

The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

⌘ **HYMN #107** “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”
(⌘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

REJOICE, REJOICE

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

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

READER 1: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God’s plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, *Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”* (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth, *My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in my Savior, for God has been mindful of the humble state of this servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me — holy is God’s name.* (Luke 1:46-49)

READER 2: We, like Mary, hear God’s call to be part of making God’s dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, “How can this be? I am only...” Yet, like Mary, the “onlys” that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God’s love transforms us into bearers of good news.

ALL: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life. We wait in resolute, joyful confidence of the peace and wonder that flow from the flourishing of all people.

READER 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May such Love grow within, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE #752

“Dona Nobis Pacem”

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

One: If we are to welcome the Child into our hearts, we must speak of all the ways we have hardened ourselves against the good news he brings. Let us confess our sins, as we pray together, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How can this be, Holy One of Advent?

**We tend to put the powerful on pedestals,
but you send the lowly to remind us
of our call to be servants.**

**We stock our pantries for family and guests,
but you send our friends to our door,
collecting for those who hunger and thirst for hope.**

**We would listen to seasonal sounds of sales,
but you send the angels to carol to us of promises made to all
which cannot be purchased, but only received.**

Forgive us, Hope of the world.

**As we watch for your coming,
may we see also the need around us;
as we prepare to celebrate your birth,
may we live hearts open to our neighbors;
as we long for healing and hope,
may we discover it in the Babe of Bethlehem,
Jesus the Christ, sent for us.**

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The good news is not just announced *to* all people, it is indeed, *for* all people. For the proud, as well as the humble; for the rich, and for the poor; for those who

have found faith, and those who long for it. Hear it! — and know that in Christ, we are forgiven and freed into God’s realm.

All: Our hearts rejoice in the promises, and our souls rejoice in the One who comes to us, bringing hope, peace, joy, and love into our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

“Dona Nobis Pacem”

Do-na no-bis pa - cem, pa-cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

ONE: I will sing forever of the Holy One’s steadfast love;

ALL: With my mouth I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that Your love stands firm forever,

That You established Your faithfulness in heaven itself.

You said to Your people,

“I have made a covenant with My chosen one,

I have sworn to My servant:

**‘I will bring into being your offspring forever,
And confirm your authority for all generations.’”**

Then You spoke in a vision to Your faithful one, and said,

“I have set the crown on one who is mighty,

I have raised up one chosen from the people.

I have found My servant,

Whom I have anointed with My holy oil.

Here shall My hand always remain;

My arm also shall bring you strength.

No enemy shall oppress you,

Nor shall the malicious bring affliction.

Your foes will crumble and those who oppose you will topple.

My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with you;

And through My authority your strength shall be increased.

I will set your grasp on the sea and your dominion on the rivers.

You shall say of Me,

‘You are my Creator, my God, and the Rock of my deliverance!’”

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

Hymnal, p. 35

⌘ **HYMN #98**

“To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary”

ANNUNCIATION

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

OFFERTORY

ONE: We remember the love that is God’s gift to us, and we respond with gifts of our own. We cannot hope to pay for what we have received: it is wonderful beyond price. Instead, here we rededicate ourselves to generously serve the God who forms us with love — and who sends us to re-form our world by that same love.

**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.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“”

⌘ **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**

God’s steadfast love is established forever — like the moon, a silent witness in the skies. God’s faithfulness is as firm as the heavens — like stars that never grow dim. May God bless this offering, that Christ’s light will shine for all whom it touches. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 1:26-38

New Testament, p. 69

Luke 1:47-55

SERMON

“Mary Sings”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN #100**

“Canticle of the Turning”

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

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).

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.

Dona nobis pacem

752

Sim shalom

Rabbu habna salamann tamman

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (A)

F C F C

Latin Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem.
Hebrew Sim sha-lom, sim sha-lom, sim sha - lom.
Arabic Rab - bu hab - na sa - la - mann tam - man.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

(G) (D) (A) (D)
B^b F C F

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.
Sim sha - lom a - lei - nu.
Rab - bu hab - na sa - la - mann.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

*May be sung as a canon.

HEBREW

שים שלום עלינו

ARABIC

رَبِّ هَيْبِنَا سَلَامًا تَامًا.
رَبِّ هَيْبِنَا السَّلَام.

Whether sung in Latin, Hebrew, Arabic, or any other language, there is no common human prayer deeper than the longing for peace: peace among people and peace in our hearts. The style of this familiar musical setting suggests that it dates from the late 18th or early 19th century.

98 To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

Capo 3: (Em) (B7) (Em) (Am) (B) (Em)
 Gm D7 Gm Cm D Gm

1 To a maid whose name was Mar - y, the an - gel Ga - briel came.
 2 "For you are high - ly fa - vored by God the Lord of all,
 3 But Mar - y was most trou - bled to hear the an - gel's word.
 4 "Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
 5 "How shall this be?" said Mar - y, "I am not yet a wife."
 6 As Mar - y heard the an - gel, she won - dered at his words.

