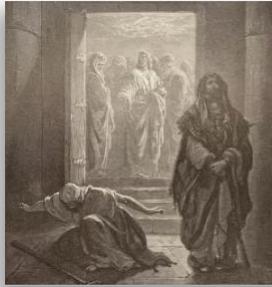


# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Twentieth Sunday  
after  
Pentecost

26 October 2025 • 10AM



## HYMN SING

## WELCOME

⌘ **HYMN #664** “Morning Has Broken”  
(⌘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

BUNESSAN

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: This is the day the Lord has made:

**ALL: a day for praise and prayer; a day for gratitude and generosity.**

This is the time God has given us:

**a time for singing and silence; a time for speaking and listening.**

This is the life to which God calls us:

**a life of service and *shalom*; a life of faith and trust. Alleluia!**

## RESPONSE IN SONG

“Gathered Here”

Elaine Kirkland and Phil Porter

Gathered here in the mys-tery of the hour; gath-ered here in one strong bod - y;  
gath - ered here in the strug-ple and the power: Spir - it, draw near.

© 1990 Elaine Kirkland and Phil Porter

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## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

When we pray to God, do we do so seeking encouragement for the ways we have been faithful? Or with humble acknowledgement of ways that we have strayed from grace, and fresh awareness of our need for God's forgiveness and grace in our lives? Join me as we unburden ourselves, praying:

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Glorious God of power and majesty,  
you bow down to hear our every sigh;  
deliver us from our arrogance and vanities.**

**When we would lift ourselves by questioning the position of others,  
dissuade us and redirect us.**

**When our pride grows strong and bold,  
lead us to the humility that allows us to know you and neighbor.**

**When we raise barriers for self-defense,  
invite us again to the vulnerability of Christ  
and the security that comes from trust in you, and you alone.**

*(Silence is kept)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Forgiven and healed, we open ourselves again to the grace, the peace, the hope offered to us through our loving God. This is good news!

**Blessed and made new by forgiveness, we are able to pour out our lives for others, taking them by the hand to reach that finish line called the realm of heaven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## RESPONSE IN SONG

“Gathered Here”

## RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 65

ONE: Praise to You, O God Who reigns;

**ALL: To You we will fulfill our promises to do justice,  
O You who respond to prayer!**

To You all mortals shall come.

**When we were mired in our own wrongdoing,  
You made reparations for us, and forgave us.**

Happy are those whom You call and bring near,  
To live in Your presence.

**We shall be filled with the abundance of Your house,  
Your holy place.**

You answer us with awesome deeds of deliverance  
from our own stupidity, O God our Savior;

**You are the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas.**

By Your power You established the mountains;  
You are encircled with might.

**You silence the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,  
the tumult of the peoples.**

Those who live at earth's farthest bounds  
are awed by Your wonders;

**You make the gateways of the morning  
and the evening shout for joy.**

You visit the earth and water it,  
You greatly enrich it;

**The river of God is filled with water;  
You provide the people with grain,  
For so You have arranged it.**

You graciously water earth's furrows,  
leveling its ridges,  
softening it with showers,  
and blessing its growth.

**You crown the year with Your bounty;  
Your wagons overflow with plenty.**

The pasturelands overflow into the wilderness,

**The hills encircle themselves with joy,**

The meadows clothe themselves with flocks of sheep,

**The valleys grace themselves with grain,  
They shout and sing together for joy.**

## A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

#### ✠ HYMN #794

“O Savior, in This Quiet Place”

ST. STEPHEN

*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 annual **Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration**.*

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

*The Pharisee and the Publican*

Heinrich Schütz

*Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, “God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.”*

*And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, “God be merciful to me a sinner.”*

*I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other:  
for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased;  
and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

#### ✠ 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**

**All things belong to you, bountiful God: we are your stewards, blessed with the resources you have placed into our care. We return here a portion of those, with our thanksgiving. Dear God, bless the gifts! With your blessing added, may they do more good than we can imagine, bringing food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, comfort to the bereft, and a glimpse of your realm of love to all our world. We ask it in Jesus' name; Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Joel 2:23-32  
Luke 18:9-14

*Old Testament, p. 1038*  
*New Testament, p. 99*

**SERMON**

“Nothing to Claim”

Pastor John A. Nelson

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

✘ **HYMN #741**

“Guide My Feet”

GUIDE MY FEET

**BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

*I Will Arise and Go to Jesus*

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.

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

## Today's Worship Leaders

*Ushers:* Janet Kaufman & Joanne Taber

*Deacon & Reader:* Pat Palmer

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2025 ([lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://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.)

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### New concerns:

*Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries,*  
for the people of Palestine and Israel  
and for our mission partners:

Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees •  
YWCA of Palestine • Tantur Ecumenical Institute •  
Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in  
Jerusalem • Rawdat el-Zuhur • Kairos Palestine •  
Friends Meeting in Ramallah • Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in Jordan and the Holy Land • Episcopal  
Diocese of Jerusalem • Ecumenical Accompaniment  
Programme in Palestine and Israel • East Jerusalem  
YMCA • Diyar Consortium • Christmas Lutheran  
Church in Bethlehem • B'Tselem.

### Continuing concerns:

The Joya family • Leo Gafney, recovering from  
surgery • 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:

*The "Green Team":* Theresa Carroll, Ruth Choate,  
Angela Lomanto, Kerry Noble, Karin Noyes

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**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!

## This Week at Salisbury UCC

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### SUNDAY, 26 OCTOBER

- 10AM Worship and Sunday School  
*followed by fellowship & refreshments  
in the Parish Hall*
- 11:10AM ANNUAL MEETING
- 2PM Memorial Service: Eliot Brown

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### MONDAY, 27 OCTOBER

- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

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### WEDNESDAY, 29 OCTOBER

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

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### THURSDAY, 30 OCTOBER

- 5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY, 31 OCTOBER

- 8:45AM Men's Bible Study

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### SUNDAY, 2 NOVEMBER

#### All Saints Sunday

- 10AM Worship and Sunday School
- 11:30AM Pancake Brunch



*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