

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

27 July 2025 • 10AM



HYMN SING

WELCOME

⌘ HYMN #625

“How Great Thou Art”

© STORE GUD



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der and hear the
3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion and take me



all the *worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, when I look down from
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then *I shall bow in



hear the *roll - ing thun - der, thy power through - out the
 loft - y moun - tain gran - deur and hear the brook and
 bur - den glad - ly bear - ing, he bled and died to
 hum - ble ad - o - ra - tion, and there pro - claim, "My

Refrain

u - ni - verse dis - played:
 feel the gen - tle breeze: Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to
 take a - way my sin:
 God, how great thou art!"

thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my

Sav - ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

This tuneful retelling of the salvation story began in Swedish and was translated into German and then into Russian before reaching its English form. Despite such linguistic and musical revisions, it continues to be a meaningful source of comfort to many people.

TEXT: Stuart K. Hine, 1953; Spanish trans. Arturo W. Hotton Rives, alt.; Korean trans. anon.
 MUSIC: Swedish folk melody; adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1949
 Text and Music © 1949 and 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust (U.S.A., print rights admin. Hope Publishing Company.
 All other U.S.A. rights admin. EMICMPublishing.com)

HOW GREAT THOU ART
 11.10.11.10 with refrain

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: This is a holy place: set apart by prayer to bring our fears, our hopes, our doubts, all the questions of our hearts.

ALL: We come to this place to hear the words of peace, of wonder, of grace that God speaks to us.

In this place of discovery, we can come searching.

We come here, to find the One who has been looking for us.

In this place of openness, we can come knocking.

We come here to be embraced by the One whose heart is never locked.

RESPONSE IN SONG “God, Listen to Your Children Praying” Ken Medema



God, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. God, send your Spir-it in this place.



God, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

Text and Music © 1973 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725033.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION

ONE: When we act out of fear: **ALL: O God, have mercy.**

When we act to keep busy: **O God, have mercy.**

When we act alone,
despairing of your help, mistrusting
your gifts in our sisters and brothers: **O God, have mercy.**

When we act without joy: **O God, have mercy.**

For unripe actions,
taken in our time, not yours: **forgive us, God.**

For decisions made in haste
without waiting on your word: **forgive us, God.**

For our conviction
that it all depends on us: **forgive us, God.**
O God, give us your love, **which casts out our fear.**
Give us patience, **to wait upon your time.**
Give us joy, **sign of your life with us.**
Be our light, O God: **you are our salvation.**
(*We pray in silence*)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God is the love that over and around us lies; the grace that is totally unearned;
and the healing that makes the earth whole.

Give thanks to God; we are forgiven. Alleluia; Amen!

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*sung*)

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 85

ONE: You have shown favor to Your people, O Creator;

ALL: You restored the inheritance of our ancestors.

You released Your people from their guilt;

You pardoned all they had done in violation of Your way.

You withdrew all Your wrath;

You turned from Your rage.

Restore us again, O God our Helper,

And put away Your aversion toward us.

Will You be angry with us forever?

Will You extend Your anger through all generations?

Will You not revive us again,

So that Your people may rejoice in You?

Show us Your steadfast love, O Faithful One,

And grant us Your deliverance.

Let me hear what the Most High will speak,

For the Redeemer promises peace and well-being to the people,

To the faithful,

To those whose hearts turn to the Almighty,

And not to foolishness.

Surely God's help is very near
for those who put their trust in the Eternal One,

Then will the glorious presence of the Author of Life dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

Justice and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

And justice will look down from the sky.

The Merciful One will indeed give what is good,

And our land will yield its harvest.

Justice goes forth before the Holy One,

Making a pathway of hope and compassion.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

✧ **HYMN #475**

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb-e-ne-zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
3 O to grace how great a debt-or dai-ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar-rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet-ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like “Ebenezer” (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for “a stone of help” set up to give thanks for God’s assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

TEXT: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.
 MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

NETTLETON
 8.7.8.7.D

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 **Salisbury Housing Trust** and the **Salisbury Housing Committee**.*

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.

ANTHEM*I Love All Graceful Things*

Eric H. Thiman

*I love all things that move with grace,
 The shiv'ring of the aspen trees,
 The bending grass before the wind,
 The leaves that sway in summer's breeze.*

*The rise and fall of silv'ry waves,
 the flutt'ring wings of butterflies,
 The curving scythe among the corn,
 The setting sun, when daylight dies.*

*The swan that glides upon the lake,
 The ripple of the flowing stream,
 The circle of the swallow's flight,
 The clouds that almost moveless seem.*

*The autumn dance of wither'd leaves,
 The snowflake's steady, gentle fall,
 The gleaming slant of April rain,
 I love them all.*

✘ **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 you have done with us, may we do for others, holding nothing back,
 but offering our treasures and lives that hope may be restored, that
 healing might touch the broken, that the suffering might be revived,
 and that all might know of your steadfast love in their lives. This we
 pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 18:20-32
 Luke 11:1-13

*Old Testament, p. 17
 New Testament, p. 88*

SERMON

"Persistent Faith"

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

D G D G

1 O day of peace that dim - ly shines through all our
 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the

D Em D G D Bm F#m

hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and
 fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly

Bm F#m Bm D E A Em

love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of hate
 graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e - mies

Am Em C G Am G

fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re - lease, till by God's
 shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac - cord; the hope of

Em A D Bm G D A7 D

grace our war - ring world shall see Christ's prom - ised reign of peace.
 peace shall be ful - filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

This text on peace was created to offer non-nationalistic words for a popular British tune. The first stanza depicts *pax*, a mode of peace focused on ending conflict, and the second (based on Isaiah 11:6–9) describes *shalom*, the condition of living in harmony and mutual good will.

TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1982

MUSIC: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1916; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1987

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

Music Melody © 1916, 1944, this Arr. © 1977 Robertson Publications (admin. Goodmusic Publishing Ltd.)

Music Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

JERUSALEM
 LMD

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN



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: Joanne Hayhurst & Pat Palmer
Reader: Patricia Palmer • Deacon: Barbara Collins
Fellowship host: Hospitality Committee*

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 Mexico and for our mission partners: Confraternity of Evangelical Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) • Congregational Christian Churches of Mexico • Disciples of Christ Church in Mexico • Institute for Intercultural Study and Research • Las Memorias Hostel • Melel Xojobal • Mexican Roundtable • International Service for Peace • Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries • Theological Community of Mexico.

Mary Frances Lanahan,
recovering from cancer surgery

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:

Church Staff: David Baranowski, Mary Davidson,
Holly Tierney, Stephanie Tierney, Sarah Lesch,
Dan Baker, Jennifer Oberto, Richard Tietjen,
Pastor John.

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, 27 JULY

- 10AM Worship and Sunday School
11:30AM Fellowship & refreshments in the
Parish Hall, and a special thank you to
Jenn Oberto

MONDAY, 28 JULY

- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

WEDNESDAY, 30 JULY

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

FRIDAY, 1 AUGUST

- 12noon First Friday Music in the Meeting House

SATURDAY, 2 AUGUST

- 11AM-3PM Street Fair on Academy St.

SUNDAY, 3 AUGUST

- 10AM Worship
11:30AM Church Council meeting



Please Recycle this Bulletin!



The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting in Grace • Transformed by Love • Serving with Joy

30 Main Street | P.O. Box 392 | Salisbury, CT 06068 • 860-435-2442

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

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