

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10 October 2021 • 10:00AM

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather as the Church



PRELUDE

“Lascia ch’io Pianga”

G.F. Handel

WELCOME

✠ **HYMN #49**

“The God of Abraham Praise”

LEONI

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Where are the teachers in our midst who will guide us?

ALL: Here! Here are our teachers!

We follow Christ's example, and we learn from one another.

Where are Jesus' disciples, who thirst to know God's ways?

We are Jesus' disciples, and we learn from one another!

Thanks be to God for new beginnings and opportunities to grow in wisdom.

We follow Christ's example, and we learn from one another! So be it.

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.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Let us release guilt and regrets to God. Please pray with me, first together and then silently.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

ONE: Rabbi Jesus, you taught hundreds in your lifetime and allowed them all into your heart. We confess that we do not know how to love like that.

MANY: **Forgive our pretenses. Show us unexpected teachers.**

Vulnerable Christ,

to you who lived in generous love

we confess that we regularly and reliably dismiss our lives.

We dismiss each other.

We languish in our opinions.

We do not finish what we have started.

We have seen so much suffering

that from self-preservation, we stop looking.

Yes, we stop feeling rather than call on you.

If we but called on you, suddenly you would show us the next step.

Help us to follow the example you set for us.

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

We believe and although we fall short, we persevere knowing we live in Grace, holding tightly to the true Word.

With our lips, we praise God; with our words, we thank God; with our silence, we find God in our hearts. May there be gratitude! Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

p. 1

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 90:12-17

ONE: So teach us to make sense of our days, to live them aright,

MANY: **That we may gain a wise heart.**

Return to us, O Holy One!

How long will it be?

Have compassion on Your servants!

Fill us each morning with Your steadfast love,

So that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Give us joy for as many days as You have troubled us,

For as many years as we have seen affliction.

Let Your work be seen by Your servants,

And Your splendor by their children.

May the gracious delight of the Sovereign One, our God,

Rest upon us,

That the work of our hands may thrive—

O let our work thrive!

We Proclaim the Gospel in Word

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*depts*)

✠ **HYMN #435**

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

IN BABILONE

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16

*Old Testament, p.
New Testament, p.*

SERMON

“Hallowing Our Diminishments” Rev. Dr. Eileen L. Epperson

We Respond in Prayer and Faith

PASTORAL PRAYER AND AN ACT OF PRAYER

ONE: Be with those this morning in this hour, both within and without this sanctuary, who feel unwelcome in life. Strengthen those who do not believe that

anything good can come their way. Strengthen and bless those whose gifts we will never know or receive, and who in love serve others steadfastly.

MANY: Thank you for the ministries of this congregation. The community we are. The love we share. May we light up with new relationships. May it be possible to have what we need and give away the rest. Bless us with energy and pleasure in all we do.

Be with all the congregations in this northwest corner of paradise. Bless and guide this church and its newly settled pastor.

Creating and redeeming God, inspire us now with your vision. As we wonder what the future holds for us, help us to remember that you hold that future.

Help us indeed to turn to you in faith when we do not know what to do. Help us not to strain at gnats, but to find your purpose in all we say and do.

May we be your leaven in a desperately flat world. Even when we cannot yet see the results, give us the faith to keep working in the bread — the bread that is your body, the church.

And give us, loving God, the patience, the persistence, and the integrity that come from trusting you. Help us to remember that this is your church. Help us to believe that we are your body. And help us to trust, and to reflect the self-giving love that you so amazingly shower on us every day. Please listen to each of our hearts as we silently offer our private and personal needs.

(silent breathing)

OFFERTORY

ONE: It is that time again when seasons change. We look at our wardrobes, our desk drawers, and our freezers, and see what we have and what we need for the season to come. As we prepare our offerings, may we be moved to look at what we have, what we truly need, and what we might pass along to others.

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

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Turn Thee Again”

Thomas Attwood

✠ 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 give our offering earnestly desiring that these gifts of labor and love can be used well, multiplied in service of the Realm of Light, that your realm will come, and your will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. Amen.

