

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Christmas Eve



Saturday, December 24th, 2022

Bell Choir prelude • 5:30PM

Service of Lessons and Carols • 6:00PM

BELL CHOIR PRELUDE

ORGAN PRELUDE

Holy Boy

John Ireland

WELCOME

CAROL #140

“Once in Royal David’s City”

IRBY

Verses 1 & 2, solo and choir

Verses 3 & 4 sung by all

THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

READER: We have heard the call to keep watch. Maybe we’re watching for something that will define us, something that will remake us, transform us. Some relationship, some hope, some love that will make us new. Maybe we’re watching for the gift we remember this night.

We watch to see whether we can make room — room for hope, for peace, for joy, for love — especially when we’re inclined to think there is no more room. We watch for the One who teaches us to open wide our hearts, and keep them open.

We kindle the candles of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, of presence that declares love: the light that guides all our watching.

We add the candle at the heart of them all — the Christ candle — as once more we prepare to hear the story that causes earth and heaven itself to sing.



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.
5. Light all can - dles to wel - come Mes - si - ah: the babe has ban - ished all 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.
Je - sus is born! Christ - love lives a - mong us! Sing your joy for - ev - er!

BIDDING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*depts*)

Hymnal, p. 35

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

Brynn and Blair Barbato, *readers*

God declares comfort and renewal through the prophet Isaiah.

CAROL #133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

Verses 1, 2, 3

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

Ron Collins, *reader*

The prophet foretells the coming of the Messiah.

ANTHEM

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

THE THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-9

George Faison, *reader*

Isaiah prophesies the Messiah's peaceable kingdom.

CAROL #123

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

CAROL

Verses 1, 2, 4, 5

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

Barbara Wiggins, *reader*

The Angel Gabriel salutes Mary.

CAROL #129

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

ES IST EIN ROS

THE FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:39-45

David Baranowski, *reader*

Mary visits Elizabeth, whose child leaps for joy.

ANTHEM

“Esurientes” from *Magnificat*

John Rutter

THE SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7

Gordon Johnson, *reader*

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

CAROL #113

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

THE SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16

Becky Belcher, *reader*

The shepherds go to the manger.

CAROL #119

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

THE EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12

Gene Chin, *reader*

The star leads the Magi to Jesus.

CAROL #151

“We Three Kings”

KINGS OF ORIENT

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

Peace, Peace

Rick and Sylvia Powell
arr. Fred Bock

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

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

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’nly 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.

✘ **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: Sharon Tingley, Deborah Moore,
Becky Belcher, Joanne Taber

Deacon: Sue Morrill

Handbell Choir: Betsy Beck, Larry Burcroff, Eric Chin,
Matthew Chin, Heather Davidson, Jo Loi,
Karin Noyes, Jennifer Oberto, Steve Ohlinger,
Lynn Reifsnnyder, Rich Reifsnnyder, Sue Spring,
Gordon Whitbeck, Jennifer Weigel
• Mary Davidson, *director*

Choir: *Soloist* Vincent Baranowski

Sopranos Louise Brown, Mary Davidson,
Emily Elliot, Peg Heck, Susan Mieras,
Jennifer Oberto, Terre Lefferts

Altos Pat Barton, Betsy Beck, Peggy Hayes,
Jennifer Weigel, Barbara Wiggins

Tenors Lee Collins, Charles Noyes, John Nelson

Basses Malcolm Brown, John Estabrook,
David Heck, Doug Roorbach

Music Director: David Baranowski

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

Cover image: Edward B. Webster, "The Nativity" (1956), Smithsonian American Art Museum

Once in Royal David's City 140

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

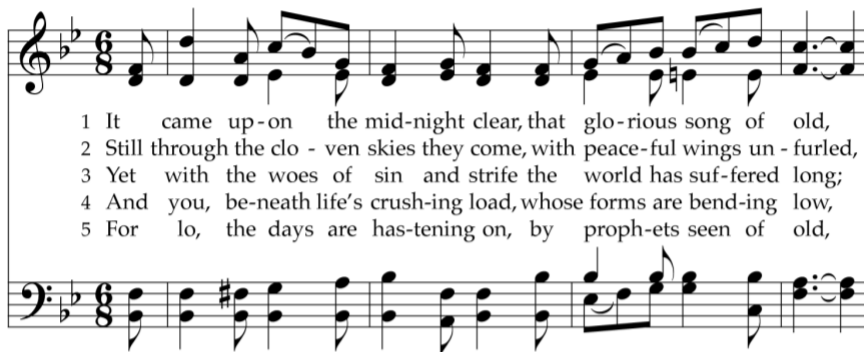
Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

