

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Sixth Sunday
after
Pentecost

20 July 2025 • 10AM



PRELUDE

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #352**

“My Lord, What a Morning”

BURLEIGH

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

My Lord! what a morn - ing; my Lord! what a morn - ing;

O my Lord! what a morn - ing, when the stars be - gin to

Fine

fall, when the stars be-gin to fall. 1 You will hear the trum - pet
 2 You will hear the sin - ner
 3 You will hear the Chris-tian

sound
 cry,
 shout, to wake the na - tions un - der ground,

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall. *to Refrain*

This spiritual reflects on Jesus' saying about the endtimes as recorded in Matthew 24:29–30/Mark 13:24–26. It belongs to the slower, less common style of spirituals with long, sustained phrases and was among those popularized in concerts by the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

TEXT: African American spiritual
 MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1989
 Music Arr. © 1990 Melva W. Costen

MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING
 Irregular

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God has called us to this place. What do you see?

**ALL: We see companions, made in God's image,
 as we travel the Way we learn from Christ Jesus.**

God has brought us to this place. What do you hear?

**We hear God's hope that we will listen closely to prophets and
 teachers who open us to the joy and challenge of faithful living.**

God has challenged us to open our lives and hearts to others.
What will you do?

**We will embody God's *shalom*, delight in God's mercy,
and walk, humbly, with our servant God. Amen.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

"We Sing of Your Glory"

RIO DE LA PLATA

We sing of your glo - ry, we praise you a - gain,
We sing of your won - der and mer - cy a - gain,

for you are e - ter - nal. A - men, a - men!
for you are e - ter - nal. A - men, a - men!

Words: Trad. Latin American; trans. By S.T. Kimbrough, Jr., adap. Music: Trad. Latin American; harm. By Carlton R. Young. Trans. and harm. © 1996 General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725033.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

ONE: We meet them in the Bible: men and women who are as weak, as foolish, as prone to sin as we are. Every story reveals to us our humanness — broken and blessed — and tells of the One who longs to make us whole. Let us confess our waywardness, and clear the way for God's reconciling love to work within us.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In the mirror we call scripture, Revealing God, we see ourselves for who we are and are not. We worry over those who are not doing what we think they should, and stay silent when You would cry out against those who do harm. We speak words that fail to give encouragement.

We think and pray for the poor — rather than set their well-being at the heart of our actions.

Forgive us, Reconciling Love. Sit us down at Jesus' feet, so we may learn the balanced life you intend for us. Then we may offer our gifts to our neighbors; we may bring healing to others; we may give welcome to our sisters and brothers, even as we have been welcomed into your heart through Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Christ Jesus comes to reconcile us to God, so we can be reconciled to one another. Recreated in God's image, we are made whole.

When we are in Christ, everything becomes new. Our past is just that—our past!

Do you really believe this: that your past is done, and you are a new person? If so, go out and reflect it in your life.

Thanks be to God! We will live as reconciled people. Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG (p. 2) “We Sing of Your Glory”

RIO DE LA PLATA

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 52

ONE: Why do you boast, O mighty one, of your greed and your possessions?

ALL: God's faithful love endures through all time.

Your tongue is like a sharp razor, you worker of destruction.

You love greed more than good,

And deceit more than speaking the truth.

You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue.

But, cutting yourself off from God, you will be brought to ruin;

You will be hurtled from the safety of your tent;

Uprooted from the land of the living.

The faithful will see and be awed,

And will laugh at you, arrogant one, saying,

“See the one who would not seek strength in God,

But trusted in a glut of riches, and sought refuge in wealth!”

But I am like an olive tree,
 Living long and thriving in the garden of the Most High.

I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.

I will thank You forever, for the grace You have given.
 In You I will hope, for You are trustworthy.

**In the presence of those who live compassion,
 I will sing of Your compassion.**

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

☒ HYMN #786

“Why Stand So Far Away, My God?”

