

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

*Tu Scendi Dalla Stelle,
Patapan, and
Rise Up Shepherd*

Arranged and performed
by Alyssa and Peter Reit

WELCOME

✠ HYMN #83

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

STUTT GART

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

THE ADVENT WREATH

“Up to Restoration”

Tierney & Thettayil family

“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Holy One!’”

(*Psalm 122:1*)

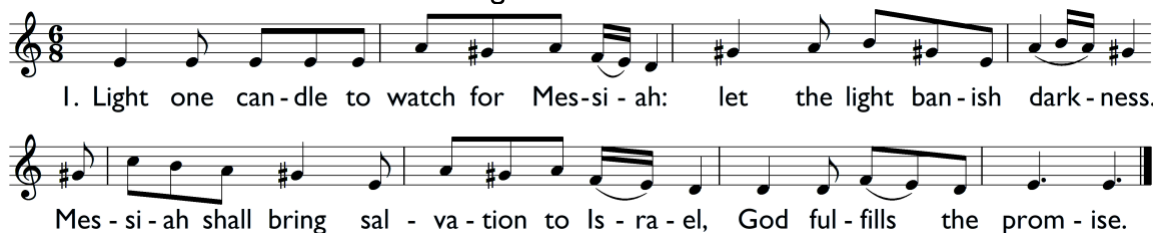
We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of extravagant welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the realm of goodness that is coming.

“Many peoples shall come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Holy One, to the house of the God of our ancestors; that God may teach us the ways of *shalom* and that we may walk in God’s paths’” (*Isaiah 2:3*).

We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored — our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored — as we watch and wait for God’s promises to be fulfilled.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Light the Candles”



I. Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si-ah: let the light ban-ish dark-ness.
Mes-si-ah shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

CALL TO CONFESSION

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 OF CONFESSION

**God of all our hopes, we confess before you
those places in our hearts where we have refused you entrance:
the people we have denied our love;
the habits we don't get around to changing;
the good things we have left undone;
the 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 and within us.**

(Silence is kept)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear this 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. Even as we wait for Emmanuel, we will rejoice and be glad!

RESPONSE IN SONG “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

STUTT GART

**By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

RESPONSIVE PSALTER Psalm 122

ONE: I rejoiced when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Most High!”

ALL: Our feet stood within your gates, O holy city,
The city built up for people to come together in unity.

To this city the tribes go up, the tribes of the Holy One,
As was decreed for the people,
To give thanks for the deeds and the intents of the Almighty.

For there the seats of justice were set up,
The thrones of those who would establish justice.

Pray that the peace that is promised by this city
Will prevail over the earth.

**May all who love you flourish,
O city of God’s justice and peace.**

Peace be within your walls,
And well-being in your citadels.

For the sake of my kin and my friends,
I pray for your well-being .

**For the sake of the presence of the Author of Life, our God,
I seek your good.**

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

Hymnal, p. 35

⊗ **HYMN #92**

“While We Are Waiting, Come”
All attending Church School may leave as we sing the hymn.

WAITING

OFFERTORY

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

Loriann Chevremont

*Each week, offerings not specifically designated for the Church (including any checks with “Light of Service” or “LOS” in the memo line) will be given to an organization doing compassionate work that is close to the heart of a participant in our church. This week, we share our gifts with **Foreverland Farm**.*

ONE: God has poured gifts into our lives; we now return our tithes and offerings.

**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

Esurientes, from Magnificat

John Rutter

accompanied by Alyssa and Peter Reit

*Esurientes implevit bonis,
et divites dimisit inanes.*

*Suscepit Israel puerum suum,
recordatus misericordiae suae —
sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini eius in saecula.*

You

*have filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich you have sent away empty.*

*You have helped Israel, your child,
remembering your mercy —*

*as you spoke to our ancestors,
Abraham and his descendants forever.*

✠ 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

**God of Advent, as we enter this time of waiting,
we pray for your gift of hope. We watch and listen, hushed in
anticipation of the coming of your light. We pray to reflect your
generosity and compassion as we share these gifts. Bless them, so
others can be blanketed with the warmth of your presence.
We ask in the name of Jesus, God-With-Us: Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 2:1-5
Matthew 24:36-44

Old Testament, p.773
New Testament, p. 33

SERMON

“Ready, Set, ”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✕ **HYMN #105**

“People, Look East”

BESANÇON

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme

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).

83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex-pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, alt.

STUTT GART
8.7.8.7
(alternate tune: HYFRYDOL, 82)

92 While We Are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;
2 With power and glo - ry, come;
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.
with power and glo - ry, come.
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.

105

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley


Peo - ple, look

a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.


JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

east and sing to - day:



Peo-ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
Love, the Bird, is on the way.
Love, the Star, is on the way.
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo-ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)



Today's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Sharon Tingley and Janet Kaufman
Reader: Sue Morrill • *Deacon:* Barbara Collins
Refreshments: the Kronholm-Clark family

Flowers have been placed in the Meeting House to the Glory of God by Janet Kaufman.

TODAY'S LIGHT OF SERVICE IS FOREVERLAND FARM, a non-profit animal sanctuary in Southern Ohio dedicated to providing a safe home for abandoned, abused, and discarded farm animals. The farm creates a kinder world by sharing the stories of survival and perseverance of each animal.

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2022 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission. **Prayer of Confession** reprinted by permission of the publishers from *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. © 1990 The Pilgrim Press.
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

Music Director: David Baranowski
Bell Choir Director: Mary Davidson
Cantor: Jennifer Oberto

Faith Formation

Sunday School Coordinator:
Holly Tierney
Sunday School Assistant:
Jennifer Kronholm-Clark

Holding the Parts Together

Administrative Assistant: Loriann Chevremont
Sexton: Richard Tietjen
Bookkeeper: Alex Bercy

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 additions:

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries:
Nishan and Maria Bakalian, Global Ministries
Mission Co-workers who serve with the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, headquartered in Lebanon, and for the people of that country dealing with the deadly effects of financial collapse.

Continuing concerns:

Survivors of the mass shooting in Colorado Springs, first responders and caregivers, those who are bereaved, those who are traumatized by yet another act of senseless gun violence

- John Lomanto, recovering from surgery
- Margaret Haubrich, in memory care
- The people of Ukraine and all striving to end war
- All those serving or living in war or conflict zones around the world.

For those in treatment for cancer — John Lomanto, Jenny, Frank Swaye, David Douyea, MingMing, Deborah Merwin, Keith Blanton and others — prayers for healing and strength.

Family & Friends

who have passed away

Marian Ferguson • Leslie Tapscott • families and friends of more than 40,530 beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last four weeks, including 9,081 in the US

We thank God for the gift of life, and pray for the Spirit's strong presence with family and friends who grieve.

Thanksgiving

The Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer, called as Pastor and Teacher of First Congregational Church of Bethel (CT) UCC.

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, 27 NOVEMBER

10AM Worship
*followed by fellowship & refreshments
in the Parish Hall*

MONDAY, 28 NOVEMBER

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER

5:15PM Hand Bell Choir

WEDNESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER

11AM Chapel service, Noble Horizons
12:30PM Staff Meeting
4PM Women's Bible Study
5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER

4PM Strategic Visioning Team

FRIDAY, 2 DECEMBER

8:45AM Men's Bible Study
NOON Meeting House Music & Meditation

SATURDAY, 3 DECEMBER

4PM Salisbury Association Holiday
Concert



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: 8:30am – 1:30pm, Monday-Friday