

*The Congregational Church of Salisbury*

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

# **Christmas Eve**



**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Hand Bell Choir prelude • 5:30PM**

**Service of Lessons and Carols • 6:00PM**

## HAND BELL CHOIR PRELUDE

<i>Joy to the World</i>	18 <sup>th</sup> century carol, arr. Valerie W. Stephenson
<i>Ding Dong Merrily on High</i>	16 <sup>th</sup> c. French carol, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
<i>Rise Up Shepherds, and Follow!</i>	19 <sup>th</sup> c. spiritual, arr. John A. Behnke
<i>Still, Still, Still</i>	19 <sup>th</sup> c. Austrian carol, arr. Cathy Moglebust
<i>Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day</i>	16 <sup>th</sup> c. English carol, arr. John A. Behnke
<i>Lullaby Carol</i>	arr. Barbara Baltzer Kinyon
<i>We Three Kings</i>	by John H. Hopkins, Jr. (1857), arr. C. Dobrinski
<i>God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen</i>	Traditional English carol, arr. Valerie W. Stephenson

## INTROIT

“Come Unto Him” from *Messiah* G.F. Handel  
Jennifer Marshall Baranowski, *soloist*

## WELCOME

### CAROL #140

“Once in Royal David’s City” IRBY  
Vincent Baranowski, *soloist*  
Verses 1 & 2, solo and choir • **Verses 3 & 4 sung by all**

## THE ADVENT WREATH:

The Ramcharran Family

## CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE, AND THE CHRIST

READER: To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love — and we find these things in a child: God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the accomplishment of our salvation, who dwells with us even in this moment, our Emmanuel: God with us.

**ALL: We live as people in the in-between, celebrating the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God’s realm.**

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in light and in darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen.

## RESPONSE IN SONG

### “Kindle a Flame”

Musical score for the song "Kindle a Flame". The score is written for a treble and bass clef in 3/2 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Kin-dle a flame to light - en the dark and take all fear a - way." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on a whole note chord.

TEXT: The Iona Community 1987

MUSIC: The Iona Community 1987

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## BIDDING PRAYER

### THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts)

*Hymnal, p. 35*

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

*Peggy Hayes, reader*

*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

*Myles Crain, reader*

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Messiah.*

### CAROL #123

### “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

CAROL

Verses 1, 2, 4, 5

### THE THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-9

*Samuel Lord Kalcheim, reader*

*Isaiah prophesies the Messiah’s peaceable kingdom.*

**ANTHEM**

*The Friendly Beasts*

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

Emily Elliot, *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**

*Behold a Star from Jacob Shining*

F. Mendelssohn

Behold a star from Jacob shining,  
And a scepter from Israel rising,  
To reign in glory over the nations.

Like some bright morning star is he,  
The promise of the coming day,  
Beyond the night of sorrow.

Break forth, O Light!  
We, our joyful hearts uplifting with thanksgiving,  
Hail the brightness of Thy rising.

**THE SIXTH LESSON:** Luke 2:1-7

Theresa Carroll, *reader*

*Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

**CAROL #117**

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

WINCHESTER OLD

**THE SEVENTH LESSON:** Luke 2:8-20

Kevin Wolgemuth, *reader*

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

**CAROL #119**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

**THE EIGHTH LESSON:** Matthew 2:1-12

Lorna Edmundson, *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.**

*Tonight's offering is given to  
the **Salisbury Housing Trust** and the **Salisbury Housing Committee**:  
two efforts in our community to make "more room at the inn":  
accessible and affordable housing for all.*

### ANTHEM

*Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day*

John Gardner

- 1 Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: *Refrain:*  
I would my true love did so chance *Sing, O my love,*  
To see the legend of my play, *O my love, my love, my love;*  
To call my true love to my dance: *This have I done for my true love.*
- 2 Then was I born of a virgin pure, 3 In a manger laid and wrapped I was,  
Of her I took fleshly substance; So very poor, this was my chance,  
Thus was I knit to man's nature, Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,  
To call my true love to my dance: *[Refrain]* To call my true love to my dance: *[Refrain]*
- 4 Then afterwards baptized I was;  
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
My Father's voice heard from above,  
To call my true love to my dance: *[Refrain]*

### SUNG BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

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.
3. 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!

# 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

# 117 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all  
 2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had  
 3 "To you, in Da - vid's town this day, is  
 4 "The heaven - ly babe you there shall find to

seat - ed on the ground, the an - gel of the  
 seized their trou - bled mind: "Glad ti - dings of great  
 born of Da - vid's line the Sav - ior, who is  
 hu - man view dis - played, all hum - bly wrapped in

Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.  
 joy I bring to you and hu - man - kind.  
 Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:  
 swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid."

- 5 Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith  
 appeared a shining throng  
 of angels praising God, who thus  
 addressed their joyful song:
- 6 "All glory be to God on high,  
 and to the earth be peace;  
 good will to all from highest heaven  
 begin and never cease!"

This was one of the first metrical texts to deal with a New Testament narrative rather than paraphrase one of the Psalms. It is set here to a psalm tune that is more than a century older than the words, though the two were not firmly joined until the mid-19th century.

# 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.

The image shows a musical score for the carol "Hark! The herald angels sing." It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

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  
7.7.7.7.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 - row - ing, 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.

# Tonight's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Janet Kaufman, Joanne Taber,  
Sharon Tingley, Kevin Wolgemuth

Deacons: John Estabrook, Don Mayland

Hand Bell Choir: Patricia Barton, Betsy Beck, Larry Burcroff, Heather Davidson,  
Jo Loi, Karin Noyes, Steve Ohlinger, Lynn Reifsnnyder,  
Rich Reifsnnyder, Stephanie Tierney, Gordon Whitbeck  
Mary Davidson, *Hand Bell Choir Director*

Choir: *Soloist* Vincent Baranowski

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

*Altos* Pat Barton, Betsy Beck, Barbara Wiggins

*Tenors* Lee Collins, Charles Noyes, Pastor John Nelson

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

*Friendly Beasts* Vincent Baranowski, Emily Elliot, Karin Noyes,  
musicians Charlie Noyes, Lainey Salamone Rosier, Mari Thettayil •  
Betsy Beck (*guitar*), Stephanie Tierney (*flute*)

Guest musicians Liz Handman, *Violin* • Samuel Lord Kalcheim, *Violin* •  
Charlie Kanne, *Viola* • Chris Santos, *Cello*

Music Director: David Baranowski

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

*Cover image: Gwen Raverat, "The Nativity" (woodcut, 1916)*



## 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

*Meeting in Grace • Transformed by Love • Serving with Joy*

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