

*The Congregational
Church of Salisbury*
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**6 December 2020 • 10:00AM
Second Sunday of Advent**



WELCOME!

Welcome to the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC! While we refrain from meeting in person during the COVID-19 crisis, we continue to share in worship together, virtually. This bulletin will guide you through the process of joining us in worship.

HOW WE WILL WORSHIP TOGETHER

Today's service will be held over Zoom, which is videoconferencing technology available free of charge online. Zoom allows us to see one another throughout the service. To prevent background noise, you will be put on 'mute' for the majority of the service. Even when we can't hear you, you are invited and encouraged to speak your part in the responsive readings, sing boldly, and participate fully.

PREPARE FOR OUR ONLINE WORSHIP

1. Visit zoom.us/download to find the Zoom app for desktop, laptop, or smartphone
2. For desktop computer users, make sure your webcam is plugged in
3. To practice, join a test meeting: visit zoom.us/test and click "join."

If you are not able to use a smartphone or computer, you can also call in via any regular phone (see below).

JOIN WORSHIP ONLINE

Link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/954580657>

Or join Worship by Phone:

Call (646) 876-9923. When prompted, enter this meeting ID: 954 580 657

You may also view the worship on YouTube, has slightly better audio quality (though we'll miss visiting with you in the Zoom meeting!):

www.youtube.com/channel/UCBLRqeZ9Gxj7828rN9sp7og/

REFLECTING AS WE GATHER

“We look forward to the time when the Power of Love will replace the Love of Power. Then will our world know the blessings of Peace.”

William E. Gladstone (1809-1898)

Peace: it does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.

Unknown

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE “Von Himmel Hoch, da komm ich her (Pastorale)” *Johann Pachelbel*

GREETING

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

Candle lighters: Let us continue to follow the footsteps of our ancestors as we journey to Bethlehem.

Congregation: We continue our journey, grateful for those who have gone this way before us.

We remember those who found God’s peace for their journey: Abraham and Sarah, leaving their homeland at God’s call; Moses and Miriam, leading the Hebrews through the desert; Ruth, who left her homeland to travel to Bethlehem.

We remember God’s prophets and teachers, who spoke words of comfort when our ancestors suffered fear and exile.

Though they were outsiders in strange lands, far from their homes and families,
God gave them visions of peace, to lead them.

As we journey through Advent, to Bethlehem,
Let us carry peace in our hearts.

INTROIT *(sung by all)*

“Light the Candles”

TIF IN VELDELE



1. Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark-ness.
2. Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark-ness.



Mes - si - ah shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
Mes - si - ah shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Listen to what the Holy One our God says to us:

**My hope for you is peace;
salvation is my gift in every moment.**

See what the Almighty our God reveals to us:
righteousness is the path to the kingdom;
faithfulness is the highway being built for us.

Tell what our God of Grace asks us to speak:
prepare God's way!
The Christ is coming to redeem us!

HYMN #415

"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"
verses 1, 2, 3

RESTORATION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

God comes! Let us prepare the way. God comes to forgive us! Let us prepare our hearts as we confess our sins, saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

We have heard that our penalty has been paid, God of Comfort —
yet we still insist on earning our way into your heart.

We confess that you are patient with us,
but wish you would act quickly against those who hurt us.

We confess your Word will stand forever,
but it is our words of pain and anger that cause long term harm to others.

Your Messenger has come, Approaching God, crying out to us of your forgiveness and hope. Through Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior, you speak to us: not of punishment, but of peace;
not of judgment, but of justice;
not of a sentence, but salvation.

(We pray in silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the Good News that God speaks to you:

I love you;

I forgive you;

I restore you to new life.

We proclaim the truth that God comes: not to condemn, but to comfort us;
not to scold, but to speak tenderly to us of hope, of peace, of love, of joy.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

One: You visited Your people with blessing, O Creator;

ALL: You restored the inheritance of our ancestors.

You released Your people from their guilt;

You pardoned all they had done in violation of Your way.

Let me hear what God Most High will speak,

For the Redeemer promises peace and well-being to the people,

To the faithful,

To those whose hearts turn to the Almighty,

And not to foolishness.

Surely God's help is very near

for those who put their trust in the Eternal One,

Then will the glorious presence of the Author of Life dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

Justice and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

And justice will look down from the sky.

The Merciful One will indeed give what is good,

And our land will yield its harvest.

Justice goes forth before the Holy One,

Making a pathway of hope and compassion.

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

MODERN TESTIMONY

The Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes

When you stand for justice,
when you work for peace
it may seem that you are alone.
But they are with you,
and speak through your voice:
Sojourner, Martin, Mohandas, Dorothy,
Dietrich, Rigoberta, Oscar, César, Malala.
You are legion.

of their own fear and self-serving.
You flow with the deep-flowing stream
of justice that is God's energy,
the power that orders the universe.
Regardless of this outcome
you embody infinite grace.
You are immense.

When you offer yourself for reconciliation,
when you live truth in the face of resistance
it may seem that you face overwhelming
forces.

The temple of oppression is impressive,
but the tree of peace already
is cracking the foundations.
You are a root hair of the Empire of God.

But those who abet injustice
or sever our bonds of human unity
draw only from the dry cisterns

Even in the deepest darkness,
you are light.

ANCIENT TESTIMONY:

Mark 1:1-8

SERMON

“Re-Gifted Good News”

John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

ONE: God is doing a new thing. Before we ever looked for relief, or a second chance, or a way through the mess and muddle of life, God was already reaching out to us. Every time we give, we also open ourselves to the wonder-filled mystery of God's arriving. Open yourselves wide with giving, and let God in.

**ALL: Let us gather our gifts with grateful praise,
and offer them to God's purposes.**

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING: "Von Himmel Hoch, da komm ich her (Chorale)"

Martin Luther

✕ 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

While we are waiting in this Advent season, may our gifts be used to proclaim good news to those who need it most, so that justice may come into the places of oppression, so righteousness might kiss the wounds of the most vulnerable, so hope and peace might meet in all the broken places of our world and begin to build new communities of reconciliation. Hear our prayer, O God: Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

One: God be with you.

ALL: 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.

We give you thanks, God of peace and promise.

Through the words of your prophets

and the faith of your followers

you prepare the way of our redemption

and bring hope to birth.

And though we often grow weary of waiting,

your signs call us to keep watch for that day

when all things shall be made new.

In assurance of this hope,

we join with all the company of heaven and earth
to give you praise:

**Holy, holy, holy God of life and light,
heaven and earth are full of your glory!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One for whom we wait,
who bears the name Emmanuel.
Hosanna in the highest!**

REMEMBERING JESUS AT TABLE

PRAYERS ✕ **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*debt*s)

PRAYER OF SELF-GIVING

God of majesty,
with reverent hearts we name you also
God of self-giving love.
**We give thanks, blessing above blessing,
for Jesus Christ, son of Mary, Word of life.**

The bread we now break and the cup we take are a sharing
in the life of Christ.

**As we take this cup of blessing and as we share this bread of life we proclaim
his death with wonder and celebrate his resurrection with joy. Glory to you,
O God!**

SHARING THE MEAL

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Eat This Bread”

J. Berthier

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

**God of new beginnings,
you draw near to us in word and sacrament
to strengthen and renew us.
Kindle in us the fire of your Spirit.
May your light so shine through us
that all may know we are living in the light of your promise.
We ask this in the name of the long-expected Jesus, Prince of Peace; Amen.**

HYMN #109

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

MERLE'S TUNE

BENEDICTION and **SUNG AMEN**

POSTLUDE

“Von Himmel Hoch, da komm ich her (Fantasia)”

J. Pachelbel



Participants in Today's Celebration

Members and Friends of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC	<i>Worshippers</i>
Jennifer Oberto	<i>Cantor</i>
Bob Maxwell	<i>Reader</i>
Salisbury UCC Choir	
Dr. Samuel Lord Kalcheim	<i>Music Director</i>
The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson	<i>Preacher</i>