

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Tenth Sunday  
after  
Pentecost

17 August 2025 • 10AM



**PRELUDE**

Rhosymedre

R. Vaughn Williams

**WELCOME**

⊠ **HYMN #463**

“How Firm a Foundation”

FOUNDATION

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

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: You are a God nearby and not a God far off.

**All: We cannot hide in secret places so that You cannot see us.**

You fill heaven and earth.

**We come as humble listeners and servants to have our empty places filled and to dream new dreams.**

Glory be to the Lord of all things!

**Let us worship You, the One who has called us to be.**

**RESPONSE IN SONG**

“Holy Spirit, Come to Us”

Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us; kin - dle in us the fire of your love.

The image shows a musical score for a chant. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a focus on the words 'Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.' The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

The original text of this chant from Taizé is a shortened version of a text sung in the Latin mass after the reading of the gospel on Pentecost. The full text can be translated: “Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful; and ignite the fire of your love within them.”

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1998

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1998

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TUI AMORIS IGNEM

Irregular

## PRAYER OF REFLECTION AND GROWTH

**Caring God, we come this morning with open eyes, ears, and hearts. We are discovering our outworn habits and beliefs. We confess we do not often look where Life points us to course corrections in your Holy Word, in conversations and in our conscience. You care for us in our transitions and losses, our unpleasant surprises, and our victories over selfishness. We celebrate this time of gathering in person and online to lift our hearts, our minds, and our spirits in a time of praise and petition. AMEN**

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: We read in Holy Scripture:

**ALL: “Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful, “Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”**

**We abound in Good News. We have a new day and a new life.**

We begin to flourish again within your forgiving glance, God of our lives.

**God is still at work. God is still healing. God is still forgiving.**

## RESPONSE IN SONG

“Holy Spirit, Come to Us”

## RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 39

ONE: I said, "I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue.

**ALL: I will keep a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence."**

I was silent and still; I held my peace to no avail; my distress grew worse; my heart became hot within me.

**While I mused, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue:**

"Lord, let me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is.

**You have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight.**

Surely everyone stands as a mere breath.

**Surely everyone goes about like a shadow.**

Surely for nothing they are in turmoil; they heap up and do not know who will gather.

**And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you."**

## A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

*Hymnal, p. 35*

### ✕ HYMN #816

"If Thou But Trust In God to Guide Thee"

NEUMARK

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

## 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 **Americares**.*

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 in F major**J.S. Bach*✘ **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 have the fine privilege of being able to contribute to our human and Natural families. Thank you. Breathe upon these material resources and on our giving hearts that pain will be lifted, hope will be restored, and spirits will find rest and ease. In Christ we give: Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Jeremiah 23:23-29  
 Luke 12:49-56

*Old Testament, p. 888*  
*New Testament, p. 92*

**SERMON**

“God’s Word Is Fire” The Rev. Dr. Eileen Epperson

**PASTORAL PRAYER**✘ **HYMN (insert)**

“See How Great a Flame Aspires”

ABERYSTWYTH

1. See how great a flame as - pires, kin - dled by a spark of grace.  
 2. When Christ first the work be - gun, small and ten - der was his day;  
 3. Saints of God, your Sav - ior praise! God the door hath o - pened wide;

God’s love all cre - a - tion fires, sets our hearts and souls a - blaze.  
 now the Word doth swift - ly run, now it wins its widening way;  
 God hath gi - ven the Word of grace; Love’s True Self is glo - ri - fied;

To bring fire on earth Christ came, kin-dled in some hearts it is;  
 more and more it spreads and grows, ev - er might-y to pre - vail;  
 Je - sus who with love re - deems, Spir - it who the work hath wrought;

O that all might catch the flame, all par - take the glo-rious bliss!  
 sin's strong-holds it now o'er-throws, shakes the trem-bling gates of hell.  
 Spir - it's fire sets all a - gleam, Grace who made a world from naught.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1749 (Lk 12:49), alt.

