

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1 August 2021 • 10:00AM
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost



We Gather as the Church

PRELUDE

“O Rest in the Lord”

F. Mendelssohn

WELCOME

✠ HYMN #395

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

LIEBSTER JESU

(✠ The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit)

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Let the light fall warm and bright on water and rock,
let the birds sing their morning song and let God’s people say, “Amen!”

MANY: Amen!

Let the tools be stored away, let Sabbath rest reach deep
and let God’s people say, “Amen!”

Amen!

Let flowers open and let rain slake the earth’s thirst,
let hearts be glad and minds be calm and let God’s people say, “Amen!”

Amen!

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Cantai ao senhor,” Brazilian folk tune

O sing to our God, O sing God a new song, O sing to our God,
O sing God a new song, O sing to our God,
O sing God a new song, O sing to our God, O sing to our God!

A PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

ONE: Holy God, Maker of all

MANY: Have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, Breath of life

Have mercy on us.

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

(Prayer in silence)

Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness:
to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others,
and the life of the world.

**May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Amen.

**Before God, with the people of God,
we confess to our brokenness:
to the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.**

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

ONE: Knowing our faults and frailties, God chooses to forgive us;
seeing our emptiness, God chooses to feed us;
holding our shattered hearts, God chooses to heal us.

This is the good news: God loves us.

**ALL: God graces us with mercy and creates new life from our brokenness.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

THE PSALTER: Psalm 78:23-29

ONE: God gave a command to the skies above,

MANY: And opened the doors of heaven;

And rained manna upon them for food,

The grain of heaven.

Mortals ate the bread of angels;

God sent them food in abundance.

God set the east wind moving in the heavens,
And led forth the south wind, by God's own power.
 God rained meat upon them like dust,
 Winged birds like the sand of the seas,
Coming down within their camp, all around their dwellings.
 And they ate and were well filled,
For the Most High gave them what they needed.

✠ HYMN #501

“Feed Us, Lord”

FEED US

We Proclaim the Gospel in Word

MODERN TESTIMONY

Sara Miles

ANCIENT TESTIMONY

John 6:24-35

New Testament, p. 119

SERMON

“Imagine Enough”

Pastor John A. Nelson

We Respond in Prayer and Faith

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Cantai ao senhor,” Brazilian folk tune

O sing to our God, O sing God a new song, O sing to our God,
 O sing God a new song, O sing to our God,
 O sing God a new song, O sing to our God, O sing to our God!

OFFERTORY

ONE: Our God promises an abundance — of grace, joy, and food. While the world says there's not enough to go around, Jesus gives thanks, holds out his hand, and says: “take all

you need!” We raise our hearts in gratitude for the endless giving, and we respond with wonder and faith.

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

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING “My Shepherd Will Supply my Need”

Virgil Thomson

*My Shepherd will supply my need,
Jehovah is His name,
In pastures fresh He makes me feed
beside the living stream;
He brings my wandering spirit back
when I forsake His way,
And leads me for His mercy's sake
in paths of truth and grace.*

*When I walk through the shades of death
His presence is my stay,
One word of His supporting grace
drives all my fears away;*

*His hand in sight of all my foes
doth still my table spread,
My cup with blessings overflows,
His oil anoints my head.*

*The sure provisions of my God
attend me all my days;
Oh, may Thy house be my abode
and all my work be praise;
There would I find a settled rest,
while others go and come;
No more a stranger nor a guest,
but like a child at home.*

✠ 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

**Use the gifts which we offer to you, Holy God, to restore joy to the
despairing, to give food to the hungry, and willing spirits to us, that we might
be servants to all your people. Amen.**

We Feast at God’s Table

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

**ALL: 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.**

We feel the rushing wind of compassion and give thanks for your love that flows so freely when we turn to you.

We give you thanks for the Good News in Christ.

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.

CALL TO PRAYER

God be with you.

And also with you.

May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts.

Christ is our peace, our light, and our hope.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER (*depts*)

✠ ACT OF PRAISE (*sung*)

GREATOREX

Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ,

And to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning,

Is now, and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen; Amen.

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

We celebrate an open communion, and welcome every person to the table. We share the bread and the cup in Jesus' name as a reenactment of an ancient vision of God's feast for all people. We don't require you to be a member of our church, or any church, to participate with us in this feast of grace: all that is needed is that you desire God's nurture.

We will hold the bread until all have been served and eat together, signifying our unity in Christ.

We will drink the cup as we receive it, signifying our personal relationship with Christ.

(The bread is gluten-free and the cup is non-alcoholic, as we strive to welcome all to the table.)

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 grace-filled community.

Though daily we touch our limits,

here we have received the fullness of your grace.

Send us forth, O God,

in faith, in hope, and in love. Amen.

✠ **HYMN #65**

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

CWM RHONDDA

BENEDICTION and **SUNG AMEN**

POSTLUDE

Fughetta super *Allein in der Hoh*

J.S. Bach



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 to silent mode (unless you're expecting a call from Jesus)

Today's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Becky Belcher, Sarah Morrison

Deacon and Reader: Deborah Moore

Communion Servers: Kathy Mera, Patricia Palmer, Theresa Carroll

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

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2021 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission.

Psalm adapted from *The Psalms in Worship*, Mary Susan Gast, © 2002; used by permission.

Cover art by Wayne Pascal, "The Master's Hands – Provider"

Our Ministry Team

Ministers: All Participants in the Life of the Congregation

Worship & Music

Transitional Music Director:

Dr. Samuel Lord Kalcheim

Bell Choir Director: Mary Davidson

Faith Formation

Religious Education Coordinator:

Barbara Collins

Holding the Parts Together

Administrative Assistant: Loriann Chevremont

Bookkeeper: Alex Bercy

Sexton: Cory Wiggins

Church Officers: Betsy Beck, *moderator*;

Jennifer Weigel, *treasurer*; Jennifer Oberto, *clerk*

Designated-Term Pastor and Teacher: The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

IN OUR PRAYERS:

We gladly list joys and concerns, and typically print them for four weeks after they are offered in worship. (Prayer requests may be renewed at any time.)

For our world and our communities:

For healing from gun violence and its long-term trauma • families seeking asylum and opportunity in the US • Residents of areas devastated by volcanoes, storms, earthquakes, floods, fires, and drought • an end to hunger • courage and wisdom to reckon with the racism and white supremacy in our society and its violence • faithful care of God's creation & repair of human damage to the environment • for our country's leaders and for all citizens striving to hold our country to its best standards • for survivors of war, for neighbors in conflict zones, and for repentance by any who use deadly force.

Family & Friends who have passed away:

Sal Accardo; Nancy Smith

We thank God for the gift of life, and pray God's tender mercy on family and friends who grieve.

Prayers of Praise

For our grandchildren • For our church, gathered in worship, fellowship, and service.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PASTORAL VISIT, please call the church office (860-435-2442) or email Pastor John (jnelson@salisburyucc.org). Sometimes we don't find out about an injury or illness or other need — so please call!



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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860-435-2442

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www.salisburyucc.org

Office Hours: 9am – 2pm, Monday-Thursday