

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



*Eighth Sunday  
after  
Pentecost*

3 August 2025 • 10AM



**PRELUDE**

Overture from *The Lost Birds*

Christopher Tin

**WELCOME**

✘ **HYMN #821**                      “My Life Flows on in Endless Song”    HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING  
(✘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: God of the past who whispered in prophets’ ears, who rescued us from sin’s bondage:

**ALL: we are here to thank you.**

God of the future who is tearing open our locked hearts, and building your gracious rule in our midst:

**we are here because we trust you.**

God of the present who, in blessings of our diversity, creates us to be one people:

**we are here to praise you, and celebrate your grace.**

**RESPONSE IN SONG**

“Spirit, Open My Heart”

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of liv-ing;— As you love may I  
love,\_\_\_ in re - ceiv-ing and in giv-ing.\_\_\_ Spir-it, o - pen my heart.

## **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.**

## **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

With the whole church,

**We remember that we are forgiven by God,  
befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere,

**We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,  
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

With all creation,

**We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life: the unfolding  
purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.  
Thanks be to God!**

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

*Hymnal, p. 35*

## RESPONSE IN SONG

“Spirit, Open My Heart”

## 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 **Union of Concerned Scientists**.*

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

*Like as a ...*

MUSIC: Luigi Cherubini  
WORDS: Psalm 103:13, adapt.

*Like as a father pitieth his children,  
So the Lord hath mercy on them that fear him.*

*Like as a mother cares for her children,  
Our God has mercy on those who live in awe.*

*Like as the wind-rush touches all children,  
So our God has mercy on all who live in awe.*

### ✠ DOXOLOGY

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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

**We offer not only these gifts, Compassionate God, but our time, so we might spend more moments with the lonely; our words, so the voiceless might be healed; our hands, that the hungry might be fed; our hearts, so that the rejected might find a home. We ask your blessing on all we bring: Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Hosea 11:1-11  
Luke 12:13-21

*Old Testament, p. 1032*  
*New Testament, p. 90*

**SERMON**

“Your Money or Your Life”

Pastor John A. Nelson

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

✕ **HYMN #840**

“It Is Well with My Soul”

VILLE DU HAVRE

## **We Feast at God’s Table**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

May God be with you.

**May God also be with you.**

People of God, open up your hearts.

**We open them to God and one another.**

People of God, give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks to the One who offers us lives filled with grace.**

When we were children running footloose through grace ...

...

Therefore, we joyfully lift our voices,

with those who have gone before us,

and those who stand beside us,

singing our praise for your great love;

**Holy, holy, holy, God of steadfast love.**

**All creation thanks you for your wonderful works.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes to lead us by a straight way.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, God of infinite tenderness ...

...

we take the bread of life and the cup of grace

and joyfully celebrate that mystery we call faith:

**Christ died, his life hidden in God.**

**Christ is risen, seated by God’s side.**

**Christ will come again, that we might be revealed with him in glory.**

Compassionate God, pour out your gracious Spirit on us ...

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**Come, Holy Spirit. Continue to pour out your life-giving, healing power on us, and on this meal that nourishes us. As we share this food and drink, may we become, for each other, the hope that Jesus has awakened in us. In this meal we celebrate the promised banquet when all shall be fed abundantly, and all shall drink from the river of the water of life. Amen.**

### **✠ 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.**

## **SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

*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 OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

**Eternal God, we thank you that you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. Keep us faithful to your will and your wonder. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure — that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we pray: Amen.**

### **✠ HYMN #516**

**“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”**

KINGDOM

## 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: Kathy Mera & Joanne Taber • Reader: Charlie Noyes  
Deacon: Myra Brandt • Communion servers: Myra Brandt & Pat Palmer  
Fellowship time hosts: Hospitality Committee*

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.)

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### New concerns:

*Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries,*  
for the people of the Republic of Congo and for  
our mission partners, the Disciples of Christ  
Church of the Congo.

Kathy Wiggins, health issues

### Continuing concerns:

Mary Frances Lanahan • Charlie Youngblood  
Andrea Bargabos • 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

Melinda Sweet • 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:

*Board of Trustees:* Malcolm Brown, Lee Collins,  
Roger Crain, Lorna & Dan Edmundson,  
Carr Ferguson, Susan Hassler, John Merwin,  
Kerry Noble

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**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

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### SUNDAY, 3 AUGUST

- 10AM Worship  
*followed by fellowship & refreshments  
in the Parish Hall*
- 11:30AM Church Council meeting

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### MONDAY, 4 AUGUST

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

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### WEDNESDAY, 6 AUGUST

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

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### THURSDAY, 7 AUGUST

- 4:30PM Prayer Shawl ministry

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### SUNDAY, 10 AUGUST

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



*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