

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALISBURY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



A Service of Celebration for All Saints Sunday
3 November 2019 •

A PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

ONE: Holy God, Maker of all

ALL: Have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, Breath of life

Have mercy on us.

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

(Prayer in silence)

Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness:
to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

**May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Amen.

**Before God, with the people of God,
we confess to our brokenness:
to the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.**

May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Weave”



Weave, weave, weave us to-gether. Weave us to-gether in u-ni-ty and love.



Weave, weave, weave us to-gether. Weave us to-gether, to-gether in love.

WE FEAST AT GOD'S TABLE

PREPARATION

LEADER: We gather now as one body, joined around the table.

**PEOPLE: Here we celebrate God's presence among us
united in Christ's spirit, broken and whole all at once;**

Nourished and hungry, loving and lonely,
sinner and forgiven; we make one circle of knowing,
**believing, rejoicing, being,
as God lights and rests among us.**

INVITATION

This is the table of the Heavenly Feast,
the joyful celebration of the saints of God.

**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."

**In the beginning, God provided every plant yielding seed
and every tree with seed in its fruit for food.**

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God fed them with miraculous food.

**When the crowds were hungry,
Jesus fed over five thousand
with two fish and five loaves of bread.**

THE MEAL

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."**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER (*depts*)

✠ **ACT OF PRAISE** (*sung*)

GREATOREX

**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.**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Come, Holy Spirit: continue to pour out your life-giving, healing power on us, and on your feast. As we share this food and drink, may we become, for each other, the hope that Jesus has awakened in us. Here 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 share the bread and the cup in Jesus' name as 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 sustenance.

We serve gluten-free bread and grape juice, as we seek to welcome all to the table.

COMMUNION MUSIC

“”

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Thank you, God, for the gift of yourself — in the earthiness of bread and cup, and in the mystery of your hidden depths of grace, still being revealed. We rejoice as we remember those uncounted thousands of saints, past and present, who share this meal with us. Having been forgiven and fed, may we find common purpose in sharing your dream of a world of everlasting *shalom*. In Jesus' name; Amen.

✠ **HYMN #325**

“By All Your Saints Still Striving”

KING'S LYNN

Children (PreK–5th grade) attending Church School may leave as we sing the hymn.

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 149

ONE: Sing to the Holy One a new song,

MANY: Sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let our people be glad in our Maker;

Let the children of the Holy City rejoice in their Sovereign.

Let them honor God's purpose with dancing,

Making melody with tambourine and lyre.

For the Most High delights in this people of covenant;

And crowns the oppressed with the garland of liberation.

Let the faithful rejoice in this honor;

Let them sing for joy even at rest.

Let the high praises of God be in their throats

While two-edged swords are in their hands,

To be instruments of justice among the nations

And accountability among the peoples,

Binding the despots with shackles,

And arrogant nobles with chains of iron,

Exacting among them the justice written,

The justice of the Redeeming God.

This is the robe of authority for all God's faithful ones.

ALL: Hallelujah!

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 5:1-12

New Testament, p. 4

SERMON

“Blessed”

Abby Gackenheimer

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

OFFERTORY

ONE: We belong to a God of mystery: there is vastly more to discover than we already know about the life-giving, meaning-making, love-birthing God whose Word we attend and whose praises we sing. God is good! We give our tithes and offerings in deepest gratitude for the One who still surprises us with the mystery of grace.

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

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING “We Thank You For Beloved Saints”

Pepper Choplin

✘ 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

As God's saints in this time and place, we may feed others from the abundance of all we have, we may be present with the pain and suffering of others, we may wipe away the tears of the lonely and fearful. May the gifts we offer, and the lives we lead, reveal the One for whom we have waited and who invites us to spread grace over all the world. This we pray in Jesus' name: Amen.

✘ HYMN #326

"For All the Saints"
verses 1, 2, 3

SINE NOMINE

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR ALL SAINTS

PASTOR: Almighty God, your people of all the ages live and praise you without ceasing. In our communion with you, we have communion with generations past and generations yet unknown. Before your throne we are one with a great multitude, which no one could number, and in praising you we join with those from every nation.

ALL: O God, the generations rise and pass away before you.

**You are the strength of those who labor;
you are the rest of the blessed dead.**

We thank you for all the saints:

**all those who have been baptized in the spirit
and whom you have justified by grace and faith.**

**We rejoice that their faithfulness
has paved the way for our lives to follow.**

**Thank you for the saints known to many,
and those known to few;**

we rejoice in their witness of joy and challenge, love and care:

John Arnold ✘ Jack Ritchie ✘ Laura Flores ✘ Theodore Stanfield

Leonard Kaufman ✘ Charles Bachman ✘ Tony Scoville

and others whom we name now.

**Grant to your church on earth
that as we celebrate the triumph of your saints in glory
we may profit by their example
and enter with them into the inexpressible joys
you have prepared for those who love you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✠ **HYMN #326**

“For All the Saints”
verses 4 & 5

SINE NOMINE

BENEDICTION and **SUNG RESPONSE** (“Alleluia, Alleluia!”)

SINE NOMINE

POSTLUDE

“Toccata in B Minor”

Henri Mulet



TODAY WE WELCOME BACK TO THE PULPIT THE REV. ABBY GACKENHEIMER. A native of Kalispell, Montana, where she discerned a call to become a minister, Rev. Abby graduated Eden Theological Seminary (St. Louis, MO) in 2008 with a Master of Divinity. She was ordained in 2009 when called as pastor to New Haven Congregational Church in Vermont where she served for six and a half years. During her years in Vermont she also served as the Protestant chaplain with the Cooperative Christian Ministry at the University of Vermont. In Connecticut, she has served as the Interim/Transitional Minister for The Congregational Church of Plainville and the First Congregational Church of Kent. Rev. Abby resides at Silver Lake Conference Center with her husband, Rev. Ryan and son, Keadyn.



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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