

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2 January 2022 • 10:00AM

Epiphany



We Gather as the Church

PRELUDE

“Pastorale”

Wesley

WELCOME

✠ **CAROL #147**

“The First Nowell”
Verses 1, 2, 3, 5

THE FIRST NOWELL

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: He came as a baby, to bring laughter to children:

**MANY: he came for kids home from college;
and for newborns at their mothers’ breasts.**

He was born in a stable, to bring hope to the poor:

**he came for those
who need more than they have;
and for those who could give away
more than they dare.**

He was worshiped by shepherds, and gifted by kings:

the Christ Child is born!

Let us follow the star to find him.

✠ **CAROL #151**

“We Three Kings”

KINGS OF ORIENT

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

ONE: The light has come, but we still seem to prefer the darkness of temptation and desire. Let us confess our sins to God, so the Light will fill every shadow of our lives.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In truth, God of Epiphany, we come to worship you, but our motives (like Herod's) are not pure. We want you to reward us because we are here, and not someplace else. We want you to gift us with health, with wealth, with answers to our questions. We want you to overlook our unfaithfulness, rather than shining the bright Light of the Christ Child on our lives.

Forgive us, Star Shaper, that we are not more like those wise ones of so long ago. In following a star, they found hope; in gifting a child, they received grace; in seeking your signs, they discovered life. Be with us, in mercy and hope, as we journey with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior, in this season of Light.

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Let your hearts rise with wonder and joy! God's grace has dawned in our hearts, Eternity's light shines in our souls.

The Light of the world shines in our lives, guiding us past all fear, gracing us with hope and joy. Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

KINGS OF ORIENT

**Glorious now, Creation arise!
Love has heard our anguished cries!
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the Earth and skies!
O star of wonder, star of light, star with holy beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

We Proclaim the Gospel in Word

✠ CAROL #145

“What Child Is This?”

GREENSLEEVES

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

New Testament, p. 2

We Respond in Prayer and Faith

PASTORAL PRAYER and the **LORD’S PRAYER** (*debts/debtors*)

Hymnal, p. 35

OFFERTORY

ONE: From the prophets and teachers of our faith we hear a life-changing story: God appears among us. God makes a home with humanity! What can we do, when God comes so near? We bring our own treasure; we sing our own joy; we offer our own wonder. Let us give, richly and boldly.

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

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

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

MUSICAL OFFERING “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

J.S. Bach

✠ **EPIPHANY BLESSING**

GREENSLEEVES

**Bring gifts of wonder, awe, and praise;
come join in jubilation;
The Holy Child, by love and grace,
has come with God’s salvation.**

**Raise, raise a song on high,
the mother sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
the babe, the child of Mary.**

✠ **UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We do not have frankincense or myrrh to offer, but we do give our tangible gifts — in hopes that the lives of the poor might be touched, that refugees like the Holy Family might be welcomed everywhere, and that those searching might find a community with us. In Jesus’ name, we pray: Amen.

✠ **HYMN #141**

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

PERSONENT HODIE

BENEDICTION and **SUNG AMEN**



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

The Board of Deacons: Theresa Carroll, Lorna Edmundson, John Estabrook, Janet Kaufman, Kathy Mera, Deborah Moore, Jennifer Oberto, Patricia Palmer

Ushers: Joanne Hayhurst and Joanne Taber.

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

Cantor: Jennifer Oberto

Faith Formation

Religious Education Coordinator:

Barbara Collins

Religious Education Asst: 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*

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 neighbors in Kansas, grieving and uprooted by tornadoes • Ourselves and others who long for joy in this season, while living in troubled times •

Survivors, families and friends of victims, and communities of the 684 mass shootings already carried out in 2021 • Families and friends of more than 5,418,257 beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease, including 821,251 in the US • 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 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 • For survivors of war, for neighbors in conflict zones, and for repentance from the use of deadly force.

Deborah Merwin and others in treatment for cancer — prayers for strength, healing, endurance for them, their families, friends, and caregivers.

Family & Friends who have passed away:

The Rev. Charlotte Penfield Gosselink

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, 2 JANUARY

9AM Zoom Sunday School
10AM Worship & Sunday School
11:30AM Church Council Meeting

MONDAY, 3 JANUARY

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

WEDNESDAY, 5 JANUARY

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

THURSDAY, 6 JANUARY

7PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 7 JANUARY

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