

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALISBURY

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Congregation

## A Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols



Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 • 5:00PM

### PRELUDE

*Selections by Hand Bell Choir*  
"Peaceful Was the Night"

*Text: J. Milton*  
*Music: S.L. Kalcheim*

### WORDS OF WELCOME

### PROCESSIONAL #140

"Once in Royal David's City"  
Verse 1 — soloist  
Verses 2 & 3 — in harmony, led by choir  
Verse 4 — in unison

IRBY

## THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

The candles remind us of the long journey through Advent darkness, and the faithful courage of those who led the way.

*With one candle we remembered Mary who dared to tell God's angel, "May the fruit of my womb bring good news to us all."*

With a second candle we remembered Joseph, uncertain of what to do with this miracle, and how he pledged his faith to Mary and to her child.

*With a third candle we remembered an innkeeper, whose hospitality was stretched thin, but who offered a warm, safe refuge for travelers far from home.*

With a fourth candle we remembered who it was that first recognized the Christ child: even before the wise sages, God's creatures in the stable adored the holy presence.

*Because of their faithfulness, and because of God's favor, light has once more pierced the darkness.*

**ALL: The birth of holy love brings new peace and new hope.  
The Christ-light is born again! Sing joy, now and always!**



**INTROIT** (*sung by all*)

"Light the Candles"

TIF IN VELDELE

Light the can-dles to wel-come Mes-si - ah: the babe has ban-ished all dark - ness!  
Je-sus is born! Christ-love lives a-mong us! Sing your joy for - ev - er!

Text: Wayne L. Wold. Music: Yiddish folk song; arr Wayne L. Wold. © 1984 Fortress Press  
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## BIDDING PRAYER

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*depts*)

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

Ransom Larson, *reader*

*God declares comfort and renewal through the prophet Isaiah.*

**CAROL #133**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"  
Verses 1, 2, 3

ADESTE FIDELES

**THE SECOND LESSON:** Haggai 2:5-9

Ruth Choate, *reader*

*The prophet foretells the transformation of the earth and heavens.*

**ANTHEM** "In the Bleak Midwinter" *H. Darke*

**THE THIRD LESSON:** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 *Matthew Chin, reader*  
*Isaiah delivers the promised arrival of the Messiah.*

**CAROL #129** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" *ES IST EIN ROS*

**THE FOURTH LESSON:** Isaiah 11:1-9 *Sue Morrill, reader*  
*Isaiah prophesies the Messiah's peaceable kingdom.*

**CAROL #121** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" *ST. LOUIS*

**THE FIFTH LESSON:** Luke 1:26-35, 38 *Samuel Lord Kalcheim, reader*  
*The Angel Gabriel salutes Mary.*

**INTERLUDE** "Magnificat" *J.S. Bach*

**THE SIXTH LESSON:** Luke 2:1-7 *Becky Belcher, reader*  
*Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

**CAROL #113** "Angels, We Have Heard on High" *GLORIA*

**THE SEVENTH LESSON:** Luke 2:8-16 *Dave Heck, reader*  
*The shepherds go to the manger.*

**INTERLUDE** "Pastoral Symphony" from *Messiah* *G.F. Handel*

**THE EIGHTH LESSON:** Matthew 2:1-12 *Barbara Collins, reader*  
*The star leads the Magi to Jesus.*

**CAROL #119** "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" *MENDELSSOHN*

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

**ONE:** We are not shepherds, bringing sheep; we are not magi, bringing precious treasures; nor yet a host of angels. But like all of them, we are amazed at the wonder of God-with-us: Emmanuel! 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.

**MUSICAL OFFERING** "Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree"

**CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

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:**

*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.*

**CAROL #122**

**“Silent Night, Holy Night”**

STILLE NACHT

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.
4. Silent night! Holy night! wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing  
alleluias to our King;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

**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.
4. 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!

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**Tonight's Worship Leaders**

*Readers:* Ransom Larson  
Ruth Choate  
Matthew Chin  
Sue Morrill  
Samuel Lord Kalcheim  
Becky Belcher  
Dave Heck  
Barbara Collins

*Musicians* The Salisbury UCC Choir  
Jennifer Oberto, *cantor*

*Music Director* Dr. Samuel Lord Kalcheim

*Pastor:* The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson



## 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 through our worship on this holy night of wonder.

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.

**Please set cell phones to silent mode (unless you're expecting a call from Jesus)**



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United Church of Christ

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