

13th Sunday *after* Pentecost

27 August 2023, 10am



HYMN SING

WELCOME

✕ **HYMN #727**

“The Servant Song”

SERVANT SONG

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

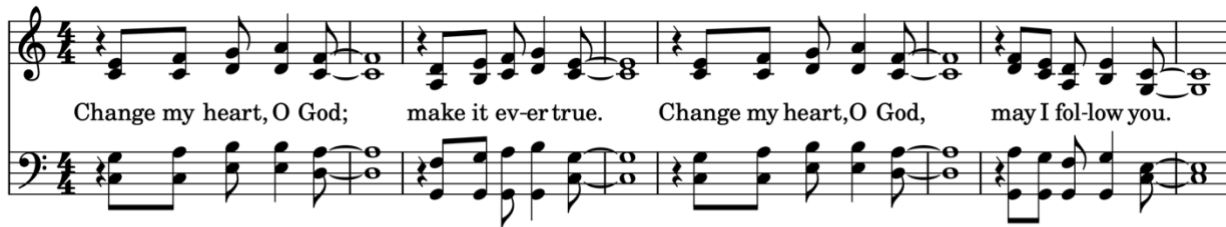
ONE: We come together on the edge of possibilities.

For in this time, among this community, we encounter Sacred Spirit
who awakens, stirs, convicts, comforts, renews, transforms.

ALL: We come; we gather; we wait; we are open.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Change My Heart, O God”



Change my heart, O God; make it ev-er true. Change my heart, O God, may I fol-low you.



You are the pot-ter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: For the times and the ways we have closed our eyes to the possibilities for transformation within our neighborhoods, our nation, and the world, we pray:

ALL: God, bring us new sight. (We pray in silence)

For the times and the ways we have closed our hearts to the opportunities for renewal within ourselves and within our church, we pray:

God, reshape our hearts. (silence)

For the times and the ways we have held back our gifts or resisted the gifts others would bring, we pray:

God, give us courage and grace. (silence)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ONE: Jesus promised, "I will build my church," and assured the disciples that nothing can stand against the beloved community: not shortsightedness, not hardness of heart, not withholdings or denyings. God is with us and for us, as we follow the way of Jesus, continually being transformed into a gifted community of love.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

"Change My Heart, O God"

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 138

ONE: I give You thanks, O God Most High,

ALL: With my whole heart;

In the face of other "gods,"

I sing to You;

I bow my head before You,

And give thanks that You are Who You are,

I give thanks for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness;

Which promise to surpass even what You have already done.

On the day I cried out, You answered me,

You increased my strength of soul.

All the powers of earth shall honor You, O Holy One ,

For they have heard the words of Your mouth.

They shall sing of the ways of the Almighty,

For great is the splendor of the Sovereign One .

The Author of Life is magnificent,
Yet takes heed of the lowly,
And regards the haughty from afar.
Though I walk through roiling danger,
You preserve my life,
You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies,
With Your strong hand You deliver me.
The Creator will bring me fullness of life;
Your steadfast love, O God, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of Your hands.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✕ **HYMN #754**

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

BARONITA

OFFERTORY

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

*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 give our monthly offering to the **Salisbury Housing Trust** and **Salisbury Housing Committee**.*

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

To a Wild Rose

Edward MacDowell

✕ **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 will proclaim our faith not only with our words but with our lives and these gifts we offer to you, O God. We pray that your generosity will work through us; we pray that even through us, others might be transformed by your grace, your hope, and your peace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 1:8-22 *Old Testament, p. 60*

GOSPEL READING Romans 12:1-8 *New Testament, p. 196*

SERMON “Therefore” Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN #700** “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” I’M GONNA LIVE

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE *Postlude on "Darwall's 148th"* Portman/Darwall



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

Reader: Louise Brown • *Deacon:* Theresa Carroll

Fellowship time hosts: Sue Morrill

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2022 (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

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

Faith Formation

Sunday School Coordinator:
Holly Tierney
Youth Group leader: Sarah Lesch

Holding the Parts Together

Administrative Assistant: Loriann Chevremont
Sexton: Richard Tietjen
Stewardship & Database Mgr: Kelly Rybczyk

Church Officers: Betsy Beck, *moderator*;
Janet Offensend, *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.)

New concerns:

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries: for the Rev. Edward Rivera Santiago, Iglesia Evangélica Unida (United Evangelical Church) de Puerto Rico, and Mission Partners in Puerto Rico: AMANESER

2025 • Amnesty International • Hope Builders Home • Puerto Rico Council of Churches • Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico • Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico.

Andrew Marshall • Deborah Lifton • Sue Spring

For students, teachers, staff, and families preparing for the start of a new school year

Continued concerns:

Ellen Groves, further surgery and recovery for a broken neck, and her family • Carl Morner, hospitalized with atrial fibrillation while recovering from lung surgery, and his family •

Margaret Haubrich, in memory care • neighbors around the world recovering from catastrophic wildfires, floods, and hurricanes • all affected by gun violence, especially survivors, those tending to the traumatized, and those advocating for safety • the peoples of Sudan and Ukraine • neighbors who

serve or live in war or in conflict zones around the world • for peacemakers.

For those in treatment for cancer — Peter Kiernan, Jenny, Frank Swaye, David Douyea, Deborah Merwin, Keith Blanton — prayers for healing and strength.

Family & Friends who have passed away

Bill Jones • Ben Doing

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

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, 27 AUGUST

10AM **Worship** followed by fellowship & refreshments in the Parish Hall

MONDAY, 28 AUGUST

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 29 AUGUST

6:30PM Tai Chi class

WEDNESDAY, 30 AUGUST

12:30PM Staff Meeting

FRIDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER

9AM Men's Bible Study
12noon First Friday Music



The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting in Grace • Transformed by Love • Serving with Joy

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

email: welcome@salisburyucc.org • web: salisburyucc.org

Office Hours: 8:30am – 1:30pm, Monday-Thursday

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

The Servant Song

1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall

be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
 geth - er on the road. We are here to help each
 night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out
 laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and
 find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -

grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
 oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
 to you, speak the peace you long - to hear.
 sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.
 (repeat stanza 1)

The opening and closing stanza expresses the essence of this folk-style song about the mutuality of servant ministry: those who serve must also be willing to be served. This is what Christ intended when he commanded the disciples to “wash one another’s feet” (John 13:14).

Help Us Accept Each Other 754

G Em Am7 B7 C

1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,

C G A A7 D

teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,

G Em Am7 B7 C

Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:

C G Em D7 G

we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1974
 MUSIC: Doreen Potter, 1974
 Text and Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

BARONITA
 7.6.7.6.D

700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (an - y - time!)
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na

live so (live so)
 work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 pray so (pray so)
 sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (my Lord,) (an - y - time!)

This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.