ABERYSTWYTH 77 77 D

**BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

*Praise the Lord with the Drums and Cymbals*

Sigried Karg Elbert



**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

**TODAY'S GUEST PREACHER, THE REV. DR. EILEEN EPPERSON**, grew up in NYC and has lived in Salisbury since 2003. She has been a Presbyterian minister over 35 years and trained as an Interim Minister serving churches in M.A., N.C., and C.T. She has a passion for interfaith dialogue and has attended all seven of the modern Parliaments of the World's Religions and presented programs at most of them. Eileen has been a chaplain in four hospices, three hospitals, a college, and an assisted living facility. She currently has a private practice and coaches individuals, families, and teams in completing recurring issues and problems, communicating clearly and enhancing performance in all areas of life. She has been a grief group facilitator over seventeen years.

*Ushers: Kathy Mera & Anne Williams  
Reader: Kevin Wolgemuth • Deacon: Myra Brandt  
Fellowship hosts: Hospitality Committee*

We are thrilled to announce that **Catherine Chatham** has succeeded Jenn Oberto as our new Church Administrator. Catherine and her family have been a part of the Salisbury/Lakeville community since 1997, when they bought a house on Lincoln City Rd. She has three children, all of whom spent their summers at the Grove and Camp Sloane. She and her family have long felt deeply connected to the community.



Catherine spent ten years at Everytown for Gun Safety, a Bloomberg Philanthropy. At Everytown, she was a member of the IT and operations team. Before Everytown, she worked for websites and TV productions. She has also served on the board of the Scoville Memorial Library for the past six years. Through that position, she has met many people in the community, and become aware of, and part of, local interests, events, and issues.

To Catherine, working at Congregational Church of Salisbury feels like a natural next step — an opportunity to contribute to a place that is an important part of the Lakeville/Salisbury community.

Catherine’s regular working hours will be Monday, Tuesday, and Friday in the church office; Wednesday and Thursday working remotely.

Welcome, Catherine!

### **SAVE THE DATES!**

David Baranowski has planned First Friday concerts for the coming months, each of them a “must hear”! On **September 5<sup>th</sup>**, Allison Gish ([allisongish.com](http://allisongish.com)) will return to the Meetinghouse for a program of Baroque song with harpsichord and cello. October will be so special that the concert won’t even happen on the first Friday! Instead, on **October 10<sup>th</sup>**, the first day of the Fall Festival, Irish-American soprano Francesca Federico ([francescafederico.com](http://francescafederico.com)) will perform works from her new album. And on **November 7<sup>th</sup>** guitarist Kevin Dolan returns to Salisbury, with music from his new album. Save the dates — and bring your friends!

## Our Ministry Team

**Ministers:** All Participants in the Life of the Congregation

### Worship & Music

**Music Director:** David Baranowski  
**Bell Choir Director:** Mary Davidson

### Faith Formation

**Sunday School Coordinator:** Holly Tierney  
**Sunday School Assistant:** Stephanie Tierney  
**Youth Group Leader:** Dan Baker  
**Youth Group Assistant:** Sarah Lesch

### Holding the Parts Together

**Church Administrator:** Catherine Chatham  
**Sexton:** Richard Tietjen

**Church Officers:** Charlie Noyes, *moderator*;  
Janet Offensend, *treasurer*; Liz Wing, *clerk*

**Pastor and Teacher:** The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

## This Week at Salisbury UCC

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### SUNDAY, 17 AUGUST

10AM Worship and Sunday School  
*followed by fellowship & refreshments  
in the Parish Hall*  
11:30AM Fall Festival planning

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### MONDAY, 18 AUGUST

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

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### WEDNESDAY, 20 AUGUST

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

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### SUNDAY, 24 AUGUST

10AM Worship and Sunday School

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### WEDNESDAY, 27 AUGUST

5:30PM CROP Hunger Walk  
"Packet" 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, Tuesday, Friday