

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Pieds en L'Air

Peter Warlock

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #104**

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

THE ADVENT WREATH

“Give You a Sign”

The Visioning Team

CHARLIE: “God will give you a sign,” said the prophet Isaiah: “Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

JANET: God wants us to know, especially when we aren't sure ourselves. God wants us to experience the presence of grace, even when we think we can handle life on our own.

God sends us signs of holy presence with us, calling us to keep our eyes open and look.

BOB: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, ‘God is with us.’” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of God commanded him; he took Mary as his wife, and when she had borne a son, named him Jesus (Matthew 1:23-25).

EMILY: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy — and today, of presence that declares love — as a sign that in every circumstance, we know that God abides with us.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Light the Candles”



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.
4. Light four 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.
Mes - si - ah is com - ing; tell the glad ti - dings. Let your lights be shin - ing.

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

ONE: How easily we lose our way on the road to Bethlehem! How quick we are to miss — or dismiss — the dreams and hopes our God has for us in this holy season. Let us approach the One who approaches us, ready to swaddle us in forgiveness and grace, as we pray together, saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Come now, Reconciler of the nations:

for our world, our lives, need your peace more than ever before.

Come, Caller to discipleship:

for we aspire to follow, in spite of our fears and fatigue.

Come, Word-Gifter:

for we hunger to hear your voice once again, ever, always.

Come, Silence of our nights and Holiness of our hearts, and forgive us

for turning your compassion into commercials,

your joy into jingles, your hope into hollow words,

your love into longing for the short-lasting offerings of the world.

**May we find our way to the One born simply, born gracefully, for us –
Jesus, the Child of wonder, love’s own self.**

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: We may not notice them there, at the back of the pile of presents, but there they are!: God's love and light, the true gifts we receive each and every moment.

ALL: We give thanks to our gracious God, who has forgiven us and blessed us. Amen!

RESPONSE IN SONG

**You come, O God, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.**

**To each who seeks renewal, with grace you all forgive:
With love restoring wholeness; by love to newly live.**

RESPONSIVE PSALTER Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

ONE: Give ear, O Shepherd of the people,

ALL: You who lead the divided people like a single flock!

You who are enthroned above all creation,

**Shine forth,
Before the scattered tribes.**

Awaken Your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God, to Your goodwill;

Let Your face shine upon us,

That we may live.

O Holy One, God Almighty,

How long will You fume

Against Your people's prayers?

**You have fed them with the bread of sorrow,
And given them bitter tears to drink.**

You make us a source of discord to our neighbors;

Our enemies deride us.

Restore us, O God Almighty;

Let Your face shine upon us,

That we may live.

Let Your hand rest upon the one at Your side,

The one You nurtured for Yourself.

We will never turn back from You;

Revive us that we may continue to appeal to You,
in Your constancy.

Restore us, O God Almighty;

Let Your face shine upon us,
That we may live.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

⌘ **HYMN #108**

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

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

OFFERTORY

ONE: When the nights grow long, God comes to us in light. When the world goes reckless, God sends prophets and angels with messages of promise. When the times seem stripped of love, God sends the greatest power we have ever known: an infant, born under a holy star. All that we give, we give to God-with-us: Emmanuel.

**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.

ANTHEM

“Et Misericordia” from *Magnificat*

John Rutter

⌘ **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**

O Resident of all the insignificant places of our world, may our gifts be joined with those of our sisters and brothers to offer grace to the lonely, to bring hope to those who despair, and to plant peace in the fields of war and weariness. This we pray in the name of Jesus: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 7:10-16
Matthew 1:18-25

Old Testament p. 778
New Testament p. 1-2

SERMON

“Deep and High”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✕ **HYMN #107**

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

REJOICE, REJOICE

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Arr. Keith Chapman



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: Becky Belcher, Sarah Morrison
Reader: Patricia Palmer • *Deacon:* Sue Morrill

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: for Fiona Kendall, Global Ministries Mission Co-worker, who serves with Mediterranean Hope, the refugee and migrant program of the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI).

Judi Moore, recovering from fall.

Continuing concerns:

Ben Salamone, recovering from surgery • Margaret Haubrich, in memory care • all affected by gun violence, especially survivors, those tending to the traumatized, and those advocating for safety • The people of Ukraine and all striving to end war • All who serve or live in war or in 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

Jake Hescocock • Barbara Baranowski •
Marian Ferguson • families and friends of more

than 41,705 beloveds who have died due to Covid-19 disease in the last four weeks, including 9,607 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.

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, 18 DECEMBER

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

11:15AM Christmas Pageant
3PM Christmas Concert

MONDAY, 19 DECEMBER

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 20 DECEMBER

5:15PM Hand Bell Choir

WEDNESDAY, 21 DECEMBER

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

THURSDAY, 22 DECEMBER

7PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 23 DECEMBER

8:45AM Men's Bible Study

SATURDAY, 24 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30pm Handbell Choir Prelude
6pm Service of Lessons and Carols



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-Thursday

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.



Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

Of the Father's Love Begotten 108



1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan
2 By his Word was all cre - at - ed; he com-mand-ed; it
3 O, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the Vir - gin, full
4 This is he whom seers in old time chant-ed of with one
5 O ye heights of heaven, a - dore him. An - gel hosts, his prais -
6 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost,



to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga; he the
was done: heaven and earth and depths of o - cean, u - ni -
of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the
ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets prom-ised
es sing. Pow-ers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex -
to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing and un -



source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
verse of three in one, all that sees the moon's soft
Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's Re -
in their faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -
tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
wea - ried prais - es be. Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
shin - ing, all that breathes be - neath the sun,
deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
pect - ed. Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord,
si - lent; ev - ery voice in con - cert ring,
min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,



ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Seldom has the wonder of the Incarnation been expressed so beautifully as in this text, created in the era when the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds were being codified and mindful of similar theological affirmations. It is set here to a plainchant melody from the late Middle Ages.

107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heav - en - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14/Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5-6, Isaiah 2:4.

*The Congregational Church of Salisbury,
United Church of Christ, presents
2022 Christmas Concert*

Magnificat

Sunday, 18 December ~ 3:00PM



**Music for Choir,
Chamber Orchestra,
and Handbell Choir**



**David Baranowski,
Music Director**

**Mary Davidson,
Handbell Choir director**

