

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

Christmas Eve



Friday, December 24th, 2021
Bell Choir prelude • 5:30PM
Service of Lessons and Carols • 6:00PM

BELL CHOIR PRELUDE

ORGAN PRELUDE

“Peaceful Was the Night”

Kalcheim

WORDS OF WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL #140

“Once in Royal David’s City”

IRBY

Verses 1 & 2, solo and choir

¶ Verses 3 & 4 sung by all

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

THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

The Good family

Now, we re-light the Advent candles of Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love.

To their light, we add the candle that all creation has been waiting for:

Tonight, we light the Christ Candle on our Advent wreath. All over the world people long for a Savior. All over the world people gaze at the night sky in hope and listen for the angels' song. And with people all over the world, we celebrate the birth of the child who is Love's Own Self, God-with-Us, Emmanuel!

Come, let us walk together in peace, hope, joy, and love,
in the light of God that shines in Jesus Christ.

The musical score consists of three staves of music in common time (indicated by a '4'). The top staff uses a treble clef, the middle staff uses a bass clef, and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. The music is primarily composed of quarter notes and eighth notes. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below each staff. The first staff contains the lyrics "Come, O light of light e-tern-al, Mir-rored in the Beth'l'em boy:". The second staff contains the lyrics "By your ra-diance ba - nish dark-ness, Ad-vent of our peace and joy.". The third staff continues the melody without lyrics.

~ 2 ~

BIDDING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts*)

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-5, 8

God declares comfort and renewal through the prophet Isaiah.

Emily Elliot, reader

CAROL #133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
Verses 1, 2, 3

ADESTE FIDELES

THE SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Messiah.

Kerry Noble, reader

ANTHEM

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Harold Darke

THE THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-9

Isaiah prophesies the Messiah's peaceable kingdom.

Bob Maxwell, reader

CAROL #123

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”
Verses 1, 2, 4, 5

CAROL

THE FOURTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-35, 38

The Angel Gabriel salutes Mary.

Janet Kaufman, reader

ANTHEM

“Ave Maria”

Edward Elgar

THE FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:39-45

Mary visits Elizabeth, whose child leaps for joy.

Samuel Lord Kalcheim, reader

CAROL #129

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

ES IST EIN ROS

THE SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Barbara Collins, reader

CAROL #113

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

THE SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16

Myles Crain, reader

*The shepherds go to the manger.***CAROL #119****“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”**

MENDELSSOHN

THE EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12

Janet Offensend, reader

*The star leads the Magi to Jesus.***ANTHEM****“This Endris Night”**

Sarah Quartel

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

ONE: We are not shepherds, bringing sheep; we are not magi, bringing precious treasures; nor are we a host of angels. Yet like all of them, we are amazed at the wonder of God-with-us: Emmanuel! Like them, we come to see and hear this wonder; Like them we offer tokens of our adoration to our God, come to earth.

ALL: Let us gather our gifts gratefully, and offer them,
through the Christ Child, to God’s loving purposes.

MUSICAL OFFERING “Jesus Christ the Apple Tree”

Elizabeth Poston

Tonight’s offering is given to the Christmas Fund of the United Church of Christ, for Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund. Our gifts will supplement the pensions of clergy and lay employees of small churches, and enable emergency grants.

*** CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

CRANHAM

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.**

THE NINTH LESSON: John 1:1-14*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.***PASTORAL PRAYER**

⌘ CAROL #122**“Silent Night, Holy Night”**

STILLE NACHT

1. Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
‘round yon virgin mother and child.
 Holy infant, so tender and mild,
 sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
 Glories stream from heaven afar,
 heav’lly hosts sing alleluia;
 Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light,
 radiant beams from thy holy face,
 with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
4. Silent night! Holy night! wondrous star, lend thy light;
 with the angels let us sing
 alleluias to our King;
 Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

⌘ BENEDICTION**⌘ SUNG RESPONSE #134****“Joy to the World”**

ANTIOCH

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
 let ev’ry heart prepare him room,
 and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and nature sing,
 and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let all their songs employ;
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
 the glories of his righteousness
 and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
 and wonders, wonders of his love!

Tonight's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Kathy Mera, Tricia Mera, Mona Strodtman,
Yangki Sherpa, Tenzing Sherpa,
Henrey Edelman

Deacons: Theresa Carroll, Lorna Edmundson,
Janet Kaufman, Deborah Moore

Handbell Choir Director Mary Davidson

Music Director: Dr. Samuel Lord Kalcheim

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

*Candle lighting litany adapted from the Rev. David McKane,
Royal York Road United Church, Toronto, Ont.*



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS HAVE BEEN GIVEN:

by Dorothy Stanfield
in memory of Ted Stanfield

by Tracy Kaufman
for all the prayers You answered that we asked for,
and those we didn't know how to ask for.

by David and Janet Offensend
dedicated to our parents, Asa & Rhoda, Dean & Mary Lou

by Susan Belcher
in memory of Dorothy Parker and Robert H. Parker

by Janet Accardo
in memory of Sal Accardo
and in memory of Alan Sorem

by Gordy Johnson
dedicated to Jeri and Patricia Johnson

by Deborah Moore
In loving memory of Florence Plunkett,
George Dugdale, Grace Haupt, and Edward Ritter

by Betty Dobrwado
dedicated to loved ones

by Lorna and Dan Edmundson
dedicated to our parents and grandparents
Rarick, Edmundson, Duphiney, and Vasilion

by Sarah and Tom Morrison
in loving remembrance of our families

by Angela Lomanto and Pastor John Nelson
in gratitude for family and friends



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 on this holy night of wonder.

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 this evening, a special welcome! Please sign our guest book in the entryway, or fill out a welcome card in the pew to be put on our email list. Assistive Listening Devices are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Kindly set cell phones to silent mode (unless you're expecting a call from the Angel Gabriel, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the magi, the innkeepers, or the stablehand.)



*The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST*

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