

The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

“Pastoral Symphony” from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel

WELCOME

✠ **HYMN** (p. 6)

“Tell Out, My Soul”

WOODLANDS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

THE ADVENT WREATH “The Highway of the Holy One” Edmundson Family

READER ONE: “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus.... A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.... And the ransomed of the HOLY ONE shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.” (Isaiah 35:1-2, 8, 10).

READER TWO: *The prophet calls us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace of life itself, surrounded by those who love us utterly. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.*

READER ONE: With the Psalmist we say, “Happy are these whose help is the God of our ancestors: who made heaven and earth; who keeps faith; who executes justice, gives food, sets prisoners free, opens eyes, lifts up, watches over. The HOLY ONE will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise God!” (Psalm 146)

READER TWO: *We light these candles — the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep joy — because we trust in the promise, and it is a wonder. We are ascending to God’s shalom.*

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Light the Candles”

TIF IN VEDELE



1. Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark-ness.
2. Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark-ness.
3. Light three can-dles 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.
Mes - si - ah shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift up your heads and lift high the gate - way for the ruler of glo - ry.

*TEXT: Wayne L. Wold, 1984, adapt. MUSIC: Yiddish folk song, arr. Wayne L. Wold, 1984.
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CALL TO RECONCILIATION

ONE: There is no need to wait in long lines. God is always willing to listen to our hearts as well as our voices, as we admit the limits of our caring and our sharing.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**This season is filled with tender holiness, God of Christmas,
yet the din of sales pitches causes us to raise our defenses.
We enjoy lovely decorations on the houses —
but we have missed seeing, inside, the loneliness of the widower,
the strained faces of those who fear the future.
We sort through gifts and cards to find one that speaks of delight —
and lose track of the miracle, that you came so long ago to offer
justice and joy to those who have none.
Be patient with us, God of our hearts, as we struggle and strive
to lend our voices to the voiceless,
to walk with those who have lost their way,
to let go of our certainty of what really happened so long ago,
and sing of the hope that really can bring reconciliation,
of the peace that really can give hope,
of the joy that really came to us that night in Bethlehem,
in the birth of Jesus, our Brother, our Savior.**

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Be not afraid, but believe! Our God is here, opening our eyes to welcome the joy that is ours, approaching us in this season of Advent.

We join our voices in rejoicing in God who is our Savior. The One who calls us blessed, is the God who forgives us. Amen.

RESPONSIVE CANTICLE

Luke 1:47-55

One: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for God has looked with favor on the
lowliness of this servant.

**Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is the Divine name.**

Holy mercy is for those who fear God
from generation to generation.

**God has shown strength with an Almighty arm;
has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

**God has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.**

God has helped the servant people Israel,
in remembrance of divine mercy,

**according to the holy promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and Sarah
and to their descendants forever.”**

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

Hymnal, p. 35

⌘ HYMN #98

“To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary”
All attending Church School may leave as we sing the hymn.

ANNUNCIATION

98 To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

Capo 3: (Em) (B7) (Em) (Am) (B) (Em)
 Gm D7 Gm Cm D Gm

1 To a maid whose name was Mar - y, the an - gel Ga - briel came.
 2 "For you are high - ly fa - vored by God the Lord of all,
 3 But Mar - y was most trou - bled to hear the an - gel's word.
 4 "Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
 5 "How shall this be?" said Mar - y, "I am not yet a wife."
 6 As Mar - y heard the an - gel, she won - dered at his words.

(Em) (B7) (Em) (G) (D) (G)
 Gm D7 Gm B^b F B^b

"Fear not," the an - gel told her, "I come to bring good news;
 who e - ven now is with you. You are on earth most blest;
 What was the an - gel say - ing? It trou - bled her to hear,
 His name shall be called Je - sus, God's off - spring from on high.
 The an - gel an - swered quick - ly, "The power of the Most High
 "Be - hold, I am your hand - maid," she said un - to her God.

(Em) (Am) (B) (Em) (Am) (B) (Em)
 Gm Cm D Gm Cm D Gm

good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."
 you are most blest, most bless - ed; God chose you, you are blest!"
 to hear the an - gel's mes - sage, it trou - bled her to hear.
 And he shall reign for - ev - er, for - ev - er reign on high."
 will come up - on you short - ly, your child shall be God's child."
 "So be it; I am read - y ac - cord - ing to your word."

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This 20th-century ballad-like retelling of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38) displays many characteristics of a folksong style, especially repetition in both text and tune and short quotations included in the narrative. Such features help to make a song both memorable and singable.

**Who mourn in mortal exile here
Until the Light of Life appear.**

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come again, and with us ever dwell.

- 2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the paths of knowledge show,
And cause us in thy ways to go. Refrain**
- 3. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy shades of night,
Break through the clouds and bring us light. Refrain**
- 4. O come, Desire of nations, bind
All people in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with perfect peace. Refrain**

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE



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).

"Tell Out, My Soul"



1. Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of our God!
2. Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of God's name!
3. Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of God's might!
4. Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of God's word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spir - it
Make known God's might, who won - drous deeds has
Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry
Firm is the prom - ise, and God's mer - cy



voice; ten - der to me the prom - ise of the Word;
done; God's mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
by; proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
sure. Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of our God



in God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - jice.
God's ho - ly name: Al - migh - ty, Gra - cious One.
the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
to chil - dren's chil - dren and for - ev - er - more!

Today's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Joanne Taber, Kevin Wolgemuth
Reader: Patricia Palmer • *Deacon:* Sue Morrill
Fellowship hosts: Ron and Sarah Collins

Flowers have been placed in the Meeting House
to the glory of God, by Ron and Sarah Collins.

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2022
(lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission.

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
Stewardship & Database Mgr: Kelly Rybczyk

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:
Alex Maldonado-Lizardi and Xiomara Cintron-
Garcia, Global Ministries Mission Co-workers
serving with Justapaz in Colombia.

Continuing concerns:

Ben Salamone, recovering from surgery • 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 — Jenny, Frank Swaye, David Douyea, MingMing, Deborah Merwin, Keith Blanton and others — prayers for healing and strength.

Family & Friends who have passed away

Barbara Baranowski • Marian Ferguson • families and friends of more than 39,450 beloveds who

have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last four weeks, including 9,006 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, 11 DECEMBER

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

MONDAY, 12 DECEMBER

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER

7PM Handbell Choir concert at
Geer Village

WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER

12:30PM Staff Meeting
4PM Women's Bible Study
5:30PM Choir Rehearsal
6PM Board of Deacons meeting

THURSDAY, 15 DECEMBER

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

FRIDAY, 16 DECEMBER

8:45AM Men's Bible Study
3-5PM Souper Suppers pick up



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