

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #338**

“America the Beautiful”

MATERNA

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

1 O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, for am-ber waves of grain,
2 O beau-ti-ful for he-roes proved in lib-er-at-ing strife,
3 O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream that sees be-yond the years

for pur-ple moun-tain maj-es-ties a-bove the fruit-ed plain!
who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer-cy more than life!
thine al-a-bas-ter cit-ies gleam, un-dimmed by hu-man tears!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw;
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine

and crown thy good with *broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea!
 con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law!
 till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness and ev - ery gain di - vine!

**Or "servanthood"*

This text (inspired by the vista from Pike's Peak and by a visit to Chicago's Columbian World Exposition) and tune (named MATERNA because it was composed for "O Mother, Dear Jerusalem") were joined in 1912. The combination proved immensely popular during World War I and afterwards.

TEXT: Katharine Lee Bates, 1893, alt.
 MUSIC: Samuel Augustus Ward, 1882

MATERNA
 CMD

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Though we may be inclined to brag or to diminish ourselves,
 we release both and come together with humility.

ALL: How good a thing it is, when God's people speak with respect.

Though we may do our best to prove that we are right and the other is wrong,
 we gather together with curiosity.

How good a thing it is, when God's people are in wonder.

Though we may have little patience for waiting for anything and anyone,
 we meet together in calm and openness.

How good a thing it is, when God’s people are satisfied with one another.

Though all around people may be losing their heads,
we convene with clear minds and gentle thoughts.

How good a thing it is, when God’s people live together in unity.

In humility, curiosity, patience, love, and unity,

Let us worship the God who has called us to be here now.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Bless the Lord, My Soul”

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s ho - ly name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads us in - to life.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1984 • MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984
Text and Music © 1984, 1998 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)
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A PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

ONE: Holy God, Maker of all,
Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor,
Holy Spirit, Breath of life,

**ALL: Have mercy on us.
Have mercy on us.
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.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Even in our moments of doubt, our persistent lack of trust and the blindness which means we fail to see God amongst us,

God is still at work. God is still healing. God is still forgiving.

Even when we fail our best selves,

God still sees us and loves us unconditionally.

We are released. We are set free to be and do God's work!

We indeed are forgiven, and we are at peace giving praise to the Source of Life: Amen.

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

Hymnal, p. 35

RESPONSE IN SONG

"Bless the Lord, My Soul"

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 complements our church's mission. This week, we share our gifts with **The Jane Lloyd Fund**.*

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

✠ 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

**God of our abundant lives, we rededicate ourselves to walk in
Goodness and Truth. Guide us in everything we think, say, and do that**

we may run the race and finish the course with joy. Bless these resources; bless our hands and our feet; and multiply everything to bless the world. So be it, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Kings 5:1-14

Old Testament, p. 416

John 15: 1-12

New Testament, p. 133

SERMON: “Drinking From the Well of Origin”

The Rev. Dr. Eileen Epperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN #339:** “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing”

TEXT: *James Weldon Johnson, 1900*

MUSIC: *J. Rosamond Johnson, 1905*



1. Lift ev - ery voice and sing, 'til earth and heav - en ring,
2. Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chast - ening rod,
3. God of our wear - y years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty;
Felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
Thou Who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening skies;
Yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
Thou Who hast by Thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea. Sing a
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed? We have
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray. Lest our



song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pre - sent has
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for -



brought us. Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
slaugh - tered, out from the gloom - y past, 'til now we stand at
- get thee; shadowed be - neath thy hand may we for - ev - er



- gun, let us march on, 'til vic - to - ry is won.
last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

We Feast at God'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*.

Thanks be to you, O Holy One, for the goodness you have poured into all things. Our hearts fill with joy and wonder as we answer your call to be your people.

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

Jesus, thank you for this invitation to be with you in this bread and cup. Kindle in our hearts a hunger for the eternal food of the soul. May we be blessed with a sense of your Presence as we partake individually and as a body. May we be changed in these moments. 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 in an effort to remove barriers to anyone's participation in the sacrament.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Teacher and Brother, thank you for nourishing our souls with your presence in this meal. May we be filled to overflowing with your grace

and strength to live as a blessing to all in a life that is pleasing to you.
Amen.

