

The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Christmas Eve



Wednesday, December 24th, 2025

Hand Bell Choir prelude 🌿 5:30PM

Service of Lessons and Carols 🌿 6:00PM



HAND BELL CHOIR PRELUDE

Christmas Joy
People Look East
We Three Kings

Silent Night
The Holly and the Ivy
God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

PRELUDE Allegro, from *Brandenburg Concerto V, BWV 1050* J.S. Bach

WELCOME

CAROL #140 “Once in Royal David’s City” IRBY
Vincent Baranowski, *soloist*
Verses 1 & 2, solo and choir • **Verses 3 & 4 sung by all**

THE ADVENT WREATH: The Collins-Humphrey Family
CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE, AND THE CHRIST CHILD

ONE: In a season of longer nights, the light briefer and thin, we gather candles, evergreens, wreaths — symbols that remind us of God’s true light and power of life. In hopeful anticipation, in the grace of peace, in joy that persists, in the resilience of love, we prepare for the Holy Child who transforms all things, wonderfully.

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.*

*For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

— Isaiah 9.2, 6

[Lighting the Advent candles and the Christ candle]

ONE: Creator God, at the birth of your Child, our Savior,
we light this candle with new hope.

**ALL: For those who walked in darkness have seen a great light,
and on us your light has shined.**

The light that radiates peace for all has come into the world.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Your Word is made flesh and dwells among us.

Our lives are transformed by joy!

Christ, the light of the world, lives among us and within us. Alleluia!

We come to worship in awe and grateful wonder. Alleluia!

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Light the Candles”



Light the can-dles to watch for Messi - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness. Mes-
Light the can-dles to wel - come Messi - ah — who has ban - ished all dark - ness!



-si - ah shall bring new hope to the peo-ple: God ful - fills the prom-ise.
Je - sus is born! Christ-love lives a-mong us! Sing your joy for - ev - er!

TEXT: Wayne L. Wold, 1984, adapt. MUSIC: Yiddish folk song, arr. Wayne L. Wold, 1984.
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BIDDING PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts)

Hymnal, p. 35

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

Amber Ramcharran, reader

God declares comfort and renewal through the prophet Isaiah.

CAROL #133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

Verses 1, 2, 3

THE SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Eileen Epperson, reader

The prophet foretells the coming of the Messiah.

CAROL #123

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

CAROL

Verses 1, 2, 4, 5

THE THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-9

Rachel Holliday Smith, reader

Isaiah prophesies the Messiah’s peaceable kingdom.

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.

✘ **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.
3. 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!



Tonight's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Sharon Tingley, Anne Williams, Kip Williams, Ptolemy Williams

Deacon: Myra Brandt

Hand Bell Choir: Betsy Beck, Larry Burcroff, Heather Davidson, Laurie Davidson, Jo Loi, Karin Noyes, Jennifer Oberto, Steve Ohlinger, Stephanie Tierney, Gordon Whitbeck

Choir: *Sopranos* Jennifer Baranowski, Louise Brown, Emily Elliot,
Jennifer Oberto

Alto Betsy Beck

Tenor Charles Noyes

Basses John Estabrook, David Heck, Kevin Wolgemuth, Chris Vuori

Friendly Beasts Vincent Baranowski, Betsy Beck, Emily Elliot, Karin and Charlie Noyes,
musicians Holly Tierney, Stephanie Tierney

Guest musicians Cecilia Burns, *flute* • Elizabeth Handman, *violin* • Steve Larsen, *viola* •
Chris Santos, *Cello* • Annie Trapanier, *violin*

Music Director: David Baranowski

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

Thanks to Rosanne Lamson and Janet Kaufman for arranging Advent greens and Christmas poinsettias.

Cover image: Albrecht Dürer, The Nativity, from The Life of the Virgin, Latin Edition, 1511

Giving Opportunities

Our mission relies on the generosity of all the participants in this church — members of the past, partners of today, neighbors and friends. Because of your gifts, Salisbury UCC is *Meeting in Grace, Transformed by Love, Serving with Joy*. We treasure every donation, from the pocketful of change in the Sunday offering to the sustaining pledge. By God's grace, each of your gifts is building compassionate community. Thank you.





Christmas Poinsettias given by:



Sarah and Ron Collins, Adele and Curtis Collins
John and Rosalyn Hoffman
Emily Elliot, in honor of Petie Robinson
Lorna and Daniel Edmundson, in honor of all the law-abiding immigrants who presently live
in fear of our government
John Merwin, in memory of Deborah Merwin
Janet Accardo, in memory of Loved Ones
Thomas and Sarah Morrison, thinking especially of our Family with gratitude
Patricia Palmer, in memory of Loved Ones, especially our parents
Karin Noyes, in memory of all our friends we lost this year
The Davidson Family, in memory of Graham Davidson
Janet and David Offensend, in memory of our parents and Janet's brother, Alan
The Beck Family, for loved ones here and elsewhere
Elizabeth Dobrwado, in memory of my family
Dave Heck, in memory of Peg Heck
Ogden Starr, in loving memory of Duncan Maginnis
Dorothea Nelson, with thanks for Salisbury UCC
Louise Brown, in memory of Eliot Brown from his family
Sarah Rees, for Jane Stapleton
Jeff Oppenheimer in loving memory of Doug Oppenheimer
and Heather Davidson, and Judie Oppenheimer
Jeff and Robbin Livingston, in loving memory of our parents, our siblings, Bob, Mike and
Nina, and our granddaughter, Sylvia
Jennifer Kronholm Clark, in memory of William J. Kronholm
Cynthia LaPier, in memory of her parents LaVaun and Jim Eustice
The Mulder Family, in memory of our parents.
by Pastor John Nelson, in gratitude for leaders and staff of Salisbury UCC



Welcome to Salisbury UCC!

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 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.

Kindly set mobile phones to silent mode (unless you're expecting a call from the Angel Gabriel, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the magi, the innkeepers, or the stablehand, in which case we'd love to hear what they have to tell us!)



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