through our service to neighbors, through our support of agents of healing in the world — we give thanking God.

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

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

We hear your call to readiness, God, and we pray that in giving to your work in the world, we are preparing for your realm to come into view. We pray you will coax from us an ever more joyful generosity to your ministry of grace. Bless our giving; bless our serving. Thy kin-dom come; Thy will be done. In Jesus' name: Amen.

HYMN #

"Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers"

LLANGLOFFAN

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN (Hymnal, #600)

POSTLUDE



Participants in Today's Celebration

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