

*The Congregational  
Church of Salisbury*  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**12 September 2021 • 10:00AM**  
**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**We Gather as the Church**

**PRELUDE**

“Pastoral Symphony” from *Messiah*

*G.F. Handel*

**WELCOME**

**✠ HYMN #409**

“God Is Here!”

ABBOT’S LEIGH

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: We are not our own:

**MANY: so, neither our will nor our wisdom  
shall get in the way of God’s hopes for us.**

We are not our own, we are God’s:

**so, let us choose to live for God,  
and serve God’s Word of grace to all.**

We are not on our own,

as we walk the streets of God’s realm:

**so, here we open ourselves once more  
the cost and joy of following Christ Jesus.  
Guide us together, Holy One, to fullness of life.**

## ✠ RESPONSE IN SONG

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you  
lead me, I can-not stray. Lord, let me walk each day with  
thee: lead me, O Lord, lead me.

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## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We all make mistakes, many of them. We hurt ourselves, we hurt others, we hurt God with our words and silence, with our actions and inactions. Let us name what is wayward in us, trusting in the One who blesses us with mercy.

## UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**Spring of Wisdom, we confess that we have not denied ourselves and followed your way. By what we have done and by what we have not done, we turn our backs on your outstretched hands of grace and stumble into the arms of the world. We speak gossip about others, rather than tell of their glory as your children. We fire off words that find no rest until they pierce another's heart, and leave our own hearts diminished.**

**Forgive us, Rock and Redeemer.**

**Give us speech that flows like cool water through a neighbor's parched spirit; give us silence with which to witness your wonders; give us words to proclaim Jesus is the Christ, our Teacher and our Savior — the One who leads us to fullness of life.**

*(Silence is kept)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

With gentleness, God speaks to us; with graciousness, God forgives us; with joy,  
God embraces us.

**With our lips, we praise God; with our words, we thank God;  
with our silence, we find God's forgiveness in our hearts. Thanks be to  
God! Amen.**

## ✠ RESPONSE IN SONG

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you  
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## RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 116:1-9

ONE: I love the Holy One,

**MANY: For God Almighty has heard my voice and my cry for mercy.**

Because the Most High has listened to me,

**I will call upon my God as long as I live.**

The bonds of death encompassed me;

**The anguish of the grave laid hold of me;**

I was overcome by trouble and sorrow.

**Then I called upon the goodness of the Most High,**

"O Holy One, I pray, save my life!"

**Gracious is the Saving God, and caring;**

Our God is compassionate.

**The Holy One protects the needy;**

When I was brought low,

**God saved me.**

Be at rest once again, O my soul,

**For the Holy One has dealt bountifully with you.**

For You, O Holy One, have delivered me from death,

**My eyes from tears,**

My feet from stumbling.

**I walk before the Most High in the land of the living.**

## **We Proclaim the Gospel in Word**

### **A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*debts*)

✠ **HYMN #726**

**"The Summons"**

KELVINGROVE

*All attending Church School may leave as we sing the hymn.*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

*Testament, p. 833*

**GOSPEL READING:**

Mark 8:27-38

*New Testament, p. 53*

**SERMON**

**"Fullness of Life"**

Pastor John A. Nelson

## **We Respond in Prayer and Faith**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER and AN ACT OF PRAYER**

ONE: With the whole church,

**ALL: We affirm that we are made in God's image,  
befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere,

**We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,  
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

With all creation,

**We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life; the unfolding purposes of  
God, forever at work in ourselves and the world. Amen!**

## OFFERTORY

ONE: Imagine this: today, we have the same invitation offered to the disciples and every generation since — to give ourselves to Jesus, the union of God and humanity, and in turn receive blessing and grace and fullness of life beyond measure. Imagine! — and give to God's work generously, as God has given to us.

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

## RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

### MUSICAL OFFERING

“Ave Verum Corpus”

W.A. Mozart

### ✠ DOXOLOGY

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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

**Holy One, open our ears to the struggles around us;  
open our voices to speak out for *shalom*;  
open our hearts to welcome our neighbor;  
open our treasures so they may be used to care for all your children.  
We ask it in the name of Jesus the Messiah: Amen.**

### ✠ HYMN #741

“Guide My Feet”

GUIDE MY FEET

## BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

### POSTLUDE

“Pastorale”

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. Assistive Listening Devices are available. Please ask an usher for assistance!

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

## **Today's Worship Leaders**

*Ushers: Sarah Morrison, Laura O'Niel*

*Deacon and Reader: Jennifer Oberto*

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary by Pastor John and Angela Lomanto,  
in honor of all church volunteers.

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2020  
([lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://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

### Holding the Parts Together

**Administrative Assistant:** Loriann Chevremont

**Bookkeeper:** Alex Bercy

**Sexton:** Steven Wolf

**Church Officers:** Betsy Beck, *moderator*;

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

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

## Occasions for Service, Witness, and 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.)

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#### Continuing concerns:

##### New concerns:

##### Continuing concerns:

Linda Estabrook, recovering from broken hip • residents of areas devastated by volcanoes, storms, earthquakes, floods, fires, and drought • the people of Afghanistan • healing from gun violence and its long-term trauma • families seeking asylum and opportunity in the US • 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:

Sadegh Rafii • Jim Bly • Ellen Burcoff

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 Kathline on August 9<sup>th</sup>

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**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!

## ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME:

This year's CROP Walk has begun! and continues throughout September. This fundraising effort gives direct support to people who are in food deserts and live with the burden of hunger. Join in the walking, and ask family and friends for support. Find details online at [tiny.cc/CROP2021](http://tiny.cc/CROP2021).

## This Week at Salisbury UCC

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### SUNDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER

10AM Worship  
11:00AM Congregational Meeting  
1:00PM Music Committee meeting

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### MONDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

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### WEDNESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER

9AM Staff Meeting  
9AM Food Pantry Board meeting

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### THURSDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER

7:15PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER

8:45AM Men's Bible Study



**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.*

30 Main Street | P.O. Box 392 | Salisbury, CT 06068 • 860-435-2442

email: [welcome@salisburyucc.org](mailto:welcome@salisburyucc.org) • web: [salisburyucc.org](http://salisburyucc.org)

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