

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Eleventh Sunday
after
Pentecost

24 August 2025 • 10AM



PRELUDE

Andante Tranquillo

Mendelssohn

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #619** “Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”
(✘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

LAUDA ANIMA

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: O Consuming Fire, you spark awe and joy.

ALL: May we see the work you have given us to be your hands
And the words you have given us to create an unshakable kin-dom
in this ever-shaking world,

We thank you that we have lived to be here this morning.
We are thankful! We are glad to worship together!
In reverence and awe, let us worship God.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Weave”



Weave, weave, weave us to-geth-er. Weave us to-geth-er in u-ni-ty and love.



Weave, weave, weave us to-geth-er. Weave us to-geth-er, to-geth-er in love.

PRAYER OF REFLECTION AND GROWTH

Dear One, here we are, just as we are. We offer you this past week of our precious lives. If we stepped over something or someone, let us see this and make amends. If we missed an opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation, may we do so this coming week. And if we succeeded in doing something challenging, may we claim that victory and be satisfied. Show us your uniquely designed path for each one of us, that we may be our best selves. Help us release well-worn possessions as well as well-worn opinions and judgements. Awaken us today in joyfulness! Point us on our way! AMEN

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Though we are afraid to speak when words are necessary,

We await your abiding forgiveness.

You long for repentance and amendment of life,

That we may again be courageous and free.

We claim this Good News of fresh starts.

What shall we create for the Kin-dom today?

God is still at work in and around us.

God is still healing. God is still forgiving. Always and forever.

Amen

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Weave”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 108:1-8 (*The Message*)

ONE: O my soul, bless God. From head to toe, I will bless his holy name!

ALL: O my soul, bless God, do not forget a single blessing!

God forgives your sins—every one.

And heals your diseases—every one.

The Holy One redeems you from hell—saves your life!

You are crowned with love and mercy—a paradise crown.

God wraps you in goodness—eternal beauty.

And renews your youth—you are always young in Divine Presence.

God makes everything come out right and puts victims back on their feet.

God showed Moses how divine work was done,

And unconcealed the Divine Plans for all Israel.

God is sheer mercy and grace, not easily aggravated and rich in love.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✘ **HYMN #793**

“O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come”

ERHALT UNS, HERR

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” written in the memo line) will be given to organizations doing compassionate work that complements our church’s mission. This week, we share our gifts with the **Salisbury Housing Committee** and the **Salisbury Housing Trust**.*

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 14 in B flat

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**

Holy One: on this fine day, we give you gifts. We have labored and received. We have wanted to do more. Do more with what we have: our resources, our ideas, our energy, and our time. Bless us and expand your blessings with these offerings: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Luke 13:10-17

Old Testament, p. 854
New Testament, p. 92

SERMON

“My Word is Like Fire” The Rev. Dr. Eileen Epperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ **HYMN #295**

“Go to the World”

SINE NOMINE

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Von Himmel Hoch, Da komm ich Herr

Pachelbel



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: Joanne Hayhurst & Joanne Taber

Deacon/Reader: Myra Brandt

Fellowship host: Beverly Kimmel

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

SUNDAY, 24 AUGUST

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

MONDAY, 25 AUGUST

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

WEDNESDAY, 27 AUGUST

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
11AM Chapel service, Noble Horizons
12:15PM Staff Meeting
5:30PM CROP Hunger Walk
“Packet” meeting

SUNDAY, 31 AUGUST

10AM Worship and Sunday School

NOTE

*Wednesday and Friday Bible studies
resume, first week of September*



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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