

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALISBURY

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's  
journey: you are welcome here!*

**15 September 2019 • 10:00AM**  
**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Season of Creation • Fauna Sunday**



*Welcome! We worship this Sunday with the entire living family on Earth. We celebrate with birds, animals, reptiles, and all our living relatives. We listen to their sounds, watch their movements, and wonder with them as they praise their Creator. We give thanks for and with all our kin in creation.*

## CHIMING OF THE HOUR

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

“La Tromba”

*François Couperin*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

## GATHERING

ONE: In the name of the Creator of all animal life,  
the name of Christ, the lamb of God,  
and the name of the Spirit, the breath in all life, Amen.

**MANY: Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.**

Christ, we come into your presence, today, to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,  
**Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with your presence.**

## INTROIT #768

“Somos el cuerpo de Cristo”

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We invite our animal family to worship with us,

**MANY: All our kin living on this planet,  
from the busiest bee to the tallest giraffe.**

We remember our animal relatives who have become extinct,

**Dinosaurs, dodos, and Texas grey wolves,  
Oregon bison and the woolly mammoth.**

We join our brothers and sisters in praising God,

**Gliding eagles and watchful cougars,  
Gorillas in the mist and polar bears in the snow.**

We summon the kin we have come to love,

**The stray cat and the backyard dog,  
the goat, the pony, and the rescued bird.**

All our animal family in all the world,

**Raise your voices to the skies in a family festival of praise.**

Sing, family, sing!

**A song of praise to the Creator, from all creatures!**

✘ **HYMN #22**

“God of the Sparrow”

ROEDER

## REMEMBERING

ONE: Think, now, of animals you have loved or with whom you felt a sense of kinship. Remember the sight of a wild creature — herons, folded and gliding, a mole startled by light, a turtle slowly blinking ... (*silent reflection*). Remember, as well, those of our animal kin who are endangered, those whose habitat we have destroyed, and those who have become extinct through human carelessness.

**ALL: Holy One, we hear your creation groaning.**

**We hear fellow creatures crying out in pain.**

**We hear members of your realm weeping.**

## CONFESSION

We share the sorrow of our animal family.

**We share the sorrow. We recognize our estrangement from God’s  
good work in Creation. We acknowledge the problem of human  
greed, as our relentless drive for comfort and convenience has**

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

**devastated habitats and destroyed entire species.**

**We are sorry. We are sorry.**

We repent.

**We are sorry. We are sorry.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

Christ, who was deeply grieved in Gethsemane,  
knows your sorrow and shares the suffering of all creatures.

**Christ, teach us compassion  
for the life around us that suffers.**

I speak for Christ: I affirm your compassion.

Come now, embrace those in pain, and care for those in danger.

***Shalom! Shalom!* We embrace those who suffer.**

As we come home to Earth.

**Christ, have mercy.**

As we share Earth with our kin.

**Master, have mercy.**

As we care for creatures in danger.

**Christ, have mercy.**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

ONE: Let us affirm our faith together.

**NORTH SIDE: We believe that God creates all things,  
renews all things, and celebrates all things.**

SOUTH SIDE: We believe Earth is a sanctuary,  
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,  
a home for us to share with our kin.

**NORTH SIDE: We believe that God became flesh and blood,  
became part of Earth,  
a human being called Jesus Christ,  
who lived and breathed and spoke among us,  
suffered and died on a cross,  
for all human beings and for all creation.**

SOUTH SIDE: We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the universe.

**NORTH SIDE: We believe the Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.**

ALL: We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation!

**GLORIA #584**

“Glory, Glory, Glory”

## **WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD**

### **A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS ~ BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

#### **THE LORD’S PRAYER** (*debts*)

✘ **HYMN #661**

“Why Should I Feel Discouraged?”

SPARROW

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

#### **RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 104:14-23**

ONE: You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,

**and plants for people to use,  
to bring forth food from the earth,**

and wine to gladden the human heart,

**oil to make the face shine,  
and bread to strengthen the human heart.**

The trees of YHWH are watered abundantly,

**the cedars of Lebanon that God planted.**

In them the birds build their nests;

**the stork has its home in the fir trees.**

The high mountains are for the wild goats;

**the rocks are a refuge for the coney.**

You have made the moon to mark the seasons;

**the sun knows its time for setting.**

You make darkness, and it is night,

**when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.**

The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.

**When the sun rises, they withdraw  
and lie down in their dens.**

People go out to their work

**and to their labor until the evening.**

**GOSPEL READING:** Luke 12:22-31

**SERMON**

“God’s Eye is on the ...”

John A. Nelson

## **WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH**

**PASTORAL PRAYER | SILENT PRAYER**

### **OFFERTORY**

ONE: The power of God — the creating, transforming, forgiving, redeeming, restoring, reconciling, justice-making power of God — resides in the wisdom of our animal cousins and fellow residents of earth. Today we remember the Creator’s love of them, and pour out our gratitude for God’s blessings. May we joyfully give our tithes and offerings to our Creator as we praying for the healing of all creation.

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

### **RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**MUSICAL OFFERING** “Now Is the Cool of the Day”

*Jean Richie*

### **✠ CREATION DOXOLOGY**

OLD 100TH

**To you, O God all creatures sing,**

**And all creation, everything**

**sings your praises, alleluia!**

**Praise the Creator; Christ we praise!**

**And for the Spirit joy we raise!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

✘ **UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Mighty Creator, all things belong to you: we are your caretakers. We pray that these gifts, which you gave that we might be of service, will now be a blessing to your world. We pray they may multiply, as we join with all creatures who revere you, the source of life and love. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

✘ **HYMN #17**

“Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!”

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

**BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN** (Hymnal, #600)

**POSTLUDE**

“Allegro from Sonata #4 in C Major”

*F. Mendelssohn*



**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 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 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.

**Please set cell phones and pagers to silent mode  
(unless you're expecting a call from Jesus)**

Assistive Listening Devices are available. Please ask an usher for assistance!

## Today's Worship Leaders

**Ushers:** Deborah Moore & Roger Crain

**Worship Leader:** Lorna Edmundson

**Deacon:** Carol Magowan

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God.

Cover art: "The Fifth Day of Creation," Hartmann Schedel, *Liber Chronicarum*, Nuremberg, 1493. Today's service is adapted from materials sponsored by 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 with permission.

## 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!

**Administrative Assistant:** Kathleen Wiggins

**Finance and Communications Assistant:**

Melissa Adam

**Sexton:** Cory Wiggins

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

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

## OCCASIONS FOR SERVICE, WITNESS, AND PRAYER

**CROP Hunger Walk** – You can help make a difference in local *and* global hunger by walking in our CROP Hunger Walk this year. With two weeks to go, our congregation has three Walkers participating. Won't you join them? To sign up to be a Walker, see Pastor John to get a Donation Envelope. If you can't walk, please sponsor a Walker.

### 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:

Those whose lives are devastated by Hurricane Dorian and other natural disasters • Jenn Oberto, recovering from surgery • survivors of mass shootings, and those working to combat the crisis of gun violence • Henry • Sally Dowling • Carole Fraher • Peter Kuhbach • Sherrell Andrews • Dale Sapp • Sean Clegg • Roberta Fay • J. Kevin Carroll • Evan Adsit • Marty Sorenson • Terry Roy & family •

Pete Robinson • Leonard Kaufman • Dick Taber • Tom Splaine • Joe K. • Peter & Linda • Paula & Herman • Anne & Bill • Pauline • Sonya's mother.

Friends and family now serving our country in the armed forces • All those serving or living in war or conflict zones around the world.

**Family & Friends  
who have passed away:**

Charles Bachman • Diane Franzen •  
Jimmy Bowman

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

---

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PASTORAL VISIT**, please call the church office (860-435-2442) or email Pastor John (jnelson@salisburycongregationalchurch.org). Sometimes we don't find out about an injury or illness or other need until long after — so please call!

Like us on Facebook (facebook.com/SalisburyUCC)!

## THIS WEEK AT SALISBURY UCC

---

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

10:00AM Worship Service & Church School  
11:30AM Trustees Meeting  
11:30AM Christian Action Meeting

---

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

1PM Salisbury Bridge Club

---

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

7PM Sinfonietta Rehearsal

---

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

9AM Church Staff meeting  
7:15PM Choir Rehearsal

---

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

4:30PM Women's Bible Study

---

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

7:45AM 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

info@salisburycongregationalchurch.org  
www.salisburycongregationalchurch.org

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