

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Afton Water

Burns/Spillman
arr. Rutter/Baranowski

*All attending Sunday School are invited to the 2nd floor classrooms;
children and teachers will return to the Meeting House for communion.*

WELCOME

⌘ **HYMN #375** “Shall We Gather at the River”
(⌘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

HANSON PLACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life,
in the name of Christ, the pulse of life,
and in the name of the Spirit, the breath of life. Amen.

ALL: Holy! Holy! Holy!

Earth is filled with God’s presence.

Christ, we come into your presence to worship in this sanctuary called Earth:

A planet pulsating with your presence —

a presence quivering in the forests,

a presence vibrating in the land,

a presence thriving in the wilderness,

a presence shimmering in the rivers.

God, reveal yourself to us in this place, and show us your face in all creation.

Holy! Holy! Holy!

The whole earth is filled with your glory!

RESPONSE IN SONG**“Creation Introit”**

NIC/AE

Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Cre - a - tor God Al - migh - ty!

For - est, land, and wil - der - ness are full of life from Thee.

An - cient wa - ters flow - ing free: all re - veal Thy glo - ry.

Christ through - out cre - a - tion: praise and ho - nor be!

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: In this sanctuary, set apart to give praise to God,
we remember the sanctuary of God’s creation,
flowing with the power of life.

**ALL: We remember the rivers God created
in Eden and across our planet,
rivers that are the lifeblood of Earth
and the soul of all that lives.**

Jesus Christ, living water, hear our cry.

**We regret that we have become alienated from Earth
and treated this garden planet as a beast to be tamed,
as a domain to be dominated,
and as a place to be ruled for our gain.**

We remember and confess how we have violated the rivers of our garden planet.

We are sorry.

We have polluted your rivers with poisons.

We have treated marshes as waste dumps.

We have drained our wetlands of life.

We have turned living waters into currents of death.

We are sorry. We are sorry.

We pray in silence.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Christ hears your confession from the Jordan, forgives your sins against the rivers, and calls you now to open your ears and your hearts to revive rather than to desecrate the waters pulsing through our planet.

ALL: Christ, teach us to love Earth as our home

and all living creatures as our kin. Help us to return home to Earth.

I speak for Christ:

I invite you to come home to Earth,
and I call you to care for this planet with love,
to care for its rivers as I have cared for you,
and to join me in healing creation.

Shalom! Shalom! We are coming home!

As we come home to Earth,

Christ, have mercy.

As we seek to love our home,

Christ, have mercy.

As we seek to care for our kin,

Christ, have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

Hymnal, p. 35

RESPONSE IN SONG (p. 2)

“Creation Introit”

OFFERTORY

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

Offerings not specifically designated for the Church (including checks with “Light of Service” or “LOS” in the memo line) will be given to an organization doing compassionate work that complements our church’s mission. This week, we share our gifts with the **Libya Flood Relief Fund** organized by Global Giving.

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.

ANTHEM *The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee* Jean Berger

The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.
Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. (Psalm 145:15-16)

✠ 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

Creator God, your spirit hovered over the waters of creation, blessing them with your goodness. We were baptized in those same holy waters; we live with life-sustaining water inside us and around us. We bless these tithes and offerings, that they may serve your realm of grace, ever flowing through us and all creation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 9:12-17
Revelation 22:1-5

*Old Testament, p. 9
New Testament, p. 316*

SERMON

“Bright Waters Flowing”

Pastor John A. Nelson

✠ HYMN (p.5)

“Healing River of the Spirit”

JOEL

1. Heal - ing riv - er of the Spir - it, bathe the wounds that liv - ing brings.
 2. Well - spring of the heal - ing Spir - it, stream that flows to bring re - lease,
 3. Liv - ing stream that heals the na - tions, make us chan - nels of your pow'r.

Plunge our pain, our sin, our sad - ness deep be - neath your sa - cred springs.
 as we gain our selves, our sens - es, may our lives re - flect your peace.
 All the world is torn by con - flict; wars are rag - ing at this hour.

Wea - ry from the rest - less search - ing that has lured us from your side,
 Grate - ful for the flood that heals us, may your church en - act your grace.
 Sav - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us; guide our wind - ing hu - man course,

we dis - cov - er in your pres - ence peace the world can - not pro - vide.
 As we meet both friend and stran - ger, may we see our Sav - ior's face.
 'til we find our way to - geth - er, flow - ing home - ward to our Source.

