

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Meeting in Grace

PRELUDE

“Huron Carol”
“In the Bleak Midwinter”

arr. C.E. Walz
arr. Bill Wolaver

WELCOME

✘ **CAROL #144** “In the Bleak Midwinter”
(✘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

CRANHAM

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: O come, all ye faithful,
ALL: Joyful and triumphant;
O come ye,
O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him,
Born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

RESPONSE IN SONG

**Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing all you citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

by Beth Merrill Neel. Used with permission.

Friends, let us begin this new year with hearts that have been unburdened, and let us make our confession before God and one another.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

ONE: God of stars and angels, God of sheep and lambs,

ALL: God of abundance and grace:

You know us well, better than we know ourselves.

You hear us cry “Gloria!” and “Praise!”

And you watch us tear things apart with our words and deeds.

You hear us say “Thy will be done!” and “Use me, O God!”

And you watch us do nothing in response to cries for help.

You know us, and you love us, and you forgive.

Hear us now say, “Help us to change; turn us around,

Make us more loving and courageous and hopeful.”

This we pray in the name of Jesus who taught his friends this prayer:

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

Hymnal, p. 35

✠ **CAROL** (insert)

“The Friendly Beasts”

ORIENTIS PARTIBUS

OFFERTORY

ONE: We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. God has poured gifts into our lives; we now return our tithes and offerings.

**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

Simple Gifts

arr. Tim and Ryan O'Neill

✘ **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**

**Generous God, all that we have is your gift; we are caretakers of your
bounty. Bless these offerings to your service and keep us ever mindful
of the needs of others. Amen.**

Transformed by Love

MODERN TESTIMONY

“The Gift of Giving”

Frank Sonnenberg

STORY

“Christmas Day in the Morning”

Pearl S. Buck

GIFTS OF LOVE

✘ **CAROL #136**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

SPIRITUAL

Serving with Joy

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

arr. Mark Hayes



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 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).



In the Bleak Midwinter

144

1 In the bleak mid-winter, frost-y wind made moan;
 2 Our God, heaven can-not hold him, nor earth sus-tain;
 3 An-gels and arch-an-gels may have gath-ered there;
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign;
 cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim thronged the air;
 If I were a shep-herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall-en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid-winter a sta-ble place suf-ficed,
 but his moth-er on-ly, in her maid-en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

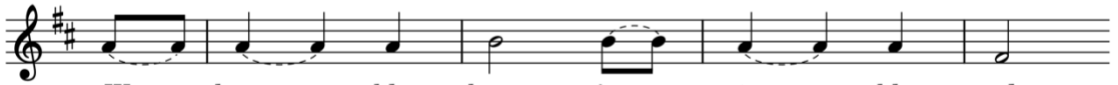
‡ in the bleak mid-winter, long a-go.
 the Lord God in-car-nate, Je-sus Christ.
 ‡ wor-shipped the be-lov-ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

The Friendly Beasts



1. Je - sus our broth - er, kind and good,
 2. "I," said the don - key, shag - gy and brown,
 3. "I," said the cow, all white and red,
 4. "I," said the sheep with the cur - ly horn,
 5. "I," said the dove from the raf - ter high,
 6. "I," said the cam - el, yel - low and black,
 7. Thus ev - ery beast, by some good spell,



Was hum - bly born in a sta - ble rude;
 "I car - ried his moth - er up - hill and down;
 "I gave him my man - ger for his bed;
 "I gave him my wool for his blan - ket warm;
 "I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry;
 "O - ver the de - sert up - on my back
 In the sta - ble dark was glad to tell,




And the friend - ly beasts a - round him stood.
 I car - ried his mo - ther to Beth - le - hem town."
 I gave him my hay to pil - low his head."
 He wore my coat on Christ - mas morn."
 We cooed him to sleep, my mate and I."
 I brought him a gift in the wise men's pack."
 Of the gifts they gave Im - man - u - el:



Je - sus our broth - er, kind and good.
 "I," said the don - key, shag - gy and brown.
 "I," said the cow, all white and red.
 "I," said the sheep with the cur - ly horn.
 "I," said the dove from the raf - ter high.
 "I," said the cam - el, yel - low and black.
 The gifts they gave Im - man - ue - el.

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

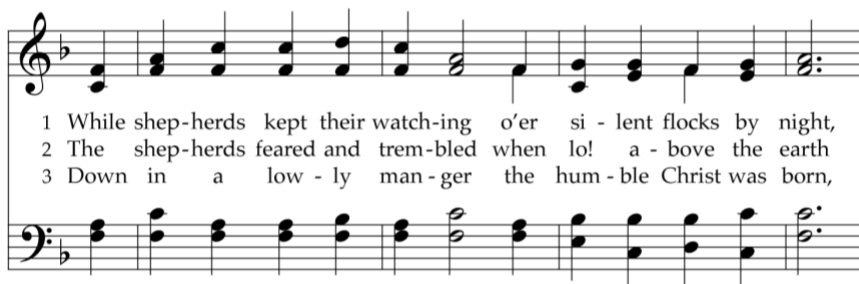
Refrain 



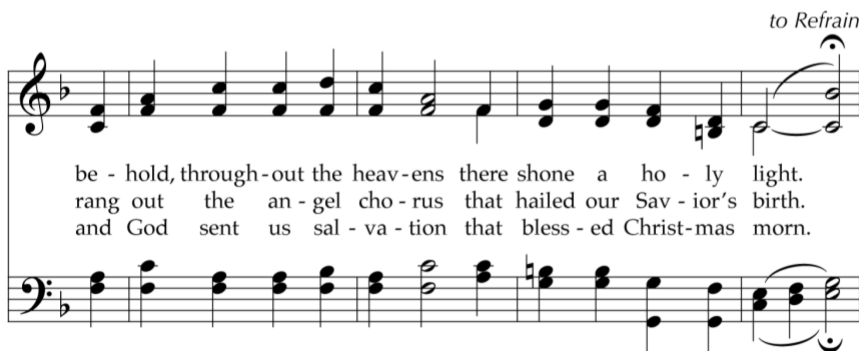
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

Today's Worship Leaders

Each year on the Sunday following Christmas, the Board of Deacons plans and leads our worship — giving a well-earned respite to the pastor and music director.

Board of Deacons: Theresa Carroll, Barbara Collins, John Estabrook, Tony Good, Janet Kaufman, Don Mayland, Sue Morrill, Pat Palmer

Musician: Barbara Collins

Ushers: Sarah Morrison and Joanne Taber

Fellowship time hosts: Theresa Carroll and Dean Haubrich

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 31 DECEMBER

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

MONDAY, 1 JANUARY 2024

Church offices closed

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 2 JANUARY

9AM Taichi class
4PM Board of Christian Action meeting
5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, 3 JANUARY

12:30PM Staff Meeting
4PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, 4 JANUARY

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 5 JANUARY

8:45AM Men's Bible Study
12noon First Friday Music in the Meeting House



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