

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

“Simple Song” from *Mass*
Jennifer Oberto, *soprano*

L. Bernstein

WELCOME

✧ HYMN #772

“Live Into Hope”

TRURO

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Here we gather in grace:

Now, Christ renews us with love:

Here and now, we're charged and

equipped to care for our neighbors:

ALL: Meeting in grace — Alleluia!

Transformed by love — Alleluia!

Serving with joy — Alleluia!

RESPONSE IN SONG

“We'll Walk in the Light”

George E. Elderkin



RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION

When we have burdened others, whether by our own hand or by our silent support of systems which oppress and crush:

break us, Holy One our God.

When we have perplexed others, or purposely misled them for our own gain, or driven them to despair:

break us, God.

When we have pushed aside others, or cast stones on their dreams and hopes until they are destroyed:

break us, God.

Then, broken, we carry in our bodies the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may again be made visible in our bodies.

Make us, God.

With the power which belongs only to you, make us into your treasure.

Make us, God.

We are the clay, and you are the potter. We are the work of your hands.

Make us, God.

Cleanse us from fault. Redirect us from our waywardness. Reclaim us, Holy One.

Make us, God.

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God is the love that over and around us lies; the grace that is totally unearned; the healing that makes the heavens and the earth whole. Right now, in turning to God, you receive God's unconditional forgiveness. Alleluia!

Give thanks to God; we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

"We'll Walk in the Light"

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 133

ONE: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

ALL: It is like precious oil joyfully poured on the head in greeting,

Running down upon the chin,

Running down over the collar of the anointed one's robes.

It is like the rich dew of the northern realm,

Which falls in the south on the mountains of the holy city.

For there the Most High poured out blessing,

Life forevermore.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✠ HYMN #450

"Be Thou My Vision"

SLANE

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 **Herbal Hummingbird Hub**.*

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 Heavens are Telling" from *Creation*

Franz Josef Haydn

*The heavens are telling the glory of God,
The wonder of his work displays the firmament;*

The heavens are telling the glory of God ...

*Today that is coming speaks it the day,
The night that is gone to following night.*

*In all the lands resounds the word,
never unperceived, ever understood.*

The heavens are telling the glory of God ...



✠ 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

All that we have — our being, our relationships, our possessions — are your gifts, God: given out of your abundance that we may live life fully and faithfully. We return a portion to you here, praying that your generosity will ever inspire us to deeper and wider generosity. We ask your blessing on this offering. May it serve to increase your *shalom*: wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 3:13-15
John 1:1-5, 14

Old Testament, p. 62
New Testament, p. 111

SERMON

“On We Go”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

Service of Release and Godspeed

GREETING

Charlie Noyes, *Church Moderator*

ENDING AN AUTHORIZED MINISTRY

CHARLIE: On April 1, 2019, the Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ, hired the Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson as our Designated-term Pastor and Teacher. On September 12, 2021, the congregation called John to be the 17th Pastor and Teacher of this congregation. After seven years of faithful service among us — and after twenty-nine years of pastoral ministry — the Holy Spirit has moved John to retire from his vocation.

PASTOR JOHN: *I thank the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC, its covenant partners and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me and my family as we have served God in the name of Jesus Christ. I am grateful for your faithfulness to the Gospel, and the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me the treasure of all that I have learned and received here.*

CONGREGATION: We receive your thanks, offer our forgiveness, and accept that you now leave your service to this church and retire from your career in pastoral ministry. We thank you for your time as our pastor and teacher. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

PASTOR JOHN: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

✘ **VOWS OF RELEASE**

The Rev. Margret Hofmeister

ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE MINISTER: Do you, the covenant partners and friends of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC, release John Nelson from the duties of Pastor and Teacher?

CONGREGATION: We do, with the help of God.

Do you offer your encouragement for his ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

CONGREGATION: We do, with the help of God.

John, do you release this congregation from turning to you and depending on you?

PASTOR JOHN: I do, with the help of God.

Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry of Jesus Christ in the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC, and for the congregation's relationship with other pastors who will serve this community of faith?

PASTOR JOHN: I do, with the help of God.

✘ **UNISON PRAYER**

God of grace and glory, whose everlasting love for all is unconditional and unceasing, help us each to trust the future that rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us, as we hold cherished memories and move in new directions, steadfastly serving your vision of compassion and justice, until that time to come when we are completely one with You, and with all of your children, in unending feast of light and delight. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, Love's Own Self: Amen.

✘ **HYMN** (insert)

"In Grace, By Love, With Joy"

ST. DENIO



1 Here pil - grims and seek - ers have gath - ered for praise;
 2 We seek God's for - give - ness, that gift be - yond price;
 3 Em - pow - ered with Spir - it and called to good work,
 4 In - spired by the pres - ence of God's earth - ly home,

From path - ways di - ver - gent yet foll' - wing God's ways.
 We learn Christ's com - pas - sion, sur - pass - ing - ly wise.
 We car - ry Christ's mer - cy, we pro - claim the realm
 We seek and we sing out God's won - drous sha - lom:

With shared song and sto - ry, with awe we draw near:
 We're guid - ed by wit - ness - es both old and young;
 of heal - ing and hope for all things God has made
 God's fu - ture un - fold - ing, no pow'r can des - troy—

We meet in God's grace and in hope year by year.
 Trans - formed by God's love here: new life has be - gun!
 We'll serve, pow'ered with joy, 'til God's peace is dis - played.
 all whole - ness and har - mo - ny, jus - tice and joy!

TUNE: Welsh, from Caniadua y Cyssegr, 1839

TEXT: John A. Nelson, 2026,

in appreciation for Salisbury UCC and our years of ministry together

ST. DENIO

11 11 11 11

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Ashokan Farewell
Vincent Baranowski, violin

Jay Ungar



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: Peggy Hayes & Deborah Moore • Reader: Patricia Palmer •

Deacons: Dean Haubrich & Lisa Naumann

Fellowship host: Church Council & 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.

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, 14 JUNE

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

WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE

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

MONDAY, 15 JUNE

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

SUNDAY, 21 JUNE

10AM Worship and Sunday School
11:30AM Board of Trustees meeting

TUESDAY, 16 JUNE

2PM Parish Hall in use



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