

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## PRELUDE

*Ciacona in E minor*

Dietrich Buxtehude

## WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #401**

“Gather Us In”

GATHER US IN

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (*debts/debtors*)

*Hymnal, p. 35*

## A CALL TO MEDITATION

Anselm (1033-1109)

ONE: Come now, people of God,  
turn aside for a while from your daily employment.  
Escape for a moment from the tumult of your thoughts.

**All: Put aside your weighty cares,  
let your burdensome distractions wait,  
free yourself awhile for God,  
and rest awhile in God.**

**Enter the inner chamber of your soul,  
shut out everything except God  
and that which can help you in seeking your Creator,**  
and when you have shut the door, seek the Holy One.

**Now, my whole heart, say:**

**“I seek your face, God; it is your face I seek.”**

**RESPONSE IN SONG** “God, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Ken Medema

God, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. God, send your Spir-it in this place.

God, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

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**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

ONE: Let us confess our lives to the One who chooses to forgive us and love us unconditionally, as we pray together, saying,

**UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**Yet once more, we come to you with our prayers, Holy God. Our crippling spirits keep us from following you. Our grudges weigh us down until we cannot walk straight in your way. Our anger becomes a fire which scorches our friends and loved ones. Our fears blind us to the goodness in those we believe to be different.**

**Forgive us, God our Rock, and set us free from our wrong-doings and failures. From the day of our birth, we have known your love, grace, and hope. So may we offer you our joyful thanks, as Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior, reaches out to touch us with your healing forgiveness yet once more. Amen.**

*(Silence is kept)*

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

ONE: God chooses not to turn a deaf ear to us, but to listen to our prayers. God chooses not to shame us, but to save us.

**ALL: This is, indeed, good news for us! We are set free to drink deeply from the waters of life. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**RESPONSE IN SONG** “God, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Ken Medema

**RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 112**

ONE: *Hallelujah!* Happy are those who entrust their lives to the Holy One,

**MANY: Who greatly delight in God's teachings.**

Their descendants will be mighty in the land;

**The generation of those dedicated  
to the ways of the Eternal One will be blessed.**

Wealth and riches are in their houses,

**And their magnanimity endures forever.**

Even in the starless night a light shines for them;

**They are gracious, compassionate, and quick to aid others.**

It is well with those who act generously and lend easily,

**Who conduct their affairs with justice.**

For those who are secure in the ways of the Blessed One  
will never be shaken;

**They will be remembered forever.**

They have no fear of evil tidings;

**Their hearts are firm, they trust in the Most High.**

Their hearts are steady,

**They will never be afraid;**

In the end they will see their foes give way.

**They have distributed their goods freely,**

They have given to the poor;

**Their gracious provision for others goes on and on;**

Their dignity and honor increase.

**The greedy see it and are angry;**

They gnash their teeth and melt away;

**The desires of the grasping come to nothing.**

✠ **HYMN #722**

“Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”

CANONBURY

**OFFERTORY**

**THE LIGHT OF SERVICE**

Dan Edmundson

*Each week, offerings not specifically designated for the Church (including any checks with “Light of Service” or “LOS” in the memo line) will be given to an organization*

*doing compassionate work that is close to the heart of a participant in our church.  
This week, we share our gifts with the **Audubon Society**.*

ONE: God has poured gifts into our lives; we now return our tithes and offerings.

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

### RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

*Our church welcomes every size gift, and thanks you for your generosity.*

**MUSICAL OFFERING** *Partita in G – Prælude and Gigue*

Johann Kuhnau

### ✠ 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, you have offered us a place at the table,  
and you have called us to share without expectation of being repaid.  
You have called us to make room for the hungry, the outcast,  
and hurting, hoping people everywhere.  
So we ask that you bless these offerings,  
that they may support ministries of compassion and justice  
until all of your children have welcome, warmth, and sustenance.  
Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16  
Luke 14:1, 7-14

*New Testament, p. 276  
New Testament, p. 94*

### SERMON

“Places of Honor”

The Rev. Janet McKinstry

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### ✠ HYMN #769

“For Everyone Born, A Place at the Table”

FOR EVERYONE BORN

### BENEDICTION and **SUNG AMEN**

### POSTLUDE

*Toccata for a Celebration*

Gene Clark



## 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. 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

*Usher: Joanne Taber, Kevin Wolgemuth*

*Reader: Joanne Taber • Deacon: John Estabrook*

Prayer of Confession adapted and reprinted from Lectionary Liturgies by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2022 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com). Used with permission.