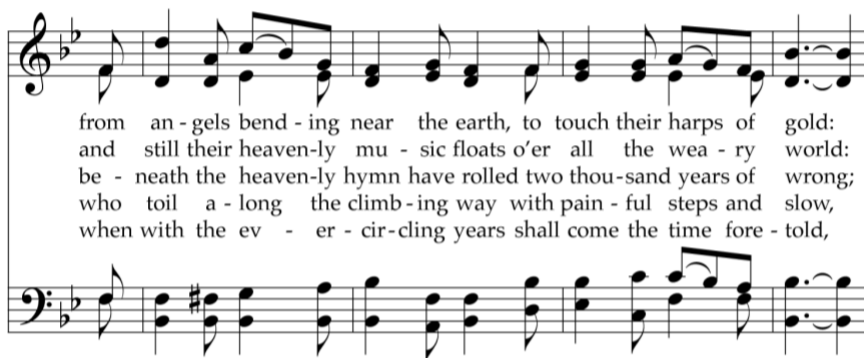
us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

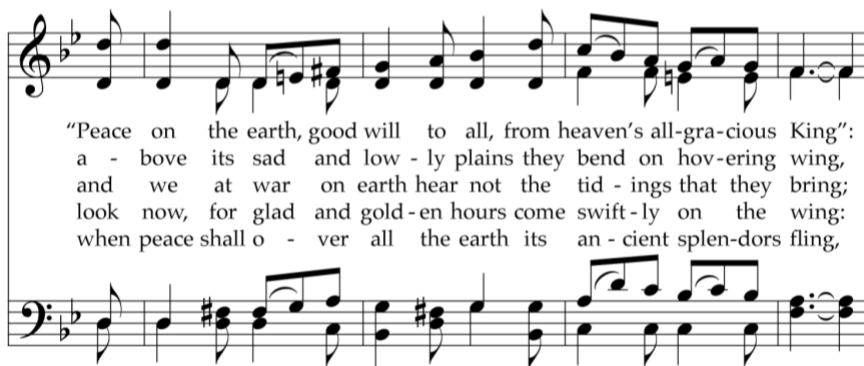
123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;
4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;
who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gra-cious King”:
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;
look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing:
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

The “it” of the first line of this text by a Unitarian minister does not refer to the birth of Jesus, but to “that glorious song of old,” the angelic tidings of peace on earth. The restored third stanza laments how often the noise of human strife has obscured that message.

the world in sol - emn still - ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!
 O, rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 129

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
 3 This flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung.
 with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where.

It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right she bore for us a
 En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he

win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

Although the early copies of this 15th-century German text include many more stanzas than are printed here, this simpler, shorter form has much to commend it. This early 17th-century harmonization of the traditional chorale melody invites and rewards singing in parts.

TEXT: German carol; stanzas 1, 2 trans. Theodore Baker, 1894, alt.; stanza 3 trans. Harriet Knuth Spaeth, 1985, alt. ES IST EIN' ROS'
 MUSIC: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609 7.6.7.6.6.7.6

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
 MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

MENDELSSOHN
 7.7.7.D with refrain

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1-12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS HAVE BEEN GIVEN:

by Sarah and Tom Morrison in memory of our families

by Sherrell Andrews and Rob Kuhbach in memory of Muriel and Gerdes Kuhbach
in memory of Mary, Wilton, and Bill Andrews

by Lorna and Dan Edmundson in memory of Roberta Edmundson Rose

by Mimi and Duane Estes in memory of Suzi McIntosh and Bang Williams

by Louise and Malcolm Brown in memory of Nathaniel Eliot Brown

by Elizabeth Dobrwado in memory of loved ones

by Jano Fairservis in memory of Walter Fairservis

by Janet Accardo in memory of Sal Accardo and Alan Sorem

by Pat and Bob Palmer in memory of our parents

by Jennifer Weigel and Gene Chin in memory of
Gail Weigel, Meelan Chin, and Wah G. Chin

by Janet and David Offensend in memory of Asa and Rhoda Offensend,
& Dean and Mary Lou Mawdsley

by Peggy Hayes in memory of Richard R. Hayes

by the Ferguson family in memory of Marian Ferguson

by Mary Davidson in memory of Graham Davidson

by the Handbell Choir in gratitude for Jennifer Weigel's long and
faithful ringing!

by Doug Roorbach in gratitude for Madeline and Olivia Roorbach
in gratitude for Anne Granfield

by Kerry Noble in gratitude for Mabel and Robert Noble

by Karin and Charlie Noyes in gratitude for our extended Von Berg family

in gratitude for our extended Noyes family

by Pastor John Nelson in gratitude for the lay leaders and staff of
Salisbury UCC



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 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 mobile 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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