The Congregational Church *of* Salisbury

United Church of Christ



Prelude "Shenandoah" Keith Jarrett

Welcome

✠ **Hymn** #326 "For All the Saints"
(✠ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

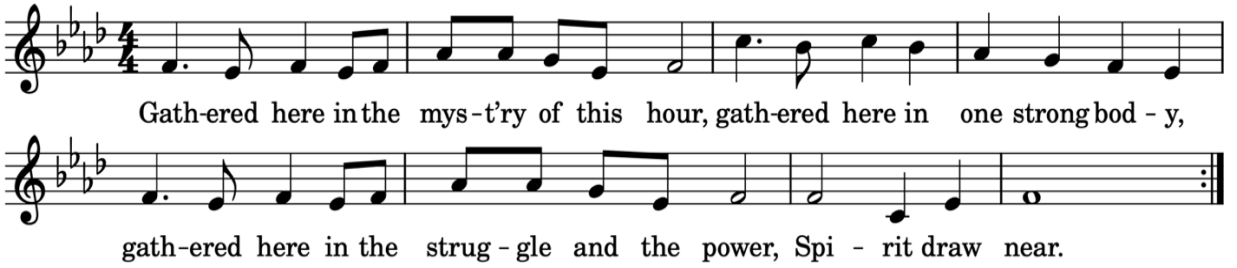
Announcements | Joys and Concerns | Silent Prayer

Call to Worship

One: I will bless the Lord at all times;
All: his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
I will glory in the Lord
let the humble hear and rejoice.
Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
let us exalt his Name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me out of all my terror.
Look upon him and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.
I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.
The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear him,
and he will deliver them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good;

happy are they who trust in him!
Fear the Lord, you are his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing.
The young lions lack and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.
The Lord ransoms the life of his servants,
and none will be punished who trust in him.

RESPONSE IN SONG "Gathered Here" Elaine Kirkland & Phil Porter



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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, you know what we do not. We confess that we have a church we could inspect and a world we could sort. We have counted who belongs and kept the tally in our own favor. We have made our goodness the proof of our place and other people's need the proof of their distance. We have mistaken the names written on the outside of our lives for the whole of who we are, and we have been afraid of the emptiness inside. Forgive us. Teach us to seek without demanding that the seeking end, to bless the people Jesus blessed, and to trust you with the question we cannot answer: who are these, and where have they come from? In the name of Christ, who sat down on the mountain and saw the crowds. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloveds, we are God's children now. What we will be has not yet been revealed. Hear the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

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

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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 Afya Foundation.

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 Storm is Passing Over" arr. Podd Brothers

✠ **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 comes from you, Lord God. Grant us the grace it takes to let loose and return it. Take all that we have and are, bless it and break it, so it might be given to feed the famished spirit and hungry body of those outside of these doors. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS	Revelations 7: 9-17	*New Testament, p. 303*
GOSPEL READING	Matthew 5: 1-12	*New Testament, p. 4*

SERMON "Saints, Visible and Invisible" Jason Larson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ **HYMN** #375 "Shall we Gather at the River"

We Feast at God's Table

INVITATION

RESPONSIVE THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is good and right to give God our thanks and praise.

O God, we thank you for the rich blessing of your Creation, and come to offer our whole selves as you call us to live for your realm of *shalom*.

Thanks be to you, O Holy One, for the goodness you have poured into all things. Our hearts fill with joy and wonder as we answer your call to be your people.

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of life, to drink the cup of the new covenant.

Jesus said, I am the bread of life.
She who comes to me shall never hunger;
he who believes in me shall never thirst.

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said, This is my body which is for you; do this remembering me.

After supper Jesus took the cup and said,
This is the cup of the new covenant.
Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.

And so we breathe out hope as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Come, Holy Spirit. Continue to pour out your life-giving, healing power on us, and on this meal that nourishes us. As we share this food and drink, may we become, for each other, the hope that Jesus has awakened in us. In this meal we celebrate the promised banquet when all shall be fed abundantly, and all shall drink from the river of the water of life. Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

We celebrate an open communion and welcome every person to the table. We understand the sharing of the bread and the cup in Jesus' name to be a reenactment of an ancient vision of God's feast for all people. We don't require you to be a member of our church, or any church, to participate with us in this feast of grace: all that is needed is that you desire God's nurture. (We use gluten-free bread and unfermented grape juice in an effort to remove barriers to anyone's participation in the sacrament.)

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of the uncountable company, we have tasted and seen. At this table we ate with the people we can see and with a multitude we cannot: the saints of this congregation, the ones we carried in with us this morning, and the ones no one remembers but you. Send us out hungry for righteousness, carrying bread to those who lack it. Make us meek enough to be surprised by who stands beside us, here and before the throne. And when our own names are remembered, keep us in the company of those who never knew they were saints. Through Jesus Christ, the Lamb at the center of the throne, who will be our shepherd. Amen

✠ **HYMN** #12 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

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.

Today's Worship Leaders

Ushers: David & Kristen Balderston

Reader: Peggy Hayes • *Deacon:* Myra Brandt • *Communion servers:*

Joanne Hayhurst & Don Mayland

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.

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 Afghanistan and for our mission partners.

Continuing concerns:

Roxanne Dorrie • Rosemany Bell • Janet Kaufman • Ann Burcroff • 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 by aggression.

Family & Friends who have passed away

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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, 1 November
10AM Worship
followed by fellowship & refreshments in the Parish Hall
11:30AM Church Council meeting

Monday, 2 November
11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club
7 PM Corner Food Pantry board meeting

Tuesday, 3 November
2PM Parish Hall in use

Wednesday, 4 November
9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
4PM Choir rehearsal
5:30 PM Bell Choir rehearsal

Thursday, 5 November
10AM Homeschool meet-up
12PM Staff Meeting

Friday, 6 November
8:45AM Men's Bible study
12noon First Friday Music in the Meeting House

Sunday, 8 November
10AM Worship and Sunday School
11:30AM Music Committee 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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