

# The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## HYMN SING

## WELCOME

⌘ **HYMN #83**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”  
verses 1–3

STUTTGART

(⌘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

### THE ADVENT WREATH

Wendy Anderson & Pat Palmer

ONE: One day we will arrive.

One day our hearts will catch sight of the mountain of God.

**ALL: God, we want to go there! O Holy One,  
we long to be in your presence and walk in your ways.**

Let's go! In mind and heart, together,

let's make that journey to the mountain of God.

**Sisters and brothers, friends and neighbors,  
let us travel together. Surely we will get there.**

Let the dream of God's holy mountain give you courage and strength as we go.

**What a vision: weapons of war turned into tools of harvest,  
and lessons of peace taught to all people.**

Let us journey together in the light of God!

*[first Advent candle is lit]*

## RESPONSE IN SONG

Light one candle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

Mes - si-ah shall bring new hope to the peo-ple: God ful-fills\_ the prom-ise.

*TEXT: Wayne L. Wold, 1984, adapt. MUSIC: Yiddish folk song, arr. Wayne L. Wold, 1984.  
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## CALL TO CONFESSION

How can we stand in the presence of God? Let us confess those places where we need to grow to prepare for Christ to come into our lives.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of all our hopes, we confess before you  
those places in our hearts where we have refused you entrance:  
the people we have denied our love;  
the habits we don't get around to changing;  
the good things we have left undone;  
the ways in which we hurt you, ourselves, and others.  
Come again to us in the light of your Christ.  
Shine on those places we have hidden from you.  
Show us your ways to live.  
Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts,  
that Christ may find a home among and within us.**

*(Silence is kept)*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear this good news: in Jesus Christ, Love's own self, God-With-Us, we are forgiven!

**We can stand before God, not through our own goodness but through God's power of renewing grace in us. Even as we wait for Emmanuel, we will rejoice and be glad!**

**RESPONSE IN SONG**      “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

STUTT GART

**By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

**RESPONSIVE PSALTER**                      Psalm 122

ONE: I rejoiced when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Most High!”

**ALL: Our feet stood within your gates, O holy city,**  
The city built up for people to come together in unity.

**To this city the tribes go up, the tribes of the Holy One,**  
As was decreed for the people,  
**To give thanks for the deeds and the intents of the Almighty.**

For there the seats of justice were set up,  
**The thrones of those who would establish justice.**

Pray that the peace that is promised by this city  
Will prevail over the earth.

**May all who love you flourish,  
O city of God’s justice and peace.**

Peace be within your walls,  
**And well-being in your citadels.**

For the sake of my kin and my friends,  
I pray for your well-being .

**For the sake of the presence of the Author of Life, our God,  
I seek your good.**

## **A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (*debts/debtors*)

*Hymnal, p. 35*

⊗ **HYMN #92**

“While We Are Waiting, Come”  
*All attending Sunday School may leave as we sing the hymn.*

WAITING

## OFFERTORY

### THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

*Offerings not specifically designated for the Church (including any checks with “Light of Service” or “LOS” in the memo line) will be given to an organization doing compassionate work that complements our church’s mission. This week, we share our gifts with Project SAGE.*

ONE: 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.*

**ANTHEM:** “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Kathleen Thomerson  
arr. Erik Dewar & Dan Forrest

*I want to walk as a child of the light.*

*I want to see the brightness of God.*

*I want to follow Jesus.*

*I want to look at Jesus.*

*God set the stars to give light to the world.*

*Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]*

*The star of my life is Jesus.*

*Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all.*

*I'm looking for the coming of Christ.*

*The night and the day are both alike.*

*I want to be with Jesus.*

*The Lamb is the light of the city of God.*

*When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]*

*Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

### ✠ DOXOLOGY

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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 of Advent, as we enter this time of waiting,  
we pray for your gift of hope. We watch and listen, hushed in  
anticipation of the coming of your light. We pray to embody your  
generosity and compassion as we share these offerings. Bless them, so  
others can be blanketed with the warmth of your presence.  
We ask in the name of Jesus, God-With-Us: Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Matthew 24:36-44

*Old Testament, p.773*  
*New Testament, p. 33*

## SERMON

“The Dark, Sacred Night”

Pastor John A. Nelson

## PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ HYMN #105

“People, Look East”

BESANÇON

## BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

## POSTLUDE



## Welcome to Church!

Gathered in 1744, the Congregational Church of Salisbury is an Open and Affirming member of the United Church of Christ, in a “net zero” building powered by clean energy. Our church 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.

