

The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #688** “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”
(✘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

MORECAMBE

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;
4 Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh.
5 Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;
 I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh.
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

This reflection on Galatians 5:25 was written by a literary Anglican clergyman whose preaching drew people of many social classes to one of the formerly poorer London churches. The tune was created for "Abide with Me" (no. 836) but more often appears with the present text.

TEXT: George Croly, 1867
 MUSIC: Frederick Cook Atkinson, 1870

MORECAMBE
 10.10.10.10

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Blessed is God, who created us and loves us beyond measure.

**ALL: Blessed is God, who calls us
 to stop measuring out our love.**

Blessed is God, who speaks and tells us stories about ourselves.

**Blessed is God, who reveals to us
 who we are and who we could be.**

Blessed is God, whose compassion is poured out on every person.

**Blessed is God, who gives us compassion
 to share with friend and stranger alike.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Love Our Creator God”

Jean and Jim Strathdee

Love our Cre-a - tor God with all your heart.

Love our Cre-a - tor God with all your soul.

Love our Cre-a - tor God with all your mind.

Love our Cre-a - tor God with all that you are.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Love our Cre-a - tor God with all your heart.', 'Love our Cre-a - tor God with all your soul.', 'Love our Cre-a - tor God with all your mind.', and 'Love our Cre-a - tor God with all that you are.' The music features a mix of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases connected by slurs.

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CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We do love God. We often love our neighbors — at least the ones with whom we get along. But we do run out of time, or room, or patience. There are neighbors we would just as soon avoid. Let us confess the limits we place on our love, so we might be filled with God’s limitless mercy.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

There are people we pass by, Watching God.

**Some are family and friends we take so much for granted
we cannot see how we have forgotten
to extend our love and compassion.**

Others are neighbors:

**who have been left half-dead by crushing work;
who have fallen into the hands of despair.**

**Many are people we don’t know, but quickly judge:
they are weak, or poor, or the enemy
or they remind us of who we once were,
or could become.**

Rescue us from the power of our sins, Righteous One.

**Pour out your justice on us, as a healing balm,
that we would be moved with concern, and spurred to action;
that we would shower mercy on all we meet,
even as we have received forgiveness for our brokenness
through Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior.**

(Silent prayers may be offered.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Children of the Most High: you are forgiven and brought into the realm of grace.

**God has rescued us and redeemed us, setting aside judgment to
shower us with mercy. We will go and do likewise. Thanks be to God!
Amen.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Love Our Creator God”

p. 2

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 25:1-10

ONE: To You, O God, I offer my life;

ALL: In You I trust, O my God;

Do not let me be defeated by the world around me;

Do not let my adversaries destroy me.

No one who hopes in You will ever be crushed.

Only those who wantonly disregard You will be left forsaken.

Show me Your ways, O Holy One; teach me the paths to You.

Lead me by Your faithfulness, and teach me,

For You are the God of my salvation;

In You I hope all day long.

Recall Your compassion, O Holy One;

Keep hold of Your faithfulness;

For those have always been Your traits.

Do not recall the transgressions of my youth

Or my wanderings from Your ways;

According to Your infinite compassion, keep hold of me,

For You are goodness itself, O God.

Good and trustworthy is the Almighty,

Who always leads the straying back to the path that leads to life.

God leads those who will follow in what is right,
And teaches them to live.
 All the ways of the Most High are loving and faithful,
For those who are faithful and loving.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

Hymnal, p. 35

✕ HYMN #762

“When the Poor Ones”

EL CAMINO

All attending Sunday School may leave as we sing the hymn.

1 When the poor ones who have noth-ing share with strangers,
 2 When at last all those who suf-fer find their com-fort,
 3 When our joy fills up our cup to o-ver-flow-ing,
 4 When our homes are filled with good-ness in a-bundance,

when the thirst-y wa-ter give, un-to us all,
 when they hope though e-ven hope seems hope-less-ness,
 when our lips can speak no words oth-er than true,
 when we learn how to make peace in-stead of war,

when the crip-pled in their weak-ness strength-en oth-ers,
 when we love though hate at times seems all a-round us,
 when we know that love for sim-ple things is bet-ter,
 when each strang-er that we meet is called a neigh-bor,

then we know that God still goes that road with us,
 then we know that God still goes that road with us.

TEXT: José Antonio Olivar and Miguel Manzano, 1970; trans. George Lockwood, 1980, alt.
 MUSIC: José Antonio Olivar and Miguel Manzano, 1970; arr. Alvin Schutmaat, 1971
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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, your compassion and generosity exceed every earthly measure.
All that we have is yours, given into our care. Bless these gifts, we
pray, and guide us in the use of all that we bring, that our offering may
contribute to building your realm of *shalom*: wholeness, harmony,
justice, and joy. We ask it in Jesus’ name: Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Deuteronomy 30:9-14 *Old Testament, p. 232*

GOSPEL READING Luke 10:25-37 *New Testament, p. 87*

SERMON “It’s a Trick Question” Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

Capo 1: (G) (Em7) (C) (D)
 A^b Fm7 D^b E^b

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,

(Em) (C) (Am) (B7)
 Fm D^b B^bm C7

Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive;
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.

(Em) (Am) (D) (G)
 Fm B^bm E^b A^b

roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

(C) (Em7) (Am7) (D) (G)
 D^b Fm7 B^bm7 E^b A^b

This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text and tune were written to conclude a hymn festival at the 2009 Annual Conference of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. Four parables framed both the festival and the hymn: the Mustard Seed, the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, and the Ten Bridesmaids.

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

Guest Musician: Barbara Collins

*Ushers: Allison Gray & Deborah Moore • Reader: Jenn & Avery Clark
Deacon: Barbara Collins • Fellowship hosts: Emily Elliot and Karin Noyes*

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2025 (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
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 France and for our mission partners, The United Protestant Church of France.

Continuing concerns:

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

Peg Heck

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

Thanksgiving for church leaders:

Ushers Committee: Becky Belcher, Allison Gray,
Joanne Taber, Janet Kaufman, Anne Williams, Sarah Morrison, Sharon Tingley, Kip Williams, Ptolemy Williams, Deborah Moore

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, 13 JULY

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

MONDAY, 14 JULY

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

WEDNESDAY, 16 JULY

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

THURSDAY, 17 JULY

6:30PM Community group in Parish Hall

SUNDAY, 20 JULY

10AM Worship and Sunday School
11:30AM Board of Trustees meeting

Opportunities

The Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity is facilitating the Litchfield County Affordable Homeownership Program, in collaboration with 4 local housing non-profits. We are now accepting applications from income-eligible households to purchase affordable homes in Litchfield County.

The first 2 homes have been completed and the site and construction work is ongoing on 4 additional homes. We expect all homes will be completed by the end of this year. We are still accepting applications for 6 of the homes and are encouraging interested households to apply today!

- Washington, CT: 1 home, in partnership with Washington Community Housing Trust - Pre-application deadline is July 24
- Norfolk, CT: 1 home, in partnership with Foundation for Norfolk Living - Pre-application deadline is July 31
- Salisbury, CT: 4 homes, in partnership with Salisbury Housing Trust - Currently accepting pre-applications for the 2 homes at 26-28 Undermountain Road, Deadline: August 15
- Cornwall, CT: 4 homes, in partnership with Cornwall Housing Corporation - Currently accepting pre-applications for the 2 homes on Dark Entry Road, no deadline set yet

For more information or to submit your pre-application, email Lindsay Larson at LindsayL@thehousingcollective.org.



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-Friday