



The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

22nd Sunday
after Pentecost
9 November 2025, 10am



PRELUDE

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #408** “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT
(✘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The God who is greater than we will ever understand,

ALL: is humbled to become one of us.

The God who is more loving than our hearts dare imagine,

gives us more grace than we ever realize.

The God who is wiser than we will ever know,

teaches us all we need to become God’s children.

ALL: Let us pour out our bold praise to God!

RESPONSE IN SONG

“God Welcomes All”

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;
God's love is strong and it nev - er ends,

TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008

MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008

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CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We often think that God is ‘out there’ somewhere, distant and uncaring. But God hears our hearts, God sees our struggles, God walks with us as we try to be faithful disciples. Let us come to the One who is as close as the very breath we take in this moment to confess the brokenness of our lives, as we pray together:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are so easily confused by what the world tells us, Watching God, that we forget the stories of faith we heard as children. Our fears of what tomorrow will bring crowd out our awareness of your Spirit, with us today. Our anxious wondering, ‘what if?’ or ‘suppose?’, muffle the promises you whisper to us.

So once again, Gracious God, have mercy on us. You know our hearts so well — touch them with your grace. You see our deepest fears — heal them with your peace. You hear our secret longings — speak to them of your hope. In all these ways, guide us through our waywardness, we ask in the name of our Way, our Truth, our Life.

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The One who searches our broken hearts has found the way to mend them and make us new people. The good news is that everything God has done in Christ is for us, that we might be made whole.

With kindness, and justice, God makes us new people, forgiving our sin and making a way where we saw no way. We will sing our thanks through all eternity. Great is God, and greatly to be praised! Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“God Welcomes All”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21

ONE: I will honor You, my God, the Sovereign One;

ALL: I will acclaim Your renown forever and ever.

Every day I will honor You,

And acclaim Your renown forever and ever.

Great is the Holy One, and greatly to be revered;

God's greatness is unfathomable.

One generation will laud Your works to another,

They will tell of Your mighty acts.

They will speak of the glorious brilliance of Your splendor,

And I will meditate on Your wondrous works.

The Almighty is in all ways benevolent,

And faithful in all works.

The Holy One is near to all who call,

To all who call on God with sincerity.

God fulfills the desires of all who place their trust in the Most High;

God hears their cry, and they live in fullness of life.

The Source of Life sustains all who journey in faithfulness,

But all who are wayward meet destruction.

My mouth will speak the praise of the God Who Reigns,

And all creatures will honor the Blessed One forever and ever.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✠ **HYMN #270**

"O Lord, You Are My God and King"

JERUSALEM

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

OFFERTORY

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

Offerings not specifically designated for the Church (including 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 UCC's disaster relief fund for neighbors affected by Hurricane Melissa.

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

For the Beauty of the Earth

Ian W. Bevell

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917

*1. For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,*

*[Chorus] Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

*2. For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r,
Sun and moon, and stars of light, [Chorus]*

*3. For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild, [Chorus]*

✘ 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

**God, all that we hold and have belongs to you; we are your caretakers.
In this moment of giving we pray that your grace will work through us
so that we may simply give: with the generosity taught by you, with
the grace that comes from you. We pray your Spirit will bless these
gifts, that they may carry your compassion to neighbors near and far.
We ask in Jesus' name: Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Haggai 1:15b-2:9
Luke 20:27-38

*Old Testament, p. 1074
New Testament, p. 103*

SERMON

“Cling-Free Religion”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ HYMN (insert)

“When We All Get to Heaven”

HEAVEN

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.

Kindly set phones to silent (unless you’re expecting a call from Jesus).

Today’s Worship Leaders

Guest Musician: Tom Morris

Ushers: Deborah Moore & Sarah Morrison • Reader, Deacon: Dave Heck

Fellowship 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.

Psalm adapted from *The Psalms in Worship*, Mary Susan Gast, © 2002; used by permission.

WORDS: Eliza E. Hewitt, 1898
MUSIC: Emily D. Wilson, 1898

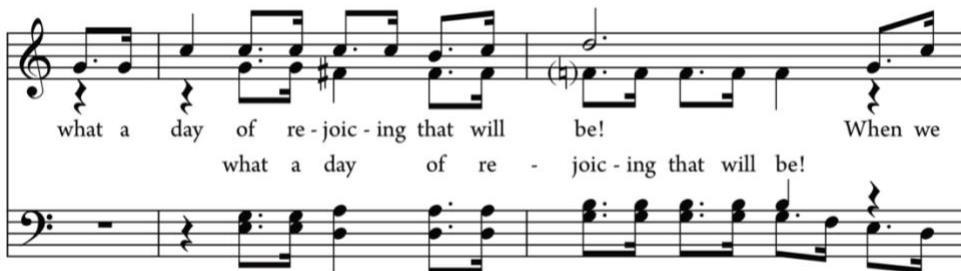
HEAVEN
87.87 with Refrain

1. Sing the won - drous love of Je - sus; sing His mer - cy
2. While we walk the pil - grim path - way, clouds will o - ver -
3. Let us then be true and faith - ful, trust - ing, serv - ing
4. On - ward to the prize be - fore us! Soon His beau - ty

and His grace. In the man - sions, bright and bless - ed, He'll pre -
spread the sky; but when trav - 'ling days are o - ver, not a
ev - 'ry day. Just one glimpse of Him in glo - ry will the
we'll be - hold. Soon the pearl - y gates will o - pen; we shall

pare for us a place. When we all get to heav - en,
shad - ow, not a sigh! When we all get to heav - en,
toils of life re - pay. When we all get to heav - en,
tread the streets of gold.

all see Je - sus, we'll sing and shout the vic - to - ry!
When we all see Je - sus, we'll sing and shout, and shout the vic - to - ry!



Our Ministry Team

Ministers: All Participants in the Life of the Congregation

Music Director: David Baranowski

Bell Choir Director: Mary Davidson

Sunday School Coordinator: Holly Tierney

Sunday School Assistant: Stephanie Tierney

Youth Group Leader: Dan Baker

Youth Group Assistant: Sarah Lesch

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 Sri Lanka and for our mission
 partners: National Christian Council of Sri Lanka •
 Ecumenical Institute for Study and Dialogue •
 Church of the American Ceylon Mission.

Continuing concerns:

The Joya family • Barb Collins • Holly Tierney •
 Mary Davidson • 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

Sara Jane Elliot • Eliot Brown

We thank God for the gift of life, and pray for the
 Spirit's strong presence with family and friends
 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

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 9 NOVEMBER

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

MONDAY, 10 NOVEMBER

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

WEDNESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
12:15PM Staff Meeting
2:30PM Board of Deacons meeting
4PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 14 NOVEMBER

8:45AM Men's Bible Study

SUNDAY, 16 NOVEMBER

10AM Worship and Sunday School
11:30AM Music Committee (Council Room)
Board of Trustees (Library)



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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