(Em) (B7) (Em) (G) (D) (G)
 Gm D7 Gm B^b F B^b

"Fear not," the an - gel told her, "I come to bring good news;
 who e - ven now is with you. You are on earth most blest;
 What was the an - gel say - ing? It trou - bled her to hear,
 His name shall be called Je - sus, God's off - spring from on high.
 The an - gel an - swered quick - ly, "The power of the Most High
 "Be - hold, I am your hand - maid," she said un - to her God.

(Em) (Am) (B) (Em) (Am) (B) (Em)
 Gm Cm D Gm Cm D Gm

good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."
 you are most blest, most bless - ed; God chose you, you are blest!"
 to hear the an - gel's mes - sage, it trou - bled her to hear.
 And he shall reign for - ev - er, for - ev - er reign on high."
 will come up - on you short - ly, your child shall be God's child."
 "So be it; I am read - y ac - cord - ing to your word."

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This 20th-century ballad-like retelling of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38) displays many characteristics of a folksong style, especially repetition in both text and tune and short quotations included in the narrative. Such features help to make a song both memorable and singable.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning

1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.



Christmas Poinsettias have been given by:



Elizabeth Dobrwado, in honor of family
 Janet Accardo, in memory of Sal Accardo
 Doug Roorbach, in honor of Madeline, Olivia, John, & Florin
 Karin and Charlie Noyes, in memory of Sally Noyes Dowling; and
 in gratitude for friends and family
 Lorna and Dan Edmundson, in memory of our parents Anna & Loran Duphiney
 and Laura & William Edmundson
 Elizabeth D'Amico, in memory of loved ones
 Upscale Movers
 Janet and David Offensend, in memory of our parents
 Patty Clark, in gratitude for Pat McNulty, Joe McNulty,
 & Lisa Clark
 Patricia and Robert Palmer, in memory of our parents
 Louise and Malcolm Brown, in prayer for those suffering in Ukraine and Gaza
 Betsy Beck and family, in memory of Don & Betty Fuchs, Dorrie Fuchs
 The Davidson Family, in loving memory of Graham Davidson
 Sarah and Tom Morrison, in loving memory of our families
 Kerry Noble, in memory of my parents Mabel and Robert Noble
 Jeff and Robbin Livingston, in loving memory of Sylvia D'Arcy Livingston
 Pastor John Nelson in gratitude for the leaders and staff
 of Salisbury UCC



Today's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Allison Gray & Janet Kaufman
Reader: Karin Noyes • *Deacon:* John Estabrook & Don Mayland
Fellowship time host: Emily Elliot

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2023
 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission.

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy by Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church.
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
Youth Group Leader: Sarah Lesch
Youth Group Assistant: Dan Baker

Holding the Parts Together

Administrative Assistant: Loriann Chevremont
Sexton: Richard Tietjen
Stewardship & Database Mgr: Kelly Rybczyk

Church Officers:
Betsy Beck, *moderator*;
Janet Offensend, *treasurer*; Jennifer Oberto, *clerk*

Pastor and Teacher: The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

Occasions for 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 concerns:

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries,
for mission partners in Greece: Evangelical Church
of Greece • Union of Armenian Evangelical
Churches in the Near East • Social Work
Foundation.

Continuing concerns:

Peace in Israel/Palestine, Armenia/Azerbaijan,
Sudan, Ukraine

Donna Haubrich, recovering from broken pelvis,
and husband Sam • Bob Hubby, recovering from
surgery • Margaret Haubrich, in memory care •
Neighbors around the world recovering from

catastrophic wildfires, floods, and hurricanes • all
affected by gun violence, especially survivors, those
tending to the traumatized, and those advocating
for safety • neighbors who serve or live in war or
in conflict zones around the world • for
peacemakers.

For those in treatment for cancer — Peter (and
Janet) • Deborah Lifton, Peter Kiernan, Jenny,
David Douyea, Deborah Merwin — prayers for
healing and strength.

Thanksgivings

Frank Swaye and Keith Blanton, in remission from
cancer.

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, 24 DECEMBER

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

2:30PM Youth Group

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

5:30PM Hand Bell Choir Prelude

6PM Service of Lessons and Carols

DECEMBER 25TH & 26TH

Church offices closed for Christmas

WEDNESDAY, 27 DECEMBER

12:30PM Staff Meeting

4PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, 28 DECEMBER

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 29 DECEMBER

8:45AM Men's Bible Study



Please Recycle this Bulletin!



The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting in Grace • Transformed by Love • Serving with Joy

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