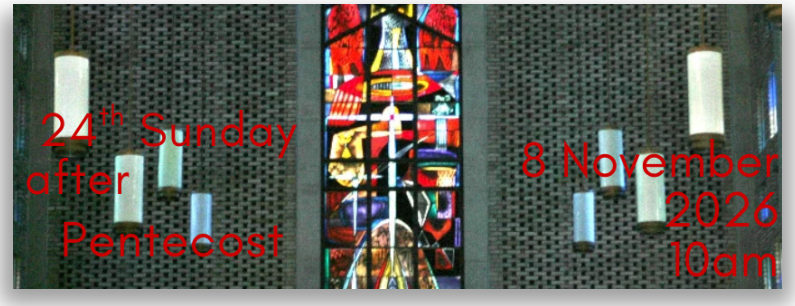
The Congregational Church *of* Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE "Chaconne in E minor" Dietrich Buxtehude

WELCOME

✠ **HYMN** #307 "God of Grace"

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We have come here from busy lives, crowded minds, and a world that rarely stops talking.

ALL: We have come to listen for something deeper.

Wisdom is not hiding from us. She is waiting at our gates, calling us to pay attention.

May we have the courage to notice what we have been missing.
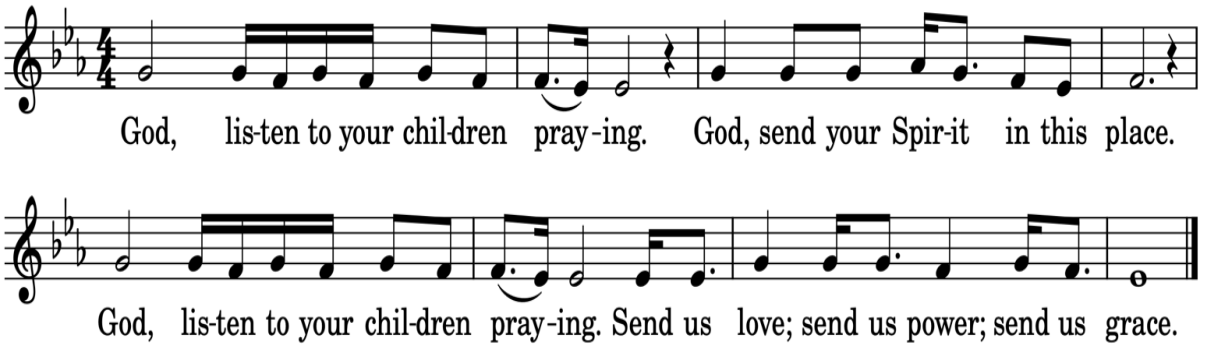
We do not know what tomorrow will bring, but we can choose how we live today.

May we be awake to this moment and open to God's presence.

Come, let us worship the God who calls us beyond habit, beyond appearances, and beyond going through the motions.

Let us open our hearts, engage our minds, and discover what it means to live wisely.

RESPONSE IN SONG "God Listen to Your Children Praying" Ken Medema



CALL TO RECONCILIATION

God of Wisdom We confess that we often live on autopilot.

We speak before we think. We react before we listen. We make assumptions without asking questions. We rush through our days and wonder where our lives have gone.

We confess that we sometimes confuse being right with being wise, being busy with being useful, and being religious with being heartfully faithful.

We want the world to change, but we are not always willing to examine our part in creating it.

We want justice but do not want to alter our habits. We want peace but hold tightly to resentment. We want meaningful lives but postpone the choices that would make them so.

Forgive us when we live as though our words and actions leave no footprints.

Wake us up, gracious God.

Help us recognize the choices before us, the people beside us, and the opportunities we have to live with integrity, compassion and courage.

And when we discover that we have acted foolishly, give us the humility to learn, the courage to change and the grace to begin again.

Amen.

(Silence is kept)

RESPONSE IN SONG "God Listen to Your Children Praying" Ken Medema

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm #90: 12-17

ONE: Teach us to number our days, O God, that we may gain hearts of wisdom.

ALL: Awaken us to the preciousness of this life and the choices we make each day.

Turn toward us, gracious God. Have compassion on us in our struggles and uncertainties.

When we lose our way, help us find our bearings. When we act without thinking, teach us to pause and listen.

Satisfy us each morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad throughout our days.

Open our eyes to the gifts already before us. Keep us from rushing past the wonder of being alive.

Bring us gladness even after seasons of sorrow and renew our hope after years of difficulty.

Teach us to learn from what we have experienced, and to meet each new day with courage and gratitude.

Let your work be revealed among us, and your goodness made known to generations yet to come.

May our choices create kindness, our actions serve justice and our lives leave a legacy of love. Let your favor rest upon us, O God, and establish the work of our hands.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

✠ **HYMN** #453 "Open Your Ears"

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 Salisbury Housing Organizations.

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 "What are These Arrayed in White Robes?" Sir John Stainer

✠ **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**

God of Wisdom and Grace, we offer thee gifts with grateful hearts, knowing that what we do with what we have matters. Teach us to use our resources wisely, to recognize the needs around us and to choose generosity over indifference. May these offerings become instrument of compassion justice and hope. And may we remember that the most important gifts we bring are the lives we live, the choices we make and the love we put into action, beginning right here, right now. Amen.

MODERN TESTIMONY	"This is Water"	David Foster Wallace
SCRIPTURE READINGS	Amos 5:18-24 Wisdom of Solomon 6: 12-16 (*Insert*)	*Old Testament, p.1046*
GOSPEL READING	Matthew 25: 1-13	*New Testament, p.34*
SERMON	"Wise Enough to Wonder"	Rev. Dr. Eileen Epperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ **HYMN** #300 "We are One in the Spirit"

BENEDICTION and **SUNG AMEN**

POSTLUDE Prelude in C# J.S. Bach

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: Allison Gray & Pat Thompson
Reader: Janet Offensend • *Deacon:* Theresa Carroll
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 Samoa and for our mission partners.

Continuing concerns:

Roxanne Dorrie • Rosemary 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 citizens who have been displaced by aggression.

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, 8 November
10AM Worship
followed by fellowship & refreshments in the Parish Hall
11:30AM Music Committee meeting

Monday, 9 November
11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club
3:30PM Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, 10 November
2PM Parish Hall in use

Wednesday, 11 November
9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
4PM Choir rehearsal
5:30PM Bell Choir rehearsal

Thursday, 12 November
12PM Staff Meeting

Friday, 13 November
8:45AM Men's Bible study

Sunday, 15 November
10AM Worship and Sunday School
11 AM Extravagant Thank You
11:30AM Board of Trustees 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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