

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Twelfth Sunday
after
Pentecost

31 August 2025 • 10AM



HYMN SING

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #645** “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”
(✘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

MIT FREUDEN ZART

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We come to worship our God,
to listen to the One who calls us here.

**ALL: We come trusting God to lead us in the coming days,
as surely as were our grandparents in the faith.**

We come to worship our God,
to shout with joy to the God of all people.

**We come to the Creator of all things,
to be bathed in the waters of life.**

We come to the God’s feast,
to be fed by the One who never forsakes us.

**We come to worship our God,
to sing aloud to the One who saves us.**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“God Is Here Today”

God is here to-day; as cer-tain as the air I breathe,—
as cer-tain as the morn-ing sun that ris-es,—
as cer-tain when I sing you'll hear my song.——

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and melodic, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

TEXT: Raúl Galeano, 1976; Trans. C. Michael Hawn, 1998

DIOS ESTÁ AQUÍ

MUSIC: Raúl Galeano, 1976; arr. C. Michael Hawn and Arturo González, 1999

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CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Despite all the ways we speak of sin — omissions, mistakes, intended acts — Scripture tells how we humans have always tended to be stubborn-hearted, wanting our way. But if we pause to listen to God, if we open our mouths (and our hearts) to confess our sin, God will fill our emptiness with forgiveness and hope. Let us pray together, as we say,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are always uncomfortable, Watching God, when you notice how we want to sit in the seats of honor. We are just clever enough to fool ourselves into imagining we are superior to the poor. We are so busy completing our ‘To Do’ list each day, that we forget to do good when we have the chance.

Forgive us, Welcoming God. Fill our emptiness with your grace and humility, that we would spend our lives alongside Jesus, our Master and Savior, throwing a party for the poor, the damaged, the prisoner, the lost, the oppressed — all your first choice for neighbors.

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

This is the good news: after what God has done for us, what can anyone or anything do to us? We are new people, graced by our loving God. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Forgiven, embraced, welcomed by our God, we will offer open hearts and serving hands to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“God Is Here Today”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 81:1, 10-16

ONE: Sing for joy to God our strength;

ALL: Raise a shout to the God who blessed our ancestors.

“I am the Holy One, your God,
Who brought you up out of the land of captivity.

“Open your mouth wide and I will fill it with good things.

“But My people did not listen to My voice;

“The people would not heed Me and follow My way.

“So I let them adhere to their own stubborn hearts,

“And follow their own counsels.

“If only My people would listen to Me,

“If only the people would walk in My ways!

“Quickly their enemies would collapse,

“Subdued in the shadow of My saving presence.

“Those who abhor the pathways of life cannot stand before Me,

“They are forever shattered in the face of the Source of Life.

“While you I would feed with the finest of the wheat,

“And with honey from the rock I would delight you.”

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

Hymnal, p. 35

✕ HYMN #727

“The Servant Song”

SERVANT SONG

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 the Connecticut Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

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 A minor

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

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow, God of constant generosity, you offer us opportunities to reach out to those who are in need of hope, healing, welcome, and friendship. You pour out blessings upon us, trusting that we will share from our abundance to bless others. Receive the gifts we offer, multiply them, and use them in the work of grace and justice. In Jesus' name, we pray: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 2:4-13
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

*Old Testament, p. 855
New Testament, p. 276*

SERMON

“You Bet Your Life”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

The Heavens Declare

Benedetto Marchello



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: Allison Gray & Sarah Morrison • Reader: Emily Elliot • Deacon: Myra Brandt
Fellowship hosts: Owen Lesch & Charlie Noyes*

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

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

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 Chile and for our mission
partners: Popular Education in Health • Christian
Churches Social Aid Foundation • Theological
Community of Chile • Pentecostal Church of Chile

Continuing concerns:

Charlie Youngblood • Andrea Bargabos • Jim Bell
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

Steve Kulikowski • David Bayersdorfer • David
Stoneman 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 Christian Action: Barbara Wiggins,
Kathy Mera, Jane Capecelatro, Leanne Larson,
Karin Noyes

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!



Please Recycle this Bulletin!



This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 31 AUGUST

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

MONDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER

Labor Day: Church offices closed
11AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER

4PM Board of Christian Action meeting

WEDNESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
12:15PM Staff Meeting
4PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER

8:45AM Men's Bible Study
12noon First Friday Music in the Meeting House
3PM Project SAGE meeting

SATURDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER

2PM Memorial Service and Celebration of
the Life of Peg Heck

SUNDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER

10AM Worship and Sunday School
11:30AM Church Council meeting

THE CROP HUNGER WALK is coming up on September 28! The CROP Walk raises funds for local and international hunger relief. Locally, our funds support various programs that help to feed many people, including the Corner Food Pantry.

On Sunday, 28 September, check in at our church at 1 pm to return completed donation forms and any checks or money that you have collected. (And know that it's easier for all concerned if folks make their donations online: <http://tiny.cc/CROP-NWCT>.) The CROP Walk officially kicks off at 1:30pm; the full route will be a loop from the Church to Lakeville, via the Rail Trail. Walk all, or part, and it will be a time of camaraderie and exercise in support of ending hunger!

Please plan to donate and/or join the CROP Walk with neighbors from our area.
We are ending hunger, one step at a time — see you there!



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, Tuesday, Friday