# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# **Christmas Eve**



Sunday, December 24th, 2023

**Hand Bell Choir prelude • 5:30PM** 

Service of Lessons and Carols • 6:00PM

#### HAND BELL CHOIR PRELUDE

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

odd Nest Te Merry, dentiemen - Traditional English Carol, art. Valene VV. Stephenso

INTROIT "Come Unto Him" from Messiah

Jennifer Marshall Baranowski, soloist

#### WELCOME

CAROL #140 "Once in Royal David's City"

Vincent Baranowski, soloist

Verses I & 2, solo and choir • Verses 3 & 4 sung by all

## THE ADVENT WREATH: CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE, AND THE CHRIST

The Ramcharran Family

G.F. Handel

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)

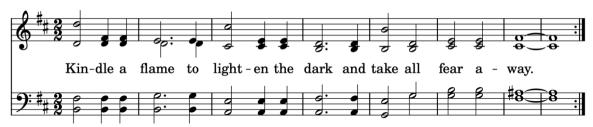
Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love — and we find these things in a child: God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the accomplishment of our salvation, who dwells with us even in this moment, our Emmanuel: God with us.

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.



"Kindle a Flame"



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

I Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance

To see the legend of my play,

To call my true love to my dance:

2 Then was I born of a virgin pure, Of her I took fleshly substance; Thus was I knit to man's nature,

To call my true love to my dance: [Refrain]

Refrain: Sing, O my love,

O my love, my love, my love; This have I done for my true love.

In a manger laid and wrapped I was, So very poor, this was my chance, Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,

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** 

John Gardner

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.)

- I. Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round you virgin mother and child.

  Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- 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

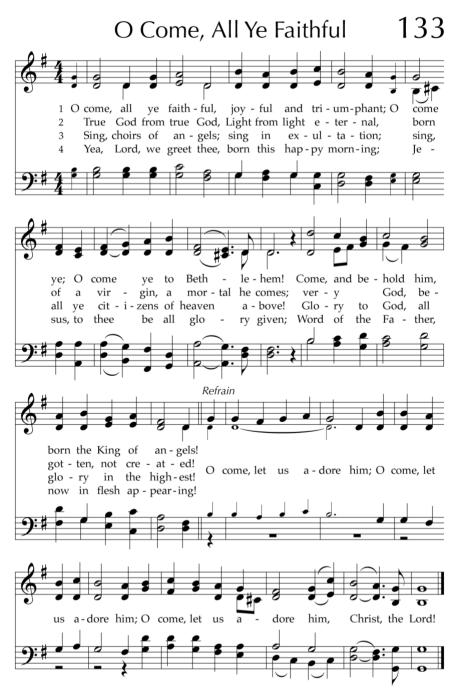
"Joy to the World"

**ANTIOCH** 

- I. 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 of his love!

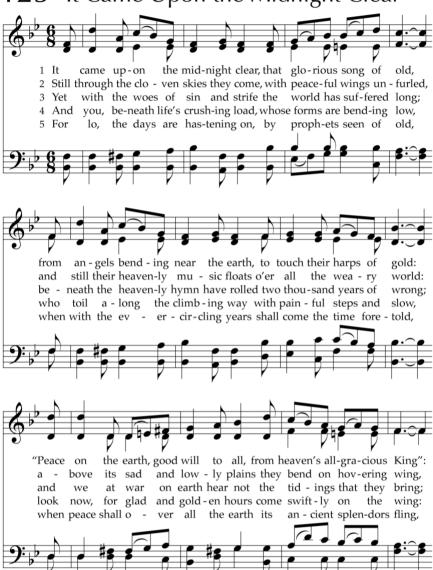


Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

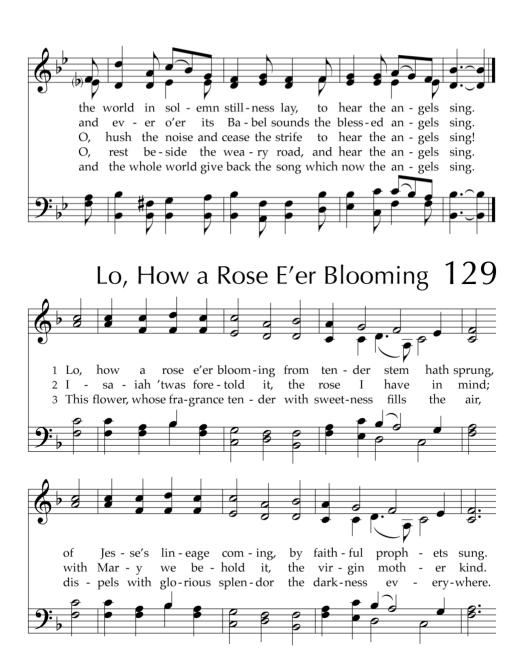


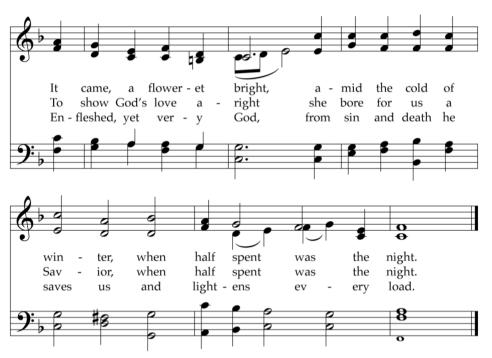
From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

## 123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



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.





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.

MUSIC: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609

ES IST EIN' ROS'
7.6.7.6.6.7.6

### 117 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks



- 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





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



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 Reifsnyder, Rich Reifsnyder, 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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Office Hours: 8:30am – 1:30pm, Monday-Thursday