

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

5 December 2021 • 10:00AM

Second Sunday of Advent



PRELUDE

“Jesu, meine Freude”

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

✕ HYMN #82

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER**

**LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE**

Theresa Carroll & Karin Noyes  
*for the Green Team and the Board of Christian Action*

Today we re-light the candle of Hope. To its light, we add a second Advent Candle.

**Today we light the candle of Peace. We light it to remember that generation after generation has dreamed of a world in which the weapons of destruction are transformed into instruments of nurture, and God will soften every heart that is hard or stained with hate.**

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

Come, O child of peace a-mong us, Come and dwell with - in us here.

Turn our wea-pons in - to plough-shares, With your peace dis - pel our fear.

## **CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

How can we stand in the presence of God? Let us confess those places where we need to grow to prepare for Christ to come into our lives.

## **UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**God of the loving heart, we confess before you  
those places in our hearts where we have refused you entrance:**

**people we have denied our love;**

**habits we don't get around to changing;**

**good things we have left undone;**

**ways in which we hurt you, ourselves, and others.**

**Come again to us in the light of your Christ.**

**Shine on those places we have hidden from you.**

**Show us your ways to live.**

**Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a home  
among us. Be known among us now and forever.**

(Silence is kept)

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

This is the good news in Jesus Christ, Love's own self, God-with-us: we are forgiven!

**We can stand before God, not through our own goodness but through  
God's power of renewing grace in us. God comes to us; we will rejoice  
and be glad!**

## **RESPONSE IN SONG**

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

*p. 3*

## **The Sacrament of Communion**

### **INVITATION**

### **THANKSGIVING PRAYER**

ONE: God be with you!

**MANY: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts:

**We lift them to God.**



O come, O Wis-dom from - on high,  
Who or-dered all things peace - ful - ly;  
To us the path of knowl - edge show,  
And teach us in her ways - to go.  
Re - jice! - Re - jice! Em - man - u - el  
shall come to thee O Is - ra - el.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

**It is right to give 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** (*debts/debtors*)

*Hymnal, p. 35*

### **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 resurrection with wonder and celebrate his life with joy.  
Glory to you, O God!**

### **SHARING THE MEAL**

*We celebrate an open communion, and welcome every person to the table. We share the bread and the cup in Jesus' name as a reenactment of an ancient vision of God's feast for all people. We don't require you to belong to this church, or any church, to participate with us in this feast of grace: all that is needed is that you desire God's nurture. Today we will receive communion seated in the pews: please serve your neighbor, and allow yourself to be served. We will hold the bread until all have been served and eat together, signifying our unity in Christ. (The bread is gluten-free, as we strive to welcome all to the table.) We will drink the cup as we receive it, signifying our personal relationship with Christ.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**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,  
our hope and our home: Amen.**

✠ **HYMN #87**

**“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”**  
*All attending Church School may leave as we sing the hymn.*

GENEVAN 42

**We Proclaim the Gospel in Word**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Baruch 5:1-9

**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 3:1-6

*New Testament, p. 72*

**SERMON**

“Road Repair”

Pastor John A. Nelson

**We Respond in Prayer and Faith**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY**

ONE: In this busy season, God sends word: make space for the Holy One! “Prepare the way of the Lord!” In the midst of our preparations, we bring gifts to share so that God’s love will shine brightly through the ministry of this church and in our own lives as well.

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

**RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

“Ave Maria”

*Josquin des Prez*

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

✠ DOXOLOGY

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

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, you come in this holy season with the simple gift of life itself. You invite us to share from the abundance of our lives, so others might be filled with life, with hope, with love, and with grace. Bless these gifts we offer, so they may be used to share the gospel of wholeness and welcome for all. We ask it in Jesus' name: Amen.

✠ HYMN #106

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

**BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

“Veni Emmanuel”

*Kalcheim*



**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:* Laura O'Niel, Sarah Morrison • *Cantor:* Jennifer Oberto  
*Reader and Deacon:* Lorna Edmundson

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## 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.)

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#### Continuing 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 • Linda Estabrook, recovering from broken hip • 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 supremacy 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:* 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.

**Family & Friends  
who have passed away:**  
Pastor Henry Prause

We thank God for the gift of life, and pray tender mercy on family and friends who are grieving.

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**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

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### SUNDAY, 5 DECEMBER

9AM Zoom Sunday School  
10AM Worship & Sunday School

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### MONDAY, 6 DECEMBER

*Church office closed*  
11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

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### WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER

12:30PM Staff Meeting

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### WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER, cont'd

4PM Women's Bible Study  
5:30PM Council & Trustees meeting with F.L. Putnam  
7PM Board of Deacons

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### THURSDAY,

7PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY,

8:45AM Men's Bible Study



**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.*

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