

September 18, 2016
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude: Toccata on *Send Forth* Ruth Draper

Chiming of the Hour

***Hymn:** #403 *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

Joys & Concerns

Introit: *We Have Come to Celebrate* Ruth Artman

Call to Worship

One: God welcomes those whose hearts are sick. God's invitation comes to people whose joy is gone.

All: Why is the health of God's people not restored? Why must we weep day and night for those we have lost?

One: There is a balm in Gilead. There is a physician who heals. Jesus Christ is our mediator, healer, and savior.

All: We bring all our pain and unresolved anger. We come in all our confusion to seek answers.

One: Bring all your urgent prayers and honest laments. God is eager to offer salvation and open us to truth.

All: We cry out to God for deliverance from our sin. We cry out for relief from our suffering.

One: Come let us worship together!

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Into this holy temple, we have come, gracious God. This is not our church but yours. We cannot claim our world; it is a trust from your hand. Our lives, our health, our length of days call forth our stewardship. We are managers, not owners, so we come to you now to give account and seek your further commands. Help us, O God of our salvation. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O God, we have not managed well the wealth of the earth, which is our trust from you. We have modified your commands to suit our own egos and desires. We have wasted resources while hoarding for our own use what is meant for all to enjoy. Our concerns are narrow and our compassion is weak. We are restless and unfulfilled for we have not tried your ways. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us into your new day. Hear now our silent confessions as we turn to you seeking mercy, forgiveness and grace. Amen.

Moment of Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Love

***Gloria Patri:** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Responsive Reading – Psalm 79:1-9

(Page 664 HS in the pew bible)

Reading from the Hebrew Scripture –

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

(Page 868 HS in the pew bible)

Children's Message: Olivia May

Lord's Prayer

***Hymn:** #792 *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

Offering of Gifts

Anthem: *Go Out With Joy*

Hank Beebe

***Doxology:** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

New Testament – Luke 16:1-13

(Page 96 NT in the pew bible)

Sermon: What is our Balm in Gilead?

Reverend Diane Monti-Catania

Pastoral Prayer and Silent Prayer

Response: *Amen*

***Hymn:** #418 *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

Benediction

Response: *Go Out with Joy*

Hank Beebe

Postlude: *In Thee is Gladness*

J.S. Bach

(*Please stand if able)

Please join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship following worship. Our hosts today are Marian & Carr Ferguson.

Hearing assist devices are available; please see an usher if you would like to use one.

Our Lay Reader today is Mike Clulow.

Our ushers today are Joe Catania & Vance Hanlon.

Prayer List

Margie Vail, Lynne Kronholm, Paul McAbee, Jose Luis Marti, Kay & Stan Norman, Shirley Rogers, Jane Fitting, Nancy Tuckerman, Kit Kellogg, Barbara Jacqueline, Gloria Buckley, Petie Robinson, Jeri Johnson, Nancy Smith, Betty Scribner, family and friends of: Mark Lundeen, Norman Sills, Charles Cook, and Ron Gramalia.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

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|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Today | 11:30 am Trustees Meeting |
| | 2 pm PTU Lecture ~ Library |
| | 3 pm PTU Concert ~ Meeting House |
| Monday | 9 pm Jazz Rehearsal |
| Wednesday | 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday | 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study |
| | 7 pm HousaTonics |
| Friday | 7:30 am Men's Bible Study |
| Sunday | 9 am Mindfulness Meditation |
| | 11:30 am Church Council Meeting |
| | 1 pm Crop Walk |

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES OF THE CHURCH
2016 - 2017

OPPORTUNITIES

TIME FOR MINDFULNESS BEFORE WORSHIP

A group gathers on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45 am in the Wardell Room of the Scoville Memorial Library for meditation prior to the worship service. Open to all!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study meets on Friday mornings in the Parish Hall Library at 7:30 am. The group is studying the Book of Acts. All are welcome ~ no bible experience necessary.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study meets on Thursdays, at 4:30 pm in the Parish Hall Library. The group is studying the Book of John and discussing the *Peace Through Understanding* programs. All are welcome to attend.

PEACE THROUGH UNDERSTANDING~This Afternoon

Salisbury Congregational Church, the Scoville Memorial Library and the new Salisbury Sinfonietta Inc. will host the first *Peace Through Understanding* event today. The series is designed to offer a glimpse into the beliefs, traditions, art, music and poetry of different cultures. At this first event the public is invited to welcome our Muslim friends to Salisbury. A dialogue at 2:00 pm at the Scoville Memorial Library is entitled **Understanding Islam** and will be led by Sr. Nicole Correrri, a nationally recognized Muslim Educator. A concert at 3:00 pm is entitled **Mozart à la Türk** and takes place in the Meeting House. The dialogue and concert are free. Donations at the door are welcome to help support future free concerts. Following the dialogue and concert, there is a reception in the Parish Hall where audience members may meet the artists.

| | | |
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THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF SALISBURY

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SALISBURY, CONNECTICUT

GATHERED IN 1744
INCORPORATED IN 1949



CREATED BY GOD
CALLED BY JESUS CHRIST
GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
DEDICATED TO LOVING AND SERVING GOD AND NEIGHBOR

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALISBURY

30 Main St., Salisbury, CT 06068
860.435.2442 (office) 860.435.2056 (fax)
Rev. Diane Monti-Catania, Minister
Dr. Jack Bowman, Minister of Music
Barbara Collins, Religious Education; Mary Davidson, Bell and Children's Choirs;
Melissa Adam, Financial & Communications Assistant;
Kathy Wiggins Administrative Assistant; Cory Wiggins, Sexton
Church website: www.salisburycongregational.org
Church email: salisburyucc@gmail.com
Pastor's email: pastor.diane@salisburycongregational.org
Pastor's office hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9-5 or by appointment

The Reverend Diane Monti-Catania, *Pastor*