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 Music: Sally Ann Morriss (USA), 1991, © 1997 The Pilgrim Press
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We Meet at the Lord's Table

INVITATION

RESPONSIVE THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is good and right to give God our thanks and praise.

O God, we thank you for the rich blessing of your Creation, and come to offer our whole selves as you call us to live for your realm of *shalom*.

Our hearts fill with joy and wonder as we answer your call to be your people. Thanks be to you, O Holy One, for the goodness of your creation.

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of life, to drink the cup of the new covenant.

Jesus said, I am the bread of life.

She who comes to me shall never hunger;

he who believes in me shall never thirst.

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said, This is my body which is for you; do this remembering me.

After supper Jesus took the cup and said,

This is the cup of the new covenant.

Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.

And so we breathe out hope as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Come, Holy Spirit. Continue to pour out your life-giving, healing power on us, and on this meal that nourishes us. As we share this food and drink, may we become, for each other, the hope that Jesus has

awakened in us. In this meal we celebrate the promised banquet when all shall be fed abundantly, and all shall drink from the river of the water of life. Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

We celebrate an open communion and welcome every person to the table. We understand the sharing of the bread and the cup in Jesus' name to be a reenactment of an ancient vision of God's feast for all people. We don't require you to be a member of our church, or any church, to participate with us in this feast of grace: all that is needed is that you desire God's nurture. (We use gluten-free bread and unfermented grape juice to remove barriers to anyone's participation in the sacrament.)

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

We thank you, Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you. By your grace and the gift of yourself we are healed. Strengthened by you, renewed by awareness of our oneness with all living things, may we become agents of healing for God's good earth. Amen.

✠ **HYMN #11**

“Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud”

ABERYSTWYTH

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

SENDING

ONE: Here, we are meeting in grace:

ALL: God has gathered us in this holy place;

God's presence and power makes of us a beloved community.

Together, we are transformed by love:

Believing and doubting, hungry and full, grieving and rejoicing:

**Christ receives us, embraces our brokenness and resilience,
and leads us into wholeness.**

We are serving with joy, each as we are able:

**Equipped by grace and charged by love, the Spirit sends us out
to be agents of light and compassion. May it be so!**

POSTLUDE

“Allegro Maestoso” from *Water Music*

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. 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

*Ushers: Sarah Morrison and Allison Grey
Reader: Tony Good • Deacon: Patricia Palmer*

Flowers have been placed in the Meeting House by Lorna and Dan Edmundson.

Today's liturgy is adapted from Norman Habel and the Justice and International Mission unit within the Commission for Mission of the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. 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: Lorianne 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 mission partners in Mexico: Confraternity of Evangelical Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ)
• Congregational Christian Churches of Mexico
• Disciples of Christ Church in Mexico • Institute for Intercultural Study and Research • Las Memorias Hostel • Melel Xojobal • Mexican Roundtable • International Service for Peace
• Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries
• Theological Community of Mexico (TCM).

Continued concerns:

Duane Estes • Donna Haubrich, surgery for back pain • Andrew Marshall • Sue Spring • Carl Morner, hospitalized with atrial fibrillation while recovering from lung surgery, and his family • Margaret Haubrich, in memory care

For students, teachers, staff, and families in the early days of a new school year.

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 — Deborah Lifton • Peter Kiernan, Jenny, Frank Swaye, David Douyea, Deborah Merwin, Keith Blanton — prayers for healing and strength.

Family & Friends who have passed away

Karen Parsons • Sally Noyes • Pat Fugazzotto

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, 1 OCTOBER

- 10AM Worship
*followed by fellowship & refreshments
in the Parish Hall*
- 11:30AM Church Council meeting
- 11A-12P Treasure Trove drop-off

MONDAY, 2 OCTOBER

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

TUESDAY, 3 OCTOBER

- 10A-3P Quilt Show drop-off

WEDNESDAY, 4 OCTOBER

- 10A-3P Quilt Show drop-off
- 12:30PM Staff Meeting
- 4PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER

- 10A-3P Quilt Show drop-off
- 5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 6 OCTOBER

- 8:45AM Men's Bible Study
- 12noon First Friday Music in the
Meeting House

FRIDAY-SATURDAY-SUNDAY, 6-7-8 OCT
2023 FALL FESTIVAL

See salisburyfallfestival.org for schedule



Please Recycle this Bulletin!



The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting in Grace • Transformed by Love • Serving with Joy

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