The Congregational Church *of* Salisbury

United Church of Christ



Prelude "Adagio for Strings" Samuel Barber

Welcome

✠ **Hymn** #291 "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"
(✠ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

Announcements | Joys and Concerns | Silent Prayer

Call to Worship

One: The colors are fading as the leaves blow from the trees, evenings come on quickly and there is a chill in the air.

All: The changes remind us that the world is spinning and the seasons come and go.
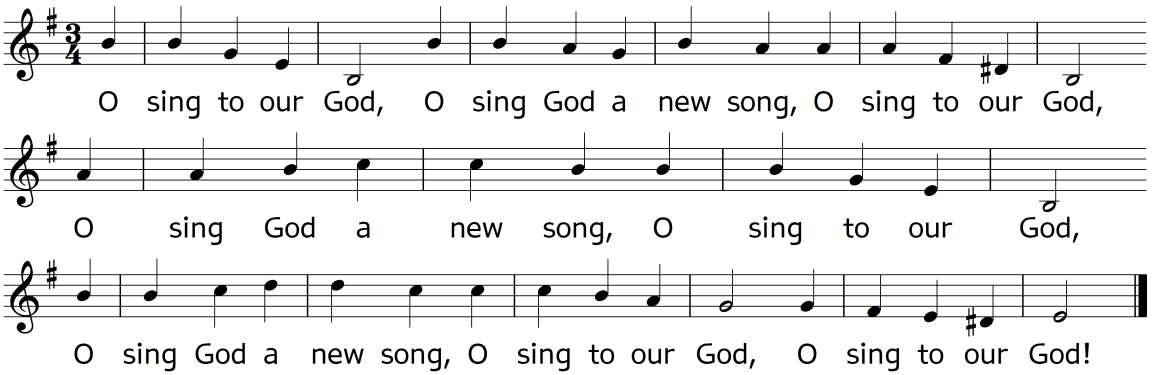
We are reminded of the movement of time and its mysteries,

For, in the seasons we find challenge and hope, death and rebirth and life ever ongoing.

Gather us to yourself, gracious One. Open us to your joys and your blessings.

Gather us to yourself, gracious One. Show us our way ahead, nurture our spirits and engage us in your love.

RESPONSE IN SONG **"**O Sing to the Lord" Gerhard M. Cartford



TEXT: Brazilian folk song; trans. 1986, Gerhard M. Cartford; MUSIC: Brazilian folk melody; arr. Gerhard M. Cartford, 1982
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COMMON CONFESSION

All: Dear God, you have known us since before we came to be, you know our flaws and our shortcomings. We do not understand our own actions. We do not do the things we would wish to do. And the evil we do not want, is what we do. We find that even when we want to do good, evil lies close at hand. Forgive us our errors, have mercy on us all.

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One; The grace of God surpasses all understanding; the love of God envelops and embraces us in the here and now. The love of God is ours for the asking. Blessed are you when you are loved in such a way. Amen

RESPONSE IN SONG **"**O Sing to the Lord" Gerhard M. Cartford

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 1

ONE: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

ALL: but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinner in the congregation of the righteous;

for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

✠ **HYMN** #451 "Open My Eyes, That I See"

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 Salisbury Housing Trust and Salisbury Housing Committee.

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 Lord is my Shepherd" Howard Goodall

✠ **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**

Holy One, bless these gifts. Enhance them with the power of your love and grace. Move them to serve your purpose and your pleasure. Creator God, allow them to be co-creators of your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Leviticus 19: 1-4 & 11-18 *Old Testament, p.132*
GOSPEL READING Matthew 22: 34-46 *New Testament, p.30*

SERMON "Just Being Neighborly" Rev. Mark Diters

PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ **HYMN** #727 "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"

BENEDICTION and **SUNG AMEN**

POSTLUDE Trumpet Voluntary John Stanley

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: Pat Thompson & Deborah Moore
Reader: Robert Kuhn • *Deacons:* Dave 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 Germany and for our mission partners.

Continuing concerns:

Janet Kaufman • Ann Burcroff • Ben Waxman • People facing or recovering from surgery •

All those serving or living in war and conflict zones around the world and innocent citizens who have been displaced.

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, 25 October

10AM Worship
followed by fellowship & refreshments in the Parish Hall
11:10AM Annual meeting

Monday, 26 October

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club
4PM Board of Deacons meeting

Tuesday, 27 October

2PM Parish Hall in Use

Wednesday, 28 October

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
4 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, 29 October

12:00PM Staff Meeting

Friday, 30 October

8:45AM Men's Bible study

Sunday, 1 November

2 AM "Fall Back." DST ends. Set clocks.
10AM Worship and Sunday School
11:30AM Church Council meeting

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, Thursday, Friday