✘ HYMN #340

“This Is My Song”

FINLANDIA



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3 This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king - doms:



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
thy king - dom come; on earth thy will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
Let Christ be lift - ed up till all shall serve him,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

The first two stanzas of this hymn were written between the 20th century's two world wars and focus on the theme of international peace. The third stanza, by another author and added later, uses the language of the Lord's Prayer to voice a distinctly Christian perspective.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–2, Lloyd Stone; stanza 3, Georgia Harkness, alt.

MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt.

Text St. 1–2 © 1934, ren. 1962 *The Lorenz Corp.*; St. 3 © 1964 *The Lorenz Corp.*

Music Arr. © 1933, ren. 1961 *The Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)*

FINLANDIA

11.10.11.10.11.10

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE



Welcome to Church!

Gathered in 1744, the Congregational Church of Salisbury is an Open and Affirming member of the United Church of Christ, in a “net zero” building powered by clean energy. Our church 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

TODAY'S GUEST PREACHER, THE REV. DR. EILEEN EPPERSON, grew up in NYC and has lived in Salisbury since 2003. She has been a Presbyterian minister over 35 years and trained as an Interim Minister serving churches in M.A., N.C., and C.T. She has a passion for interfaith dialogue and has attended all seven of the modern Parliaments of the World's Religions and presented programs at most of them. Eileen has been a chaplain in four hospices, three hospitals, a college, and an assisted living facility. She currently has a private practice and coaches individuals, families, and teams in completing recurring issues and problems, communicating clearly and enhancing performance in all areas of life. She has been a grief group facilitator over seventeen years.

Ushers: Sarah Morrison & Anne Williams • *Reader:* Louise Brown •
Deacon: Barbara Collins • *Communion servers:* Barbara Collins, Dean Haubrich
Fellowship hosts: Emily Elliot, Karin Noyes

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2025 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); 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
Sunday School Assistant: Stephanie Tierney
Youth Group Leader: Sarah Lesch
Youth Group Assistant: Dan Baker

Holding the Parts Together

Church Administrator: Jennifer Oberto
Sexton: Richard Tietjen

Church Officers: Charlie Noyes, *moderator*;
Janet Offensend, *treasurer*; Liz Wing, *clerk*

Pastor and Teacher: The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

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 people of Zimbabwe and for our mission partners: United Theological College – Harare • Zimbabwe Synod-UCCSA • Zimbabwe Council of Churches • United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe • Christian Care.

Continuing concerns:

Peg Heck • Charlie Youngblood • Andrea Bargabos
• Lee Baranowski • Melinda Sweet • Jim Bell •
David Stoneman • Margaret Haubrich •
Beloveds in treatment for cancer

Immigrants and asylum seekers in our country

Friends and family now serving in the armed forces
• All those serving or living in conflict zones.

Family & Friends who have passed away

Alan Mawdsley (brother of Janet Offensend)

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

Thanksgiving for church leaders:

Board of Deacons: Betsy Beck, Myra Brandt,
Barbara Collins, Dean Haubrich, David Heck,
Don Mayland, Patricia Palmer

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!



Please Recycle this Bulletin!



This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 6 JULY

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

MONDAY, 7 JULY

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club
7PM Corner Pantry Board meeting

WEDNESDAY, 9 JULY

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
12:15PM Staff Meeting

SUNDAY, 13 JULY

10AM Worship and Sunday School
11:30AM Music Committee meeting

Opportunities

SAVE THE DATE!! Mark your calendars for our 2nd Annual Church Potluck Picnic on Sunday, August 10th, at the Salisbury Town Grove. You don't want to miss this wonderful opportunity for fellowship and delicious food!

The weather may be warmer, but need at **THE CORNER FOOD PANTRY** remains high. Please help us to provide healthy, nourishing food to our neighbors. Your support is more vital than ever! Items on our "most wanted" list currently include:

- coffee, • cooking oil, • apple sauce, • baking items, • canned pet food, and
- feminine hygiene products.

We also provide personal care items and can always use:

- shampoo, • lotion, • liquid hand soap, • bars of soap, • toothpaste, • tooth brushes, and •tissues.

Please visit **thecornerfoodpantry.org** to learn more about us, or to sign up to volunteer. Thank you **so** much for your support!



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-Friday