

The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Prelude from *Prelude, fugue and variation*

Cesar Franck

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #49**

“The God of Abraham Praise”

LEONI

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

(inspired by Psalm 50)

ONE: Come, listen to the One

**ALL: who speaks and summons the earth,
from the rising of the sun to its setting.**

Come, see the One

who shines forth in the perfection of beauty.

Come, bring thanksgiving, the sacrifice that honors the One

who shows the salvation of God.

RESPONSE IN SONG**“Rooted and Grounded in Love”**

PACIFIC GROVE

Root-ed and ground-ed in love, root-ed and ground-ed in love,
 here in this place we find mer-cy and grace, root-ed and ground-ed in love.

*Text and Music by Barbara Hamm, © 2018 Hope Publishing Company
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CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We would like to keep our sins hidden and our failures a secret. Yet God would not have us keep silent, but rather speak our confessions out loud, to release our burden and open ourselves to God’s mercy and grace. Let us pray, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You have a vision of all people as your beloved children, Imaginative God,

but we are inclined to hold at a distance strangers whose language, heritage, and culture seem different from ours.

You have a vision of a universe filled with goodness and beauty, and we damage it with litter, with violence, with poor choices.

You have a vision of a Table where we can feast on your grace and hope,

yet we line up at the fast food counters of sin and greed.

Forgive us, Envisioner of Mercy,

as we confess that we are not “insiders,” but immigrants searching for our true home. You love us enough to want us to be with you forever — so may we take the hand of our Teacher and Savior, Jesus Christ, who leads us into your realm of *shalom*.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

There is nothing to fear. God's hope is more tenacious than our despair; God's joy is more resilient than our grief; God's love is more compelling than our hate.

By grace, we are gathered to God. By faith, we rest in God's forgiveness and restoration. Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG "Rooted and Grounded in Love"

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 33:12-22

ONE: Joyful is the nation whose God is the Holy One,

ALL: The people who keep covenant with the Almighty.

The Author of Life looks down from above;

And sees all humankind.

God reigns over all creation,

And gazes upon all the inhabitants of the earth —

The One who fashions the hearts of them all,

And observes all their deeds.

Earthly rulers are not saved by their great armies;

Warriors are not delivered by their great strength.

The implements of war are a vain hope for victory;

Their strength cannot offer protection.

Truly the eye of the Most High watches over those who keep God's ways, those whose hope is secured in God's unwavering love,

**To deliver them from death,
to keep them alive in famine.**

Our hope abides in God Most High;

Who is our help and shield.

Our heart rejoices in The Holy One,

Because we trust in all the Almighty has done and will do.

**Let Your steadfast love, O Creator, rest upon us,
Even as we rest our hope in You.**

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✘ **HYMN #24**

“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”
All attending Sunday School may leave as we sing the hymn.

HOLY MANNA

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 **Team Rubicon**.*

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

Invention No. 1

J.S. Bach

✘ 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

It is by faith that you bless us, hopeful God. So, it is by faith that we offer back to you a portion of what we have and who we are, trusting that you will take these gifts and use them in the work of that kin-dom of justice and hope, of grace and wonder, which is yours. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 15:1-6
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

*Old Testament, p. 14
New Testament, p. 273*

SERMON

“Stars and Beyond”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN #656**

“We’ve Come This Far by Faith”

FAITH

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Simple Gifts

Arr. Mark Hayes



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 & Anne Williams
Reader: Dean Haubrich • Deacon: Myra Brandt*

***Our fellowship time will be at the Salisbury Town Grove —
Church picnic begins at noon!***

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2025 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission.

Call to Worship written by James E. Janecek (<http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/>)

Psalms 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 Korea and for our mission
partners: National Council of Churches in Korea •
Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea •
Hanshin University.

Continuing concerns:

Kathy Wiggins • 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 Religious Education: Julia Barbato,
Peggy Hayes, Wei Liu, Holly Tierney

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!



The church is making available an **online directory** (and we will also have print copies, for those who wish). We have set up a “photo booth” on the stage area of the Parish Hall: please feel free to ask Pastor John — or anyone handy with a camera — to turn on the lights and snap your picture!

A NOTE FROM JENN OBERTO

Dear Church Family:

I am still feeling overwhelmed with gratitude and love from the beautiful and heartfelt reception on July 27! I really don't have words to describe what it was like to feel the love that I have for this place, and everyone in it, reciprocated in such a profound and meaningful way. I am so grateful for the fellowship, friendship, and love I have found here.

It has been such a joy to be a part of the life of this church, and an honor to serve as your Church Administrator. I wish I could have done so longer – there is still so much I wanted to do to help the church Meet in Grace, be Transformed by Love, and Serve with Joy! I am excited to see how Salisbury UCC continues to grow and evolve. There is something special here. While my family and I are excited about our next chapter, I am so, so sad to leave this faith community.

Please stay in touch, and I look forward to coming back to visit when I am able!

With love and gratitude,
Jenn

TODAY! ↓

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALISBURY

SUMMER PICNIC

SUNDAY 10 AUGUST 12 - 3pm @ THE GROVE



This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 10 AUGUST

10AM Worship and Sunday School
*followed by a Church Picnic at the
Town Grove*

11:30AM Music Committee meeting

MONDAY, 11 AUGUST

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

WEDNESDAY, 13 AUGUST

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)

12:15PM Staff Meeting

2:30PM Board of Deacons meeting

THURSDAY, 14 AUGUST

Jenn Oberto's last day!

SUNDAY, 17 AUGUST

10AM Worship, led by the Rev. Dr. Eileen
Epperson, and Sunday School

11:30AM Board of Trustees 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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email: welcome@salisburyucc.org • web: salisburyucc.org

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