

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

12 December 2021 • 10:00AM

Third Sunday of Advent



PRELUDE

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

J. Pachelbel

WELCOME

HYMN #

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

REJOICE, REJOICE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Emily Elliot and Peggy Hayes

READERS: Today we re-light the candles of Peace and Hope. To their light, we add the third of our Advent Candles.

ALL: Today, we light the candle of Joy. Everywhere people look for a sign of a new era, a time when the wilderness shall rejoice and blossom; a time when the hungry shall be fed and the damage to God's creation will be healed; a time when the burning sands shall become springs of water and all sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Come let us walk in joy, confident in the light of God.

A musical score for the hymn "Von Himmel Hoch, da komm ich her". It consists of three staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef, the middle staff is in bass clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first section of lyrics is: "Come, O joy of earth and heaven, Free all souls from death and sin; Word made flesh, and love e-ter-nal, See your realm of grace be-gin." The music is in common time and includes various chords and note patterns.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Why should we fear? Through all our stumbling in the dark, God brings saving light; despite our waywardness, God is the power of renewing mercy. Let us bring our whole selves to the One who comes to give us life and joy, in this and in every season, as we pray together, saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

We admit, God of Advent,

**that it is easier to trust glib words from the news headlines
or from a gossiping friend than to trust yours, spoken so long ago.**

**We know how deeply our fears guide us, and how often your call to
“fear not” seems good advice for someone other than ourselves.**

**We know how we, who have been given so much from your heart,
find it hard to trust in your abundance.**

Forgive us, God our hope, and have mercy on us.

Lift us to our feet;

draw us close into your loving embrace;

**drench us in buckets of grace drawn from the deep wells of life,
so we will have the courage to declare you as our God**

**as we follow Jesus Christ, who brings the all the power and promise of
the universe into our midst, right now.**

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

As plain as the heart in our chests, the good news is this: God is our joy. God is our life. God is our future.

We will sing aloud, our voices at full throttle. We are forgiven, we are saved! Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

p. 3

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All people in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
And usher in a Reign of Peace.
Re-joice! - Re-joice! Emmanuel - u - el
shall come to thee O Is - ra - el.

We Proclaim the Gospel in Word

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

† HYMN #94

"Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

JEFFERSON

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

GOSPEL READING:

Luke 3:7-18

New Testament, p. 73

SCRIPTURE READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Old Testament, p. 1073

SERMON

"Feeding Joy"

Pastor John A. Nelson

We Respond in Prayer and Faith

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

ONE: God has done great things for us! We choose to live our lives in wonder, counting on the unending abundance of God's providing. As a sign of our trust in God, we share gifts this morning, strengthening the ministry of Christ — God-with-us —as together we extend hope and summon joy.

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

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green;
The trees of nature fruitless be,
Compared with Christ the Apple Tree.

His beauty doth all things excel,
By faith I know but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see,
In Jesus Christ the Appletree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought;
I missed of all but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the Appletree.

• Doxology

**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.**

QID 100TH

❖ UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We will not be afraid, Loving God! — but by your grace will offer our hopes, our hearts, our treasures to you, trusting that you will use them to bring joy to all around us. In Jesus' name, may it be so! Amen.

Service of Baptism *(insert)*

❖ HYMN #488

"I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"

WATERLIFE

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

"Von Himmel Hoch, da komm ich her (Fantasia)"

Pachelbel



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, Pat Palmer • **Cantor:** Jennifer Oberto

Reader: • **Deacon:** Janet Kaufman

Flowers have been placed in the Meeting House
by Pat and Bob Palmer, in memory of our parents.

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2021
(lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission.

Zephaniah reading quoted from *The Inclusive Hebrew Scriptures, Volume II The Prophets* (AltaMira Press, 2004).

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

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

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

Opportunities

ANGEL TREE - 2021 CHRISTMAS GIVING

Torrington FISH (Friends in Service to Humanity) collects Christmas presents for the children of the families they serve. Just before Christmas, parents pick up the gifts for their children at the FISH location. The parents wrap the gifts and give them to their children on Christmas morning, or on another day according to their faith tradition.

We have the opportunity to provide some of the 300+ children's Christmas presents. Just bring an unwrapped toy or other gift for a child, ages toddler to teen (no electronics or gift cards). Leave your gift on the table next to the Christmas tree in the Parish Hall. Christian Action Board members will collect the gifts and bring all to FISH on Thursday, December 16. The Library Street entrance will be open Monday to Friday, 9AM to 1PM.

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.)

Continuing concerns:

For the community of Oxford, MI and Waukesha, IL • survivors, families and friends of victims, and communities of the 657 mass shootings already carried out in 2021 • families and friends of more than 5,299,071 who have died due to Covid-19 disease, including 813,904 in the U.S. • 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 • 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.

Deborah Merwin and others in treatment for cancer — 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 Praise; Diane Blodgett

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

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, 12 DECEMBER

9AM Zoom Sunday School
10AM Worship & Sunday School
11:30AM Music Committee Meeting

MONDAY, 13 DECEMBER

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 14 DECEMBER

5:15PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, 15 DECEMBER

12:30PM Staff Meeting
4PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, 16 DECEMBER

7PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 17 DECEMBER

8:45AM Men's Bible Study
7PM Choir Dress Rehearsal

*The Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC
presents its 2021 Christmas Concert*

Ave Maria

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 • 3PM

*Doors open at 2:30 pm • Masks required
Limited seating is first-come, first-served*



MUSIC FOR VOICES, ORGAN, AND BELL CHOIR

FEATURING

The Congregational Church
of Salisbury Choir and Bell choir



INCLUDING

Four contrasting musical
settings of the Ave Maria

Past years' favorites for Bell Choir

Choral music by Clarke, Elgar, Holst,
Josquin, MacDowell and Quartel



JOIN US

The Congregational Church
of Salisbury, UCC
30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT

860-435-2442 • www.SalisburyUCC.org



*The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An Open and Affirming Congregation*



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