

THE CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF SALISBURY

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

24 November 2019 • 10:00AM  
• Last Sunday after Pentecost •  
Reign of Christ



**275 YEARS OF WITNESS TO GOD'S GRACE  
AND SERVICE TO OUR NEIGHBORS**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

Improvisation

Jazz Trio

Donald Sosin, *piano* • Ram Miles, *bass* • Jay Bradley, *drums*

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

“Now Thank We All Our God”

*J.S. Bach*

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

**INTROIT #367**

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”  
*Verse 1*

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Blessed be the God of mercy, who looks with kindness on us.

**MANY: We are the inheritors of the promises  
made long ago to our ancestors.**

Blessed be the God of light, who gathers us here in this place.

**From across the street, from halfway around the world,  
God brings us home to the heart of grace.**

Blessed be the God of delight, who has remembered us.

**Scoffers and singers, watchers and wigglers, doubters and do-ers:  
we are those redeemed by God, gathered to sing God's praise!**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

We know that we have not lived as God hopes. But however fragmented we become, God longs to hold us together in grace and peace. Let us offer prayers of confession to the One who prepares the way for our words, as we say together:

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O God, we have looked and looked for you.**

**We have strained our eyes to see your salvation and to look for your outstretched hand. Yet several times this week, we have forgotten that you come where unexpected.**

**You have come as a beggar.**

**You have come as one who hungers and thirsts.**

**You have come as a single mother seeking resources for her children.**

**You have come as an exile fleeing terror and seeking safety.**

**You have presented yourself in the lost, the least, the left out.**

**No wonder we have not seen you trying to liberate us.**

**We have looked for hope among the powerful and the spectacular, instead of among our hurting and impoverished neighbors.**

**Forgive us, O God, for having looked past you.**

*We unburden our hearts in silence.*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**ONE:** This is the good news: God remembers! Not our sins, not our foolish lives, not our searching for hope in all the wrong places: God remembers us wholly, reconciles us wholly, redeems us wholly, and sends us out with renewed purpose. Beloved of God: in Christ's name we are forgiven.

**ALL:** God prepares the way for us: the way to grace, to hope, to new life. Joyfully, we offer our thanks to God. Alleluia! Amen.

✠ **RESPONSE IN SONG**

GREATORIX

**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.**

✠ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit*

# WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

## A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debt*s)

✘ **HYMN #192**                    “Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining”                    SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

*Children (PreK–5<sup>th</sup> grade) attending Church School and Youth Discussion may leave as we sing the hymn.*

## VOICES OF THE CHURCH: IN SERVICE TO GOD AND NEIGHBOR

### GOSPEL READING: Colossians 1:11-20

By the might of God's glory you will be endowed with the strength needed to stand fast and endure joyfully whatever may happen.

Thanks be to God for having made you worthy to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light! God rescued us from the authority of darkness and brought us into the reign of Jesus, God's Only Begotten. And it is through Jesus that we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Christ is the image of the unseen God,  
and the firstborn of all creation;  
for in Christ were created  
all things in heaven and on earth:  
everything visible and invisible,  
Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers —  
all things have been created through Christ and for Christ.  
Before anything was created, Christ existed,  
and all things hold together in Christ.  
The church is the body; Christ is its head.  
Christ is the beginning,  
the firstborn from the dead,  
and so Christ is first in every way.  
God wanted all perfection to be found in Christ,  
and all things to be reconciled to God through Christ—  
everything in heaven and everything on earth—  
when Christ made peace  
by dying on the cross.

## WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

### VOICES OF THE CHURCH: AT PRAYER

#### OFFERTORY

ONE: Fed by your Word, Holy One, we may speak *shalom* to your world. Made whole by your grace, we may be a healing presence to our neighbors. Filled by your bounty, we have a glimpse of heaven to share. For all your good gifts we respond: thank you, God!