**Kindly set phones to silent (unless you're expecting a call from Jesus).**

## **Today's Worship Leaders**

*Ushers:* Janet Kaufman & Anne Williams  
*Reader:* Trevor Rees • *Deacon:* Dave Heck  
*Fellowship host:* Hospitality Committee

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2025  
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Advent candle lighting adapted from Rachel Hackenberg

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

### **Faith Formation**

**Sunday School Coordinator:** Holly Tierney  
**Sunday School Assistant:** Stephanie Tierney  
**Youth Group Leader:** Dan Baker  
**Youth Group Assistant:** Sarah Lesch

### **Holding the Parts Together**

**Church Administrator:** Catherine Chatham  
**Sexton:** Richard Tietjen

**Church Officers:** Charlie Noyes, *moderator*;  
Janet Offensend, *treasurer*; Liz Wing, *clerk*

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

## 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.)

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### New concerns:

*Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries,*  
for the people of Egypt and for our mission  
partners: Bishopric for Public, Ecumenical, and  
Social Services • Coptic Evangelical Organization  
for Social Services • Union of Armenian Evangelical  
Churches in the Near East

### Continuing concerns:

Kathy Mera, recovering from surgery •  
Holly Henderson-Fisher • The Joya family •  
Mary Davidson • Charlie Youngblood •  
Andrea Bargabos • Jim Bell • Margaret Haubrich  
Beloveds in treatment for cancer

Immigrants and asylum seekers in our country

Friends and family now serving in the armed forces  
All those serving or living in conflict zones.

### Family & Friends who have passed away

Sara Jane Elliot • Eliot Brown

We thank God for the gift of life, and pray for the  
Spirit's strong presence with family and friends  
who grieve.

### Thanksgiving for church leaders:

*Music Committee:* David Baranowski, Louise Brown,  
George Faison, Peg Heck, Emily Elliot,  
Peggy Hayes, Mary Davison

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## Upcoming Holiday & Christmas Concerts

Saturday, 6 December, 4pm

*Salisbury UCC Meeting House* Salisbury Association Holiday Concert  
*St. James Place, Great Barrington* Crescendo: The Bach Experience

Sunday, 7 December, 4pm

*St. James Place, Great Barrington* Crescendo: The Bach Experience

Sunday, 14 December, 3pm

*St. James Place, Great Barrington* Berkshire Lyric Christmas Concert

Saturday, 20 December, 4pm

*Congregational Church, Stockbridge* Berkshire Lyric Family Christmas Concert

**Sunday, 21 December, 3pm**

***Salisbury UCC Meetinghouse* Salisbury UCC Christmas Concert**

## This Week at Salisbury UCC

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### SUNDAY, 30 NOVEMBER

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

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### MONDAY, 1 DECEMBER

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club  
7PM Corner Food Pantry

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### TUESDAY, 2 DECEMBER

4PM Board of Christian Action meeting

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### WEDNESDAY, 3 DECEMBER

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)  
12:15PM Staff Meeting  
4PM Women's Bible Study

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### THURSDAY, 4 DECEMBER

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club  
4:30PM Prayer Shawl ministry  
5PM Handbell Choir rehearsal  
6PM Choir Rehearsal

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### FRIDAY, 5 DECEMBER

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

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### SUNDAY, 7 DECEMBER

10AM Worship and Sunday School  
11:30AM Church Council meeting

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*Please Recycle this Bulletin!*



*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, Tuesday, Friday*