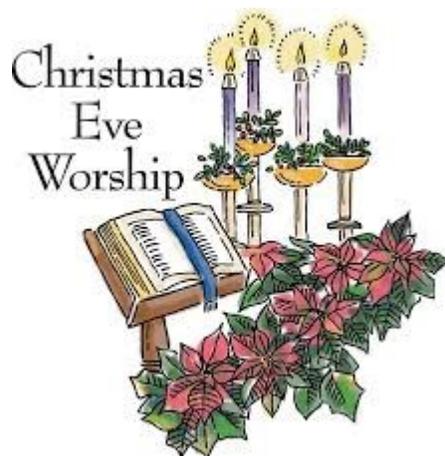


Welcome

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24 2018



Union Lutheran Church

4770 Bringle Ferry Rd. Salisbury, NC 28146
704-636-5092 <http://ulcsalisbury.org>

Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Thomas W. Corbell, Interim Pastor
Cell phone 704-682-0503—pastor@ulcsalisbury.org

Rev. T. C. Plexico, Pastor Emeritus

Organist: Tina Brown - organist@ulcsalisbury.org
Secretary: Ruth Goodman - office@ulcsalisbury.org
Sexton: Phill Cauble 704-213-0646—sexton@ulcsalisbury.org

*A congregation of the North American Lutheran Church
Christ Centered - Mission Driven - Traditionally Grounded - Congregationally Focused*

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude Music Joy to the World - Watts - Handbell Choir
 A Medley of Away in a Manger - Arr. Leaf-Piano
 Silent Night - Micah Nguyen - Trumpet
 O Holy Night - Trio: Mary Hutchen, Sonya Mulkey, Jan Huffman

Welcome

* Christmas Call to Worship

In the quiet of the night
A woman gives birth:
A personal act of faith;
Accepting God's charge upon her.

**In the quiet of the night
A husband becomes a father:
A personal act of faith;
Accepting God's charge upon him.**

In the quiet of the night
A baby breathes the air:
A personal act of sacrifice;
God steps out of the divine into the mundane for us.

Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* LBW 41

• A Christmas Confession

(Silence for personal confession.)

L. We enter into Your house of worship this evening with many things on our hearts. At times the joy we should feel is marred because we have allowed so many things to occupy our hearts.

C. Father, we confess that our joylessness. It is the result of our allowing the things and busyness of the season to take the place of You. These activities have squeezed the joy out of so many of our thoughts, words and deeds. We pray for the gift of forgiveness in the name of the Christ child born in Bethlehem.

L. Hear the Good News.

The Lord looks upon the penitent heart. In His grace He forgives and restores His children who were separated by sin. Through the blood of the Lamb He has made us new. To God be the glory. Let us pray in unison.

C. Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of Your one true light. May that light illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. Amen.

L. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

C. To God be the glory! Amen.

* The Hymn

Joy to the World

LBW 39

• A Christmas Litany

L. In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that the entire world should be registered. Joseph went with Mary to the city of David called Bethlehem. While they were there the time came for her to deliver her child.

C. Glory to God in the highest for this wonderful birth!

L. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, and the angel of the Lord said to them, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior.

C. Glory to God in the highest who comes to the lowest!

L. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, *“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom He favors!”*

C. Glory to God in the highest who establishes peace on earth!

The Children’s Sermon

The First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with

justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- The Gospel Processional *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful* Vs. 1-2 LBW 45

- The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20 (RSV)

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. ² This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; ¹¹ for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

- The Gospel Recessional *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful* Vs. 3-4 LBW 45

* The Hymn of Reflection

Away in a Manger

LBW 67

* The Nicene Creed

LBW page 64

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

- The Prayer of the Church
- The Peace
 - L. The Christmas peace of Christ be with each one of you!
 - C. May His peace be and abide with you as well.**

The Anthem Do Not Be Afraid - Larson Chancel Choir

- The Offertory Prayer

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. Bless the gifts we offer this day, and let them be a blessing for others. In the name of Emmanuel – God with us – we pray. Amen.
- The Great Thanksgiving
- The Words of Institution

The Communion Hymns	<i>What Feast of Love</i>	WOV 701
	<i>What Child Is This</i>	LBW 40

- The Post-Communion Blessings
- The Candlelight Lighting Service (Ushers will come forward to light the candles.)
- * Hymn Sung after Candles are lit. *Silent Night* (Raise your candles at bolded words.)
(Steve Hutchen and Steve Walton, Guitars)

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

Silent night, holy night!
*Shepherds quake at the **sight**.*
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born

*Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure **light**.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth*

- The Benediction

- The Dismissal: Go in peace. Share the Good News!
Thanks be to God!

- * The Hymn

The First Noel

LBW 56

