Salisbury United Church
October 4, 2026
19th Sunday After Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
Welcome to Worship!

Minister – Rev. Dr. Britt L. Aerhart
Music Coordinator – Lucienne Holzman
Lay Assist – Bill McDowell

Welcome & Announcements

Recognizing the Land

We honor the traditional lands of Treaty Six Territory, where we stand today. This land has been a vital part of Indigenous history and culture, and we recognize the contributions of the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, and Nakota Sioux Peoples. Their legacy shapes our community.

Singing Together: A Medley of Hymns

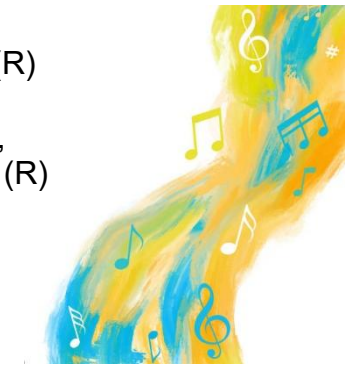
First Hymn: Let us Break Bread Together; #480VU

Let us break bread together on our knees,
let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall down on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees,
let us drink wine together on our knees. (R)

Let us praise God together on our knees,
let us praise God together on our knees. (R)



Second Hymn: Bread of Life, Feed My Soul; #194MV, vv. 1, 2 & 5

Bread of life, feed my soul,
as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life fill my heart
with the grace and mercy you impart.

I have heard your voice calling,
"Come, my friend, and share in the feast
that is laid out for you
to show how much I care."

Bread of life, feed my soul,
as the presence of the Spirit it makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart
with the grace and mercy you impart.

Third Hymn: I Come with Joy; #477VU, vv. 1-3

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

Calling The Community into Prayer:
(all remain standing)

Around the world people gather to break bread and pour wine. We gather with them in heart and mind.
Around the world the Banquet of God is prepared and the world becomes the table of the Lord.

We, who share in the banquet, come eagerly to be fed.
Let us worship together, let us share God's bounty.

(Source: written by Rev Gord, and posted on Worship Offerings. http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/)

Welcoming Each Other In: *(We greet each other with open hands of hospitality before sitting down)*

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Let us proclaim the presence of the light of Christ together:

The light of Christ is with us,
between us and all around us.
Thanks be to God.

(The Christ candle is lit)

Centering Ourselves in Peace: *(a time of silence)*

Take a moment, take a breath.
Hold peace in your mind and heart,
peace for yourself and peace for the world.
Take another breath and
keep the word "peace" before you now.

(a time of silence)

May the peace of Christ be with you all!
And also with you!

Praying Together: Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

God of all creation, on this day we are in solidarity with the faithful around the world. As we break bread together, we remember that we are still one body in You. We have different languages, cultures and traditions, different ways of worship, praying and praising. In solidarity we drink the cup of faith together, knowing that Your will for all creation is to be healed and restored.

(continued…)

We thank You and praise You, as we pray together saying, …

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory,
for ever and ever, Amen.

Discovering in Community: Solomon T. Fox Talks About Communion

Why are we here?
We are here to worship God.
Is that all?
We are also here to share a special meal called Communion. Some churches call it the Lord's Supper. Others call it the Eucharist. It is a meal that helps us to remember our connection to God through Jesus.

(a table cloth is set on the table)

Where is this special meal served?
It is served on a table that sits in the church. The table reminds us of the welcome of Jesus when he sat down for the last time with his friends around a table.
How is the meal prepared?
This meal is prepared by cutting up a loaf of bread. The bread was made by human hands from grain grown in the fields. A cup is also filled with juice made from grapes grown on grape vines that ripened under the sun.

(a loaf of bread and a cup of juice are brought forward)

How is it served?
Usually a few people come and stand at the front of the church. Then everyone lines up to take turns getting a piece of bread and a cup of juice. These are called the

"elements" of communion. They are the same kind of food Jesus shared with his friends when they ate together one last time.