✠ HYMN #459

“O Word of God Incarnate”

MUNICH

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Fughetta in D major

G.F. Handel



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 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, 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 join 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!

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

Today's Worship Leaders

Guest minister: The Rev. Dr. Eileen Epperson

Ushers: Joanne Taber, Pat Palmer • *Reader:* Deborah Moore • *Deacon:* Pat Palmer

Flowers have been placed in the Meeting House 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.

Psalms 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

Religious Education Assistant:

Holly Tierney

Holding the Parts Together

Administrative Assistant: Loriann Chevremont

Bookkeeper: Alex Bercy

Sexton: Steven Wolf

Officers, Boards, & Committees, June 2021 – May 2022

Moderator: Betsy Beck

Treasurer: Jennifer Weigel

Clerk: Jennifer Oberto

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

Peggy Heck '22

Janet Kaufman '23

Mary Davidson '24

BOARD OF DEACONS

Cynthia LaPier '22

Sue Morrill '22

vacant

Moderator, Pastor, and elected members:

vacant

Theresa Carroll '23

Lorna Edmundson '23, *chair*

John Estabrook '23

Kathy Mera '23

Janet Kaufman '24

Deborah Moore '24

Jennifer Oberto '24

Patricia Palmer '24

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Moderator, Treasurer, Pastor, and elected members:

Janet Accardo '22

Susan Hassler '22

John Merwin '22

Roger Crain '23

Carol Magowan '23

Anne Williams '23

Louise Brown '24

Dan Edmundson '24

Kerry Noble '24

BOARD OF RELIGIOUS ED. Moderator, RE Coordinator, Pastor, and elected members:

Debby Mark '22

Stephanie Tierney '22

Linda Estabrook '23

Jennifer Good '23

Emily Elliot '24

vacant

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN ACTION Moderator, Pastor, and elected members:

Brenda Boone '22

Joanne Taber '22

Barbara Wiggins '22

Joanne Hayhurst '23

Margie Vail '23

Beth Isler '23

Jano Fairservis – *Emeritus*

Peggy Heck '24

Leanne Larson '24

Karin Noyes '24

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE Moderator, Pastor, and elected members:

Sue Bucceri '22

Theresa Carroll '22

Sara Wardell '22

Jane Capecelatro '23

Lee Collins '23

Lyndell Giffenig '23

Alice Kent '23

Linda Estabrook '24

MUSIC COMMITTEE Moderator, Music Minister, Pastor, and elected members:

Malcolm Brown '22, *chair*

Abby Gackenheimer '22

Emily Eliot '23

Peggy Hayes '23

Mary Davidson '24

Terre Lefferts '24

USHERS COMMITTEE

Cole Metcalf '22

Debra Moore '22

Patricia Palmer '22

Sharon Tingley '22

Moderator, Pastor, and elected members:

Becky Belcher '23

Ken Edholm '24

Janet Kaufman '24

Sarah Morrison '24

DELEGATE TO UCC CONFERENCE & LITCHFIELD NORTH ASSOCIATION: Charlie Noyes

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:

Emma Hodges, downsizing as she also deals with health concerns • Linda Estabrook, recovering from broken hip • Joanie and Dale, in treatment for cancer • 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 supremacism 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:**

Audrey Eriksson • John "Bill" Gallup • Sadegh Rafii
• Jim Bly

We thank God for the gift of life, and pray tender mercy on family and friends who are grieving.

Thanksgivings

The Rev. Abby Gackenheimer, called as pastor and teacher by the Bridgewater Congregational Church, UCC

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, 10 OCTOBER

9AM Zoom Sunday School
10AM Worship & Sunday School
11:30AM Music Committee Meeting

MONDAY, 11 OCTOBER

Indigenous Peoples' Day / Church offices closed
11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

WEDNESDAY, 13 OCTOBER

9AM Staff Meeting
4PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, 14 OCTOBER

7PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 15 OCTOBER

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 • web: salisburyucc.org

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