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

#### RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

**MUSICAL OFFERING** “One Faith, One Hope, One Lord”  
Choir and Jazz Trio

*Craig Courtney*

#### ✠ 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

**All that we have is yours, God,  
entrusted to us to carry healing and grace to your world.  
We present these offerings  
that they may be used to extend your liberating reign.  
With them, we commit our lives and ministries in the days ahead  
that each of us may be part of your answer  
to the prayers of our sisters and brothers. Amen.**

### VOICES OF THE CHURCH: IN HOPE

## RECEPTION OF COVENANT PARTNERS

Kenneth Edholm, Bryan Robertson, Sarah Salisbury

### THE MEANING OF COVENANT PARTNERSHIP

PASTOR: What place is this?

**CONGREGATION: This is the place of imagination: Where hungry ones find food, and proud ones are scattered. Where mountains are brought low and valleys lifted up. Where mercy trumps vengeance, and the whole earth learns to magnify God. Do you wish to be here?**

NEW COVENANT PARTNERS: Yes, we do. We have heard of such a place, where cries can be made and are tenderly heard. Where good tidings are told. Where voices find strength and the Gentle Shepherd embraces all who approach.

**CONGREGATION: Be clear before you speak. Are you prepared to love God more than breath itself? To follow Jesus as the Spirit gives you vision? Are you prepared to know and be known in this community of companions?**

NEW COVENANT PARTNERS: Yes, we are ready. And now tell us: is there room for us? You have come to this place before us: does any special honor come from that?

**CONGREGATION: No honor save one: of welcoming you into this community. It isn't always easy here. We share in the conflicts common to all creation. Sometimes the vision seems slow, and weariness overtakes us. But joy overcomes it all. Our only true rule is the Rule of Mercy; our deepest pledge to follow the love made flesh in Jesus Christ. There is ample room for you in mercy's embrace, and we welcome you.**

PASTOR: Then let us announce our intent together:

**ALL: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, because God has anointed us to bring good news to the poor. God has sent us to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of Jubilee! Here we stand, together, servants of the One who turns us into friends.**

### RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

✘ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

PASTOR: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith.

Do you believe in God?

**ALL: I believe in God.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

✘ **PRAYER**

✘ **COVENANT OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALISBURY, UCC** *(said by all)*

**We covenant with God and with one another  
to walk in God's holy ways.**

**We unite for the worship of God  
and for the continued striving to know and to do God's will  
and for the service of God and humanity.**

**We acknowledge this Church to be part  
of all those in every age and nation  
who are united by the Holy Spirit of God in Christ,  
and we dedicate ourselves to serve this fellowship  
according to our strength, ability and opportunity. Amen.**

✘ **HYMN #611**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

HYMN TO JOY

**BENEDICTION**

**RESPONSE IN SONG**

“Blessed Assurance”  
Choir and Jazz Trio

*Kirby Shaw*

**POSTLUDE**

Jazz Trio



## **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 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 and pagers to silent mode  
(unless you're expecting a call from Jesus)**

### **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Ushers:** Sarah Morrison & Sal Accardo

**Lay Readers:** Jennifer Oberto; Clare Rashkoff; Lorna Edmundson

**Deacon:** Lorna Edmundson

**Coffee Hour:** Jane & Mark Capecelatro

*Many thanks to the Davidson family for the beautiful Thanksgiving table design.*

Call to Worship, Confession, and Offering invitation adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2019 ([lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)). Used with permission. Colossians quotation from *The Inclusive New Testament* © 1996 Priests for Equality.

## OUR MINISTRY TEAM

**Ministers:** All Participants in the Life of the Congregation

### Worship & Music

**Music Minister:** Dr. Jack Bowman

**Bell Choir Director:** Mary Davidson

**Technical Minister:** Lee Collins

### Education & Youth

**Christian Education Minister:** Barbara Collins

**Youth Minister:** Jennifer Surdam

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

### Holding the Parts Together!

**Finance and Communications Assistant:**

Melissa Adam

**Sexton:** Cory Wiggins

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

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

## Salisbury & Lakeville Interfaith Thanksgiving Service



**Tuesday, 26 November,**

**6:30 pm**

at the

**Lakeville United  
Methodist Church**

**319 Main St, Lakeville, CT**

**Please bring a donation of food for the Corner Pantry,  
our local food bank.**



*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