(the silver trays are brought forward)

Who is this meal for?
This meal is for everyone who has come together seeking God today. That means it's for you and for me and everyone right now. Everyone is welcomed to eat together as a friend of Jesus.

Singing Together: God Bless to Us Our Bread; #193MV

God bless to us our bread,
and give bread to all those who are hungry,
and hunger for justice to those who are fed;
God bless to us our bread.

Reading Scripture in Community: Deuteronomy 31:30-32:1-15, 44-47

(Minister plain text, lay reader and people bold text)

So with everyone in Israel gathered and listening, Moses taught them the words of this song, from start to finish.

Listen Heavens, I have something to tell you.
Attention Earth, I've got a mouth full of words.
My teaching, let it fall like a gentle rain,
my words arrive like morning dew,
Like a sprinkling rain on new grass,
like spring showers on the garden.
It's God's Name I'm preaching—
respond to the greatness of our God!
The Rock: His works are perfect,
and the way he works is fair and just;
A God you can depend upon, no exceptions,
a straight-arrow God.
His messed-up, mixed-up children, his non-children,
throw mud at him but none of it sticks.
Don't you realize it is God you are treating like this?
This is crazy; don't you have any sense of reverence?
Isn't this your father who created you,
who made you and gave you a place on Earth?
Read up on what happened before you were born;
dig into the past, understand your roots.
Ask your parents what it was like before you were born;
ask the old-ones, they'll tell you a thing or two.

God found your ancestors out in the wilderness,
in an empty, windswept wasteland.
He threw his arms around them, lavished attention on them,
guarding them as the apple of his eye.
He was like a mother eagle hovering over its nest,
overshadowing its young,
Then spreading its wings, lifting them into the air,
teaching them to fly.
God alone led them;
there was not a foreign god in sight.
God lifted them onto the hilltops,
so they could feast on the crops in the fields.
He fed them honey from the rock,
oil from granite crags,
Curds of cattle and the milk of sheep,
the choice cuts of lambs and goats, and fine rams.
And high-quality wheat!
And the blood of grapes! Remember, remember how you were fed and how you drank good wine! …
Remember! ...

When Moses had finished saying all these words to all Israel, he said, "Take to heart all these words to which I give witness to today. Urgently command your children to put them into practice, every single word of this Revelation. Yes. This is no small matter for you; it's your life.

(all pause)

<u>All: Acclamation</u>
This is the Word of God.
Herein lies wisdom. Thanks be to God!

Salisbury Singers: "When We Gather"

Wrestling with Scripture: Sermon, Rev. Dr. Britt Aerhart

"A wind from God was hovering over the deeps." (*Genesis 1:1-2)*

Singing Together: I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord); #509VU, vv. 1 & 3

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (R)

Recognizing Offerings:

Each thing for which we hope,
from your love it will come;
Each thing we enjoy now, it is of your bounty;
Each thing we have received,
comes always of your disposing.
In and through all the giving and receiving,
may our offering be transformed into blessings for others.

Sacrament of Communion

Sung Invitation: Eat This Bread; #466VU

Eat this bread, drink this cup;
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup;
trust in me and you will not thirst.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving: *(Minister and People)*

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Loving and gracious God
who summons galaxies into being,
we give thanks and blessings to you.
We bless you for our world,
for the diversity of our planet and
the diversity of humanity.
You have called us into oneness-of-being through Christ.
With all of creation we honor you saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.

Loving God, Holy One,
we also offer you praise and thanksgiving
over this bread and this cup
because in Jesus Christ, your Beloved Son,
you have joined us to each other and to yourself,
Gathered around this table we gratefully remember:
Jesus' birth into our humanity,
His baptism in the River Jordan,
His compassion for our suffering,
His intimacy with our frailty
His rebuke of our pride,
His bearing of the rejection of the cross,
His rising up out of the tomb of death.

