

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

15 August 2021 • 10:00AM

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather as the Church



PRELUDE

Pastorale in F Major

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

✠ **HYMN #664**

“Morning Has Broken”

BUNESSAN

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: For cool mornings and rumbling afternoon storms,
for amazing days and even more ordinary evenings,
for deep friendships and shallow wading pools:

MANY: we give thanks to God!

For the laughing God who tickles us with joy,
for the broken-hearted Love who joins in our struggles:

we give thanks to God at all times!

For the Bread of heaven who feeds us hope,
for the Spirit of grace who teaches us to dance:

we give thanks to God at all times and for everything!

SUNG RESPONSE #406

“Holy Ground”

HOLY GROUND

**We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around;
let us praise Jesus now;
we are standing in his presence on holy ground.**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

ONE: We would follow Jesus, but sometimes it seems that we do not know how to go out in faith, or come in out of the shadows of life. And still the One who gave us life and breath longs to grace us with mercy. Please join me, as we pray together, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We try to be so careful, Faithful God, yet we make so many mistakes. We think we are so wise, yet do not understand the simple wonder of a child. We spend so little time in your presence, and ask why we do not know your dreams for us. We long to be good, upright people, but find our hearts tripping over the temptations of the world.

Have mercy, Covenant Keeper, and be gracious to us. As you continue to teach us of your hopes, your dreams, your love for us, may we practice what we learn, as we follow our Teacher and Savior, Jesus Christ, in faith.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Out of our lives laced with foolish mistakes and unwise choices, God is able to weave a tapestry of grace, forgiveness, and healing.

ALL: God has sent redemption for all, God has fed us with the healing bread of life. At all times, and for every grace, we give thanks to God!

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and I know that there are angels all around;
let us praise Jesus now;
we are standing in his presence on holy ground.**

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 34: 9-14

ONE: O trust in the Author of Life, you, who revere God;

MANY: For those who place their trust in the Most High lack nothing.
Young lions may grow weak and hungry,
But those who seek the Holy One lack no good thing.

Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the ways of the Blessed One.
 Which of you is eager for life,
And desires many days to enjoy the good?
 Keep your tongue from corruption,
And your lips from speaking deceit.
 Depart from malice, and do good;
Seek peace, and pursue it.

We Proclaim the Gospel in Word

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts*)

✠ **HYMN #719**

“Come, Labor On”
 Verses 1, 3, 4

ORA LABORA

SCRIPTURE READINGS

I Kings 3
 Ephesians 5:15-20

Old Testament, p. 379
New Testament, p. 238

SERMON

“Bringing Our Best”

Pastor John A. Nelson

We Respond in Prayer and Faith

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

ONE: God’s giving knows no ending! Wisdom for those in need of guidance; understanding when we’re uncertain; songs when our spirits need recharging. In every season, God pours out what we most need. May our own giving be a joyful testimony to God’s bounty.

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

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Offertory: Air in G”

G. Tartini

✠ **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**

As we offer our gifts to you, O God, may we not stand by thinking we need only watch you go to work! But may we join you in feeding the hungry, in healing the planet, in offering a welcome to outsiders, in singing our joy, in building communities of peace and justice. This we pray in Jesus' name: Amen.

✠ **HYMN #37**

“Let All Things Now Living”

ASH GROVE

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN (#600)

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in C

Dagfinn Flotre



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

Occasions for Prayer

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.)

Continuing concerns:

Linda Estabrook, recovering from broken hip • 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 tender mercy on family and friends who are grieving.

Thanksgivings:

Zeah Rose Bercy, born to Alex and Kathleen on August 9th

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 until long after — so please call!

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY,

10AM Worship

11:30AM Board of Trustees meeting

MONDAY,

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY,

3:30PM CROP Walk meeting

WEDNESDAY,

9AM Staff Meeting

Today's Worship Leaders

Guest organist: Stephen J. Ketterer

Ushers: Patricia Palmer, Kathy Mera

Reader: Patricia Palmer | **Deacon:** Deborah Moore

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 © 2020 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission.

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

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

Pastor and Teacher: The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

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*



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