

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

28 November 2021 • 10:00AM

First Sunday of Advent



PRELUDE

Chorale: "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme"

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

HYMN #96

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

WINCHESTER NEW

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Barbara & Lee Collins

There are five candles on the Advent wreath, one for each Sunday of Advent and the Christ Candle for Christmas Eve. Today we light the first of our Advent Candles: the candle of Hope.

ALL: Its light reminds us that since the dawn of time people have longed for a world of justice where wrongs are addressed, where wolf and lamb will dwell together, where the knowledge of God shall cover the earth as the water covers the sea.

Come let us walk in hope, led by the light of God.

Come, O hope of ev - ery na - tion, Cause the tree to bloom a - gain,
That the heal - ing streams of jus - tice May re - lease and heal earth's pain.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

If only our hurtful words, our damaging actions, our foolish choices would just go away. But they don't, and so we offer them, as well as ourselves, to God for forgiveness and for our healing. Please join me, as we pray together saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

The chances we have to be more compassionate; the moments to offer hope to a lonely friend; the good fortune we could share with a neighbor bent by despair — the signs are all around us, Good and Upright God, of how we pass by opportunities to live as your people.

Do not meditate on our bungling ways, God of steadfast grace, but remember the mercy of your heart. The mercy that forgives us; the mercy that makes us whole; and especially, the living mercy who came down one night so long ago, Jesus, the Advent of our redemption.

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Raise your heads, children of God! In the bleak mid-winter of our lives, our redemption draws near. In the springtime of our doubts, the kin-dom of God approaches. We

ALL: Even when we feel most alone, the One who comes to us is the salvation promised so long ago. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!
Amen.

ADVENT RESPONSE

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

p. 3

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 25:1-10

ONE: To You, O God, I offer my life;

MANY: In You I trust, O my God;

Do not let me be defeated by the world around me;

Do not let my adversaries destroy me.

No one who hopes in You will ever be crushed.

**Only those who wantonly disregard You
will be left forsaken.**

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
 And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el -
 That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Un - til the Word of God ap - pear.
 Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
 shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Show me Your ways, O Holy One; teach me the paths to You.

Lead me by Your faithfulness, and teach me,

For You are the God of my salvation;

In You I hope all day long.

Recall Your compassion, O Holy One;

Keep hold of Your faithfulness;

For those have always been Your traits.

Do not recall the transgressions of my youth

Or my wanderings from Your ways;

According to Your infinite compassion, keep hold of me,

For You are goodness itself, O God.

Good and trustworthy is the Almighty,

Who always leads the straying back to the path that leads to life.

God leads those who will follow in what is right,

And teaches them to live.

All the ways of the Most High are loving and faithful,

For those who are faithful and loving.

We Proclaim the Gospel in Word

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

Hymnal, p. 35

HYMN #104

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

VALET WILL ICH DIRE GEBEN

All attending Church School may leave as we sing the hymn.

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Testament, p. 903

GOSPEL READING:

Luke 21:25-36

New Testament, p. 104

SERMON

“Wait for It”

Pastor John A. Nelson

We Respond in Prayer and Faith

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Though the earth tremble and kingdoms topple, God's humble power carries us through. Though darkness descend, the mystery of God's light shows a way. People of hope, let us each open our hearts wide by giving, and let God in.

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

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

Our church welcomes any size gift, and thanks you for your generosity.

MUSICAL OFFERING “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Holst

❖ 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

Because of you, Abundant God, we have blessings to offer to others.
May you use our gifts to restore hope to the despairing, to feed the hungry, and to fill the empty hearts of the lonely. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

❖ HYMN #93

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

“Sleepers Wake! A Voice Astounds Us”
(Wachet Auf)

P. Nicolai

harm. 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. It 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. Assistive Listening Devices are available; please ask an usher for assistance.

Kindly set phones to silent (unless you're expecting a call from Jesus).

Today's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Ken Edholm, Joanne Taber • **Cantor:** Jennifer Oberto
Reader: John Estabrook • **Deacon:** Lorna Edmundson

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2021
(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

Transitional Music Director:

Dr. Samuel Lord Kalcheim

Bell Choir Director: Mary Davidson

Faith Formation

Religious Education Coordinator:

Barbara Collins

Religious Education Assistant:

Holly Tierney

Holding the Parts Together

Administrative Assistant: Loriann Chevremont

Bookkeeper: Alex Bercy

Sexton: Steven Wolf

Church Officers: Betsy Beck, moderator;

Jennifer Weigel, treasurer;

Jennifer Oberto, clerk

Pastor and Teacher: The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

Occasions for Service, Witness, and Prayer

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:

For the community of Waukesha, IL • survivors, families and friends of victims, and communities of the 625 mass shootings already carried out in 2021
• families and friends of more than 759,000 who have died due to the Covid-19 disease

Continuing concerns:

James O'Leary, in treatment for heart attack and stroke • For the devastating house fire in Millerton on Nov. 6th, in which two neighbors perished: prayers for the grieving, for the wounded, for families left homeless, for the firefighters, and for the community • Sandra, recovering from eye surgery • Linda Estabrook, recovering from broken hip • missionaries kidnapped in Haiti, and the innumerable victims of kidnapping whose cases do not reach our attention • residents of areas devastated by volcanoes, storms, earthquakes, floods, fires, and drought • the people of Afghanistan • healing from gun violence and its

long-term trauma • families seeking asylum and opportunity in the US • an end to hunger • courage and wisdom to reckon with the racism and white supremacism in our society and its violence • faithful care of God's creation & repair of human damage to the environment • for our country's leaders and for all citizens striving to hold our country to its best standards.

In treatment for cancer: Stephanie; Gale; Pauline; Johanna; Karen; Melinda; Deborah Merwin — prayers for strength, healing, endurance for them, their families, friends, and caregivers.

For survivors of war, for neighbors in conflict zones, and for repentance from the use of deadly force.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PASTORAL VISIT, please call the church office (860-435-2442) or email Pastor John (jnelson@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, 28 NOVEMBER

- 9AM Zoom Sunday School
10AM Worship & Sunday School
-

MONDAY, 29 NOVEMBER

- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club
-

WEDNESDAY, 1 DECEMBER

- 12:30PM Staff Meeting
4PM Women's Bible Study
5:30PM Board of Christian Action

THURSDAY, 2 DECEMBER

- 7PM Choir Rehearsal
-

FRIDAY, 3 DECEMBER

- 8:45AM Men's Bible Study
12noon Meeting House
Music and Meditation



Opportunities

The Salisbury Association is offering a free Holiday Concert with music and carols by The Salisbury Four on Saturday, 4 December, 5:00 – 6:00PM in the Church Meeting House. Face masks and proof of COVID vaccination are both required. To reserve seats, call 860-435-0566 or email info@salisburyassociation.org. Doors open at 4:30 pm. Walk-ins are allowed until the seating limit is met.



Please Recycle this Bulletin!



The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey: you are welcome here.

30 Main Street | P.O. Box 392 | Salisbury, CT 06068 • 860-435-2442

email: welcome@salisburyucc.org • web: salisburyucc.org

Office Hours: 9am – 2pm, Monday-Friday