

*The Congregational
Church of Salisbury*
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**27 December 2020 • 10:00AM
First Sunday of Christmastide**



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 watch the service on our YouTube channel, which has better audio quality (though we'll miss visiting with you in the Zoom meeting!):

www.youtube.com/channel/UCBLRqeZ9Gxj7828rN9sp7og/

PRELUDE

“Peaceful Was the Night”

*Text: J. Milton
Music: S.L. Kalcheim*

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Praise the One who spoke and made everything!

**ALL: Let the rivers ripple with joy;
let the mountains stamp their feet.**

Praise the One who adopts all of us as children!

**Let old folks tell familiar stories;
let little children swim with dolphins.**

Praise God!

**We will sing of God’s glory;
we will shout our joy to the heavens.**

HYMN #129

“Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming”

‘EST IS EIN ROS

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we pray this day for all who have come with us to Bethlehem. We pray for those who are impoverished and cold and hungry like the shepherds, that they may hear good news. We pray for those who are wandering and searching like the magi, that they may find the place to leave their gifts and their burdens. We pray for those who are busy, hurried, preoccupied like the innkeeper, that they may know the peace that comes from a genuine act of hospitality. We pray for those like Herod who have power, that they may use it for good and never for ill. We pray for ourselves — we who each need comfort and peace, even joy, in this starlit season and all the days of our lives. Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG #

“We’ll Walk in the Light”

TUNE

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 148

ONE: Hallelujah!

ALL: Give honor to the Holy One from the heavens;

Give honor to God in the heavens of the heavens!

Honor the Holy One, all you angels of God;

Honor the Holy One, all you heavenly multitude!

Honor the Holy One, sun and moon;

Honor the Holy One, all you shining stars!

**Honor the Holy One, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them honor the Holy One’s purposes,

For God willed it and they were created.

The Almighty established them to endure forever;
The Author of Life gave a decree that will never pass away.
Honor the Holy One all who are on the earth,
you sea monsters and all ocean depths,
fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy wind that blows God's will!
You mountains and all hills,
Fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and tame,
Creeping things and winged birds!
All royalty of the earth and all peoples,
The rulers and the mighty of the earth!
Young men and young women alike,
Old people and children together!
Let them honor the Holy One's purposes,
For it is God's renown alone that is exalted;
God's splendor is greater than earth and heaven.
The Holy One has raised up the people to dignity,
The faithful themselves are an honor to the Most High,
They are God's people,
They are close to the Almighty.
Hallelujah!

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

MODERN TESTIMONY

Robert Fulghum.

"I know what I really want for Christmas. I want my childhood back.

Nobody is going to give me that. I might give at least the memory of it to myself if I try. I know it doesn't make sense, but since when is Christmas about sense, anyway? It is about a child, of long ago and far away, and it is about the child of now. In you and me. Waiting behind the door of our hearts for something wonderful to happen. A child who is impractical, unrealistic, simpleminded and terribly vulnerable to joy."

ANCIENT TESTIMONY:

Luke 2:22-40

SERMON

"The Everlasting Christmas Pageant"

John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

PASTORAL PRAYER | SILENT PRAYER | THE LORD'S PRAYER (*depts*)

OFFERTORY

When we sing the marvelous songs of Christmas, we are remembering all the richness and delight of the season, just like the generations before us. With all that joy in mind and heart, let's respond with overflowing generosity in our lives.

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

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

H. Darke

✠ 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 wonder, joy, and Christmas mystery, we dedicate this offering to you.
We pray your blessing upon every gift offered, on this altar and in our hearts
and minds: use them all to share your miracle of love with the world. In
Jesus' name; Amen.**

HYMN #119

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

"In Dulci Jubilo"

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow



Participants in Today's Celebration

Worshippers Members and Friends of the
Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC

Reader Sue Morrill

Cantor Jennifer Oberto

Salisbury UCC Choir

Online worship host Kathy Mera

Music Director Dr. Samuel Lord Kalcheim

Preacher The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson