The Congregational Church *of* Salisbury

United Church of Christ



Prelude "Nun Bitten Wir den Heiligen Geist" Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome

✠ **Hymn** #803 "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"
(✠ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

Announcements | Joys and Concerns | Silent Prayer

Call to Worship

One: The Shepherd calls us from familiar paths into unfamiliar grace.

All: Restore our souls, O God, and teach us to see anew.

A feast is prepared, and the invitation reaches beyond the people we might have chosen as our guests.

Open our hearts to those we have misunderstood or overlooked.

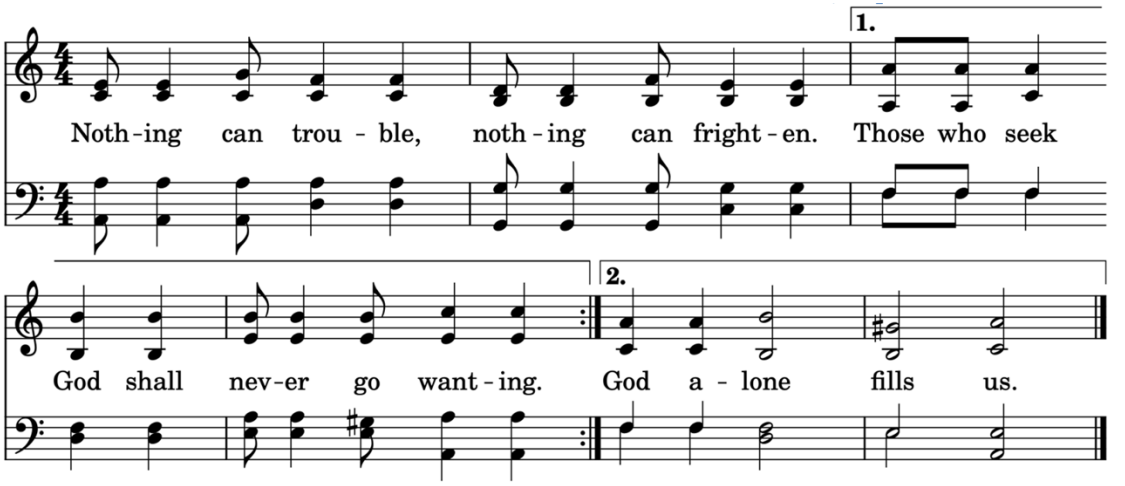
We come with convictions, opinions, and ways of seeing that may need to change.

Give us courage to listen to you and one another, and the wisdom to reconsider.

Come, let us worship the One who walks with us through every valley.

Lead us into truth, into compassion, and into more vitality.

RESPONSE IN SONG "Nothing Can Trouble" *Nada te turbe*



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CALL TO RECONCILIATION (IN UNISON)

Patient Shepherd of our souls, you continually invite us into a richer, fuller life and we keep ignoring the invitation. We cling to our convictions and habits even when they leave us weary.

We Confess that we often like being right more than we want better understanding. We turn first impressions into final judgments. We hold others, and ourselves, to an old version of who we have been and tell ourselves that no one can really change.

You invite us into your Presence, but we are occupied with our plans. We want a place at your table, but we do not want to be distracted.

Forgive us for the harm our certainty has caused.

Help us release the opinions we defend out of pride, the decisions we refuse to reconsider, and the stories that keep us from seeing one another clearly.

Restore our souls. May we be awake to receive your invitation this very day and be willing to be transformed by love. Amen.

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE Rev. Dr. Eileen Epperson

RESPONSE IN SONG "Nothing Can Trouble" *Nada te turbe*

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 23

ONE: God brings me to green places where I can rest
ALL: and leads me beside quiet water.
God restores my strength
and guides me along good paths, true to God's own loving nature.
Even when I walk through the darkest valley,
I will not be overcome by fear, because you are beside me.
Your guidance and protection give me comfort.
You prepare a table for me even in the presence of those who wish me harm.
You welcome me as an honored guest;
my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and faithful love will accompany me all my days,
and your house will be my home for as long as I live.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*) *Hymnal, p. 35*

✠ **HYMN** #802 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"
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 Cornelia Connelly Center.

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 "How Can I Keep From Singing?" arr. Alfred Fedak

✠ **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**

Generous God, you restore our souls and prepare a table where all may find a place. Receive these gifts and widen our welcome. Bless these offerings and the lives we dedicate to you. Use them to nourish the hungry, comfort the grieving, and make room for the stranger. Shepherd us into generous living, that our gifts and our actions may answer your invitation to love. Amen.

EPISTLE READING	Philippians 4:1-9	*New Testament, p.242*
GOSPEL READING	Matthew 22:1-14	*New Testament, p.29*

SERMON "What in the World is the Kingdom of Heaven" Rev. Dr. Eileen Epperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ **HYMN** #307 "God of Grace, God of Glory"

BENEDICTION and **SUNG AMEN**

POSTLUDE "Basse de Dessus de Trompette" Louise-Nicolas Clérambault

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.

Today's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Sharon Tingley & Anne Williams
Reader: Pat Palmer • *Deacon:* David Heck & Lisa Naumann
Fellowship host: 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

Holding the Parts Together

Church Administrator: Catherine Chatham
Sexton: Richard Tietjen

Church Officers: Charlie Noyes, *moderator*; Janet Offensend, *treasurer*; Liz Wing, *clerk*

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 Mexico and for our mission partners.

Continuing concerns:

Friends and family now serving our country in the armed forces • All those serving or living in war or conflict zones around the world.

Family & Friends who have passed away

•

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

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PASTORAL VISIT, please call the church office (860-435-2442) or email Catherine Chatham (catherine@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

Sunday, 11 October
10AM Worship
followed by fellowship & refreshments in the Parish Hall
11:30AM Board of Religious Ed meeting
11:30AM Music Committee meeting

Monday, 12 October
Columbus Day – Church Offices Closed
11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club
4 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, 13 October
2PM Parish Hall in Use

Wednesday, 14 October
9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
12:15PM Staff meeting

Friday, 16 October
8:45AM Men's Bible study

Sunday, 18 October
10AM Worship and Sunday School
11:30AM Board of Trustees meeting
11:30AM Board of Christian Action

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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email: welcome@salisburyucc.org • *web:* salisburyucc.org

Office Hours: 8:30am – 1:30pm, Monday, Thursday, Friday