

The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRELUDE

Oratorio de Noël, Op. 12

Camille Saint-Saëns

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #97**

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

ABERYSTWYTH

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

THE ADVENT WREATH (*from Isaiah 11:1-10*)

Betsy Beck, Emily Elliot, Karin Noyes

ONE: Be strong! Do not fear!

ALL: The wilderness will become a place of joy. The desert will become a field for harvest.

Be strong! Do not fear!

The drought will break with a spring of water. The weeds and wild shrubs will become a highway for all God’s children.

Do not let your head or your heart or your body hold you back!

The highway will not be a place of fear but of fellowship. All will sing and dance with joy, and none will be lost.

God is coming. Do not fear!

[the first three Advent candles are lit]

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Light One Candle”



1. Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness. Mes-
2. Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness. Mes-
3. Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



-si - ah shall bring new hope to the peo - ple: God ful - fills_ the prom - ise.
-si - ah shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift up your heads and lift high the gate - way for the ru - ler of glo - ry.

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

ONE: There is no need to wait in long lines. God is always willing to listen to our hearts as well as our voices, as we admit the limits of our caring and our sharing.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**This season is filled with tender holiness, God of Christmas —
yet the din of sales pitches turns us into cynical grumps.**

**We enjoy lovely decorations on the houses —
but often we have missed seeing, inside, the loneliness of the
widower, the strained faces of those who fear the future.**

**We sort through gifts and cards to find one that speaks of delight —
and lose track of the miracle, that you came so long ago to offer
justice and joy to those who have none.**

**Be patient with us, God of our hearts, as we struggle and strive
to lend our voices to the voiceless,
to walk with those who have lost their way,
to sing of the hope that really can bring reconciliation,
of the peace that really can give hope,
of the joy that really came to us that night in Bethlehem,
in the birth of Jesus, our Brother, our Savior.**

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

ONE: Be not afraid, but believe! Our God is here, opening our eyes to welcome the joy that is ours, approaching us in this season of Advent.

We join our voices in rejoicing in God who is our Savior. The One who calls us blessed, is the God who forgives us. Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Until Jesus Comes”



Un-til Je-sus comes, un-til Je-sus comes, I'll be watch-ing and
wait-ing un-til Je-sus comes. Un-til Je-sus comes, un-til Je-sus
comes, I'll be watch-ing and wait-ing un-til Je-sus comes.

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RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 146:5-10

ONE: Happy are those whose help is the God
Who restores unity and keeps covenant,

ALL: Whose hope is in the Almighty, their God,

Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

Who keeps faith forever;

Who secures justice for those who are wronged;

Who gives food to the hungry.

The Holy One sets the prisoners free;

The Holy One gives sight to the blind.

The Holy One lifts up those who are oppressed;

The Holy One loves those who journey in faithfulness.

The Holy One watches over the stranger;

And upholds the weak and the powerless,

But the walk of the wayward turns from life and leads to ruin.

The Holy One will reign forever,

And be your God, O people of the Most High, for all generations.

ALL: Hallelujah!

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

✠ HYMN #100

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”
All attending Sunday School may leave as we sing the hymn.

KINGSFOLD

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 **Hispaniola Health Partners**.*

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

from *Magnificat*

G.B. Pergolesi

Magnificat anima mea Dominum,
et exultavit spiritus meus
in Deo salutari meo,

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,*

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae: *Who has looked favorably on His humble servant:*

ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent
omnes generationes.

*From this day all generations will call me
blessed.*

Quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, et
sanctum nomen eius.

*The Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is His Name.*

✠ 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**

We pray that with our gifts, as well as our lives, we will tell the joy of those who are given voice, those who are put back on their feet, those who show us the way, and those who offer us grace and hope, as well. May it be so! Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 35:1-10
Luke 1:47-55

Testament, p. 811
New Testament, p.

SERMON

“Leading with Joy”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ **HYMN**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

1. **O come, O come, Emmanuel,**
and with your people always dwell:
who mourn in mortal exile here
until the Light of Life appear.

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come again,
and with us ever dwell.*
2. **O come, thou Wisdom from on high,**
and order all things, far and nigh;
to us the paths of knowledge show,
and cause us in thy ways to go. *Refrain*
3. **O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer**
our spirits by thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy shades of night;
break through the clouds and bring us light. *Refrain*
4. **O come, Desire of nations, bind**
all people in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease.
Fill the whole world with perfect peace. *Refrain*

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN



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: Allison Gray & Anne Williams
Reader: Louise Brown • Deacon: Patricia Palmer
Fellowship hosts: Liz Wing and Steven Wolf*

Today’s liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2025 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission.

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.)

New concerns:

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries, for the people of Taiwan and for our mission partners: Taiwan Theological College and Seminaries • Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. “We lift up the pastors, elders, and members of the PCT, especially those in Hualien and other regions severely impacted by disasters. Strengthen their ministries of presence, healing, and rebuilding. Bless the students and teachers of Yushan Theological Seminary and the Indigenous communities who bear heavy burdens.”

Continuing concerns:

Jim Bell • Kathy Mera, recovering from surgery •
The Joya family • Mary Davidson •
Charlie Youngblood • Andrea Bargabos •
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

Betty Jones

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:

Hospitality Committee: Ron Collins, Emily Elliot,
Toni Ramcharran, Gretchen Mol, Winter Williams

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, 14 DECEMBER

- 10AM Worship and Sunday School
*followed by fellowship & refreshments
in the Parish Hall*
- 11:30AM Music Committee meeting

MONDAY, 15 DECEMBER

- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

WEDNESDAY, 17 DECEMBER

- 9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
- 12:15PM Staff meeting
- 4PM Women's Bible study

THURSDAY, 18 DECEMBER

- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club
- 5PM Handbell Choir rehearsal
- 6PM Choir rehearsal

FRIDAY, 19 DECEMBER

- 8:45AM Men's Bible study

SUNDAY, 21 DECEMBER

- 10AM Worship, Sunday School, and
Youth Group
- 11:15AM **Christmas Pageant**
- 11:30AM Board of Trustees meeting
- 3PM Salisbury UCC Christmas Concert



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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email: welcome@salisburyucc.org • web: salisburyucc.org

Office Hours: 8:30am – 1:30pm • Monday, Tuesday, Friday