MORNING SONG

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

1 Why stand so far a - way, my God? Why
 2 Why do you hide when, full of lies, they
 3 The weak are crushed and fall to earth; the
 4 In a - ges past you heard the voice of
 5 A - rise, O God, and lift your hand; bring

hide in times of need? The proud, un - bri - dled,
 mur - der and be - tray? They wait to pounce up -
 wick - ed strut and preen. Why in these cruel, cha -
 those the proud op - press. Re - mem - ber those who
 jus - tice to the poor. Come, help us stop the

chase the poor, and curse you in their greed.
 on the weak as lions stalk their prey.
 ot - ic times can - not your face be seen?
 suf - fer now, who cry in deep dis - tress.
 flow of blood! Let ter - ror reign no more!

This paraphrase of Psalm 10 is striking in its timeless questions and its keen sense of being abandoned by God. The injustice, oppression, and fear it describes resonate with the state of the world in our own day. Like the ancient psalmist, we pray for God to end the reign of terror.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1985

MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813; harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music Harm. © 1940 C. Winfred Douglas (admin. Church Pension Fund)

MORNING SONG

CM

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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 **Grand Circle Foundation**.*

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

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 praise Christ, all people here below;
 praise Holy Spirit ever more;**

OLD 100TH

One God of grace, whom we adore! Amen.

✘ UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God, in offering these gifts may we become a more open people:
open-minded in hearing your **Word** and wisdom,
open-hearted in healing a broken world,
open-handed in heeding your call**

for extravagant hospitality and love in action.

**With thanks for all your good gifts, we present
a portion of our substance and the whole of ourselves: Amen!**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Amos 8:1-7
Luke 10:38-42

Old Testament, p. 1048
New Testament, p. 87

SERMON

“One Thing Needed”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ HYMN #450

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

Capo 1: (D) E^b (G) A^b (D/F[#]) E^b/G (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) B^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (A) B^b



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) (D) (F#m7) (G) (A)
 A^b E^b Gm7 A^b B^b

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) (D/F#) (G) (D)
 Cm E^b/G A^b E^b

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

TEXT: Irish poem; trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt.
 MUSIC: Irish ballad; harm. David Evans, 1927
 Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

SLANE
 10.10.10.10

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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

*Ushers: Deborah Moore & Sharon Tingley
Reader: Theresa Carroll • Deacon: Barbara Collins
Fellowship host: Emily Elliot & Don Bailey*

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 Sri Lanka and for our mission
partners: National Christian Council of Sri Lanka •
Ecumenical Institute for Study and Dialogue •
Church of the American Ceylon Mission.

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:

“Green Team”: Theresa Carroll, Ruth Choate,
Angela Lomanto, Kerry Noble, Karin Noyes

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!

Public Conversations of Consequence

“Who Is My Neighbor?”
challenges and opportunities.

*Come to interact with fellow attendees
and to engage with guest presenters:*

Will Conklin (Greenagers)
Jill Drew (Vecinos Seguros 2)
Peter Halle (Salisbury Housing Committee)
Ellie Youngblood (Sky High Farm)

Sunday, 20 July, 4:30–6:00pm
30 Main Street
(entrance on Library St)



*An Open and Affirming Church
in a net-zero Meetinghouse*

SalisburyUCC.org

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 20 JULY

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

11:30AM Board of Trustees meeting

4:30PM Public Conversation of
Consequence

MONDAY, 21 JULY

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

WEDNESDAY,

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)

11AM Chapel service @ Noble Horizons

12:15PM Staff Meeting

SUNDAY, 27 JULY

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

Opportunities



A Conversation and Book Event with author Ruth Franklin

Congregation Beth David
3344 E Main St, Amenia, NY
Wednesday, July 23, 2025
4:30 - 6:00 PM

Ruth Franklin, prizewinning biographer and critic, will discuss the enduring significance of Anne Frank. Her recent volume, *The Many Lives of Anne Frank*, has received stellar reviews.



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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email: welcome@salisburyucc.org • web: salisburyucc.org

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