

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



CAROL SING

GREETING

⌘ **CAROL #132** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”
(⌘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

IN DULCI JUBILO

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of creation, shaper of seas and stars, of planets and of people:

All: God is here with us.

God, born in Bethlehem, gurgling, crying, laid in a manger:

God is here among us.

God, breath of the universe, flickering, dancing in the candle flame:

God is here within us.

God, Emmanuel, with us, among us, within us:

**We bring ourselves and our dreams,
to delight in your presence and sing for joy!**

⌘ **CAROL #143** “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

CENTERING SILENCE

Let there be a quiet time among us.

(Silence)

Come apart from the busyness of holiday-making,
of family-connecting, of gift-exchanging,
and dwell in the present-ness of God
who is the source of light, of life, of our being.

(Silence)

May the silence which we now share
quieten us,
touch our need,
refresh our courage,
enlarge our wonder.

(Silence)



GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:8-20

New Testament, p. 71

✘ **CAROL #128**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

OFFERTORY

A wise mystic said, “We are all meant to be mothers of God. For God is always needing to be born.” Let’s prepare ourselves to become a welcoming home for God’s newborn self, as we give generously to God’s work in our world.

**Let us gather our gifts with grateful praise,
and offer them to the Christ Child.**

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

✘ **CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

GREENSLEEVES

**Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, join in jubilation;**

**The Holy child, though meek and mild,
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 Son of Mary!**

✘ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

May the God of Christmas fill your hearts with all joy and wonder in believing!

Amen!

May the blessing of the manger, God's creation all around;

the blessing of the shepherds, God's people with feet on the ground;

the blessing of the angels, good news for all, and peace for everyone;

the blessing of the holy family, which is the whole human family,

be with you and all that you give, to carry wonder and joy to this world.

Amen!

A CHRISTMAS STORY

“San Froilán of the Wilderness”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

CAROL #127

“Jesus, the Light of the World”

WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

✘ **SUNG BENEDICTION**

GLORIA

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

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).

Today's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Kevin Wolgemuth, Janet Kaufman • *Deacon / Reader:* 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



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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email: welcome@salisburyucc.org • *web:* salisburyucc.org

Office Hours: 8:30am – 1:30pm, Monday-Friday

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
 you have seen his na - tal star: come and wor - ship,
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."

128 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep-ing; shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the gos-pel true.

Swift are wing-ing an-gels sing-ing, no - els ring-ing, ti-dings bring-ing;
Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor - row, prais-es voic-ing greet the mor-row:

Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

The English text of this 13th- or 14th-century Polish carol does not try to tell a story but to offer verbal snapshots of the well-known Nativity narrative of Luke 2:6–20. The tune name quotes the opening of the Polish text and means “He lies in a cradle” or “In manger lying.”

127 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Jesus, the Light of the World

With a gospel feel

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing.
2 Joy - ful all you na - tions, rise. Je - sus, the
3 Christ by high - est heaven a - dored;
4 Hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

light of the world. Glo - ry to the
Join the tri - umph
Christ, the ev - er -
Hail, the Sun of

new - born King,
of the skies. Je - sus, the light of the world.
last - ing Lord;
righ - teous - ness!

This blues-tinged setting of a familiar Christmas carol participates in a longstanding African American practice of adapting Anglo-European texts, as is done here by incorporating a repeated internal line and by appending a refrain that expands that line's language and imagery.

Refrain

We'll walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light.

Come where the dew - drops of mer - cy shine bright.

O, shine all a - round us by day and by

night. Je - sus, the light of the world.