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

### **TODAY WE WELCOME THE REV. JANET MCKINSTRY**

to preach and lead us in worship (Pastor John Nelson is attending a family wedding). Pastor Janet is a UCC minister in the Berkshire Association. Currently she is serving as pastor of the Tyringham (MA) Union Church and lives in Great Barrington. She is a fiber artist, creator of marionettes, and storyteller which she often uses to bring to life the scriptures. Website: [janetmckinstry.com](http://janetmckinstry.com) and on Etsy.

## Our Ministry Team

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

### Worship & Music

**Music Director:** David Baranowski  
**Bell Choir Director:** Mary Davidson  
**Cantor:** Jennifer Oberto

### Faith Formation

**Religious Education Assistant:**  
Holly Tierney

### Holding the Parts Together

**Administrative Assistant:** Loriann Chevremont  
**Bookkeeper:** Alex Bercy  
**Sexton:** Richard Tietjen

**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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#### New additions:

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries: for Martha Mensendiek, Global Ministries Mission Co-worker in Japan, who serves with Doshisha University, Kyoto, and for mission partners Asian Rural Institute; Doshisha University; Emmaus Center; J.F. Oberlin University; Kobe College; Korean Christian Church in Japan; Miyagi Gakuin Women's University; National Christian Council in Japan; Tohoku Gakuin University; and the United Church of Christ in Japan.

#### Continuing concerns:

Loriann Chevremont, recovering from surgery • For the ongoing plague of gun violence: for each one grieving the deaths of beloveds, for survivors recovering from

physical and spiritual trauma, for first responders, those tending to the traumatized, those whose trauma has again disrupted life, those who are laboring to stop the easy access to guns.

Linda Estabrook, recovering from a hip fracture • the danger to women's health and women's autonomy as reproductive rights are under renewed threat • Baby Sid, grandson of Susie Belcher, born with esophageal atresia, in NICU, for all giving him care, and for his family • The people of Ukraine and all striving to end war • Richard Wardell, recovering from heart surgery • Ruth Tyrol, in memory care in New Hampshire • the people of Afghanistan • Families seeking asylum and opportunity in the US • Faithful care of

God's creation & repair of human damage to the environment • friends and family now serving our country in the armed forces • All those serving or living in war or conflict zones around the world.

For those in treatment for cancer — Frank Swaye, David Douyea, MingMing, Deborah Merwin, Keith Blanton and others — prayers for strength, healing, endurance for them, their families, friends, and caregivers.

## Family & Friends who have passed away

Roberta “Bobbie” Edmundson Rose •  
Mary Theresa Feen • Bertha “Betty”  
Scribner

Families and friends of more than 66,508 beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last four weeks, including 13,203 in the US •

We thank God for the gift of life, and pray for the Spirit's strong presence with family and friends who grieve.

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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!

## Opportunities

**CROP HUNGER WALKS** are community-based fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States, created to support the global mission of Church World Service, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. After a CROP Hunger Walk ends, 25% of the funds raised is returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts.

This year will be the 39<sup>th</sup> annual CROP Walk since Pastor Dick and Joanne Taber brought the event to Northwest Connecticut (and neighboring areas of Massachusetts and New York). In our congregation, Pastor John, Pat Palmer, and Joanne Taber are



helping to organize the event — and we could use help **managing social media, recruiting walkers, and making walks yourself: there is something for everyone to do!** Please speak with Pastor John if you can lend a hand (or feet, as the case may be). And register on the Salisbury UCC team at:

<http://tiny.cc/salisburyucc-crop>.

**TODAY'S LIGHT OF SERVICE GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT THE GOOD WORK OF THE AUDUBON SOCIETY** ([audubon.org](http://audubon.org)): a U.S. non-profit environmental organization dedicated to conservation of birds and their habitats. Incorporated in 1905, Audubon is one of the oldest of such organizations in the world.

## This Week at Salisbury UCC

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### SUNDAY, 28 AUGUST

10AM Worship

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### WEDNESDAY, 31 AUGUST

12:30PM Staff Meeting

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### MONDAY, 29 AUGUST

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

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### FRIDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER

12NOON Meeting House Music & Meditation



**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: 8:30am – 1:30pm, Monday-Friday