(continued…)

Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace.
Remembering Christ's life and death,
Proclaiming his resurrection,
We break this bread and share this cup,
While we look to the great day of healing
for all creation.

(the bread is broken)

"The bread of life broken for you."

(the cup is filled with wine)

"The cup of the New Covenant poured out for you."

In breaking this bread and sharing this cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ has come again.
Send O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup, that all who share around this table may be renewed in spirit and united as the body of Christ.
In this hope and as your people we will continue to praise you, until time runs out and all creation is made new.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Distribution:

The gifts of God for the People of God

Sung Prayer After Sharing: For All Your Goodness, God; #549VU

For all your goodness, God, we give you thanks.
Thanks for the food we eat, and for the friends we meet;
for each new day we greet, we give you thanks.

Saying Goodbye to the Light of Christ:

May the light of Christ be with you all.
And also with you!
May the light of Christ be with those we love.
May it be so!
May the light of Christ be with those we do not know well.
May it be so!
May the light of Christ be with those we do not get along with.
May it be so!
May the light of Christ be with the earth and all creatures in creation.
May it be so!

(the light is extinguished)

The light moves now as sacred smoke toward all four directions of the world.
May all people dwell in the light of God's kindness and love. Amen!

Singing Together: Sent Forth by God's Blessing; #481VU

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us
to work for the kingdom and answer its call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.

Blessing for the Journey:

May God keep you in the love of Christ,
that as a new creation of God,
you may arise in compassion and love,
for the sake of God's ongoing call in your lives.

Sung Blessing for the Journey:

May the love of God rest upon your soul,
May God's love dwell in you throughout each day.

All Sing: May the Love of the Lord; #218MV

May the love of our God, rest upon your soul,
May God's love dwell in you throughout every day.

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

Postlude

Coffee will be served following the service today.
Please come and join us.

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MEDITATION CIRCLE – WEDNESDAYS @ 10AM

Meditation Circle, held Wednesdays at 10am, continues in-person in the church meditation room and ***online!*** Find details on our website (salisburyunited.ca) under the "Weekly Meditation Circle" section on our website.

"SAVE A TURKEY – BUY A MEAT PIE" FUNDRAISER

Our Meat Pie Fundraiser kicks off this Sunday, October 4th! Order forms and details on all pies available for order will be in the Narthex and can be picked up before or after worship. Orders must be submitted to the church office by Sunday, October 18th.

THE 35th ANNUAL ECUMENICAL MISSION OF STRATHCONA COUNTY – OCTOBER 4th-7th, 2026

This Sunday, October 4th marks the first session of the 35th Annual Ecumenical Mission of Strathcona County. This year's series will be led by Guest Speaker Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen as she presents "Guest & Host: Living our Baptismal Hospitality". ***Salisbury will be hosting the evening service on Monday, Oct. 5th, at 7pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome!***

Finance Corner

As of the end of August 2026, our offering status for 2026 is:

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Offerings for Church Operations:	$63,975.00	$58,953.00	$5,022.00
M&S Offerings:	$11,915.00	$10,693.36	$1,221.64

Our financial results for August were strong, with giving exceeding budget expectations across both general offerings and dedicated Mission & Service funds.

- Offering Income: Total general offerings reached $63,975.00, which is $5,022.00 ahead of our budgeted target.
- Mission & Service: Contributions totaled $11,915.00, outperforming our budget of $10,693.36 by $1,221.64.

We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity and faithful stewardship. As we look ahead, we need the support of our community of faith now more than ever. Our flood remediation project is now officially underway, bringing unexpected financial demands to protect and restore our church. Your ongoing gifts will help us navigate these critical repairs while keeping our vital ministries running smoothly.

Thank you for standing with us!

If you need any help with giving envelopes – new supply, pick-up, etc. – or other giving options (monthly giving through PAR, e-transfer or donating online through Canada Helps on the Salisbury Website), please contact Brittany at the Church Office.

Phone: 780-467-7310