

# Welcome

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion



## UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Christ Centered - Mission Driven - Traditionally-Grounded - Congregationally Focused*

4770 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury, NC 28146  
(704) 636-5092 ~ <http://ulcsalisbury.org>

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Lasky

*Please stand as you are able.*

*The minister leads the congregation in the invocation. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19)

C **Amen**

### ADVENT CANDLE LITANY

P In the beginning, there was the chaos of trouble and fear. Then, when uncertainty seemed the only certain thing, and the light at the end of the tunnel turned out to be just our imagination, God said, "Let there be light." And there was Hope.

*(Lighting of first Advent Candle while singing *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah.*)*

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (verse 1)

WOV 630

C **Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.**

P In the course of time people became agitated, and there was no space for quietness. Then, when the agitation was at its height, when it seemed that conflict and noise was everywhere God said, "Let there be light." And there was Peace.

*(Lighting of second Advent Candle while singing *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah.*)*

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (verse 2)

WOV 630

C **Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.**

P By this time people had learned not to care. They became skilled at loving ice cream, but not other people. Love had turned to hatred, to lust, to infatuation. There was animosity and rejection, hero-worship and self-hate. Then, when hate and apathy seemed to rule the hearts of people, and lust and control were confused with genuine relationships, God said, "Let there be light." And there was Love.

*(Lighting of third Advent Candle while singing *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah.*)*

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (verse 3)

WOV 630

C **Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.**

P The light of love calls our hearts into life during Advent. To a world which struggles to love, it declares that the power of love is greater than the love of power. This candle speaks a protest against the falseness of lust, infatuation, and power games in relationships. It pronounces that we cannot go on living with hatred, animosity or ambivalence toward each other. The candle of love blazes with the words: God so loved the world that he gave, and gave, and gave.

C **We will wait for Christ during this Advent Season, the season of preparation. Thank you, God!**

*Brief moment of self-reflection.*

## GREETING

*The minister greets the congregation.*

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

## KYRIE (Mark 10:47)



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE (Luke 2:14; John 1:29; Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9) is omitted during Advent.

SALUTATION (2 Timothy 4:22)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

*Please be seated.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*We read scripture from the Old Testament, Apostolic Letters and the Gospels because faith comes from hearing. (Romans 10:17)*

FIRST LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup>“Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. <sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. <sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the Lord.

Lay Reader Here ends the reading.

PSALM 85 *sung in unison*

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your | land, O Lord,\*  
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people\*  
and blotted out | all their sins.

<sup>3</sup>You have withdrawn | all your fury\*  
and turned yourself from your wrathful | indignation.

<sup>4</sup>Restore us then, O | God our Savior;\*  
let your anger de- | part from us.

<sup>5</sup>Will you be displeased with | us forever?\*

will you prolong your anger from | age to age?

<sup>6</sup>Will you not give us | life again,\*

that your people may re- | jice in you?  
<sup>7</sup>Show us your mer- | cy, O Lord,\*  
 and grant us | your salvation.  
<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the Lord | God is saying,\*  
 for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to  
 those who turn their | hearts to him.  
<sup>9</sup>Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him,\*  
 that his glory may dwell | in our land.  
<sup>10</sup>Mercy and truth have | met together; \*  
 righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.  
<sup>11</sup>Truth shall spring up | from the earth,\*  
 and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.  
<sup>12</sup>The Lord will indeed | grant prosperity,\*  
 and our land will | yield its increase.  
<sup>13</sup>Righteousness shall | go before him,\*  
 and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Lay Reader Here ends the reading.

*Please stand as you are able.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (John 6:68)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
 You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 7th chapter.  
 C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 7:18-28

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for

another?””<sup>21</sup>In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup>And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” <sup>24</sup>When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. <sup>26</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

SERMON

*Please stand as you are able.*

HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

LBW# 25

NICENE CREED (Romans 10:9-10)

**C** 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 PRAYERS (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

THE PEACE (John 20:19)

*In an attempt to be vigilant and responsible, please use Hand Sanitizers provided at each entrance. Please refrain from shaking hands and reserve a little space between one another. Nods, elbows, or gentle pat on the shoulders, etc., are welcome!*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS (Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19)

*The Offering is received as the Lord's Table is prepared. All loose offering will go towards the Gerald Bame Scholarship Fund. During the month of December, the Benevolence focus is on India Transformed and Spiritual Orphans Network. If you wish for your giving to go there please specify accordingly.*

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir and Micah Nguyen, Percussionist

As You Yearn for Bethlehem (Miller)

*Please stand as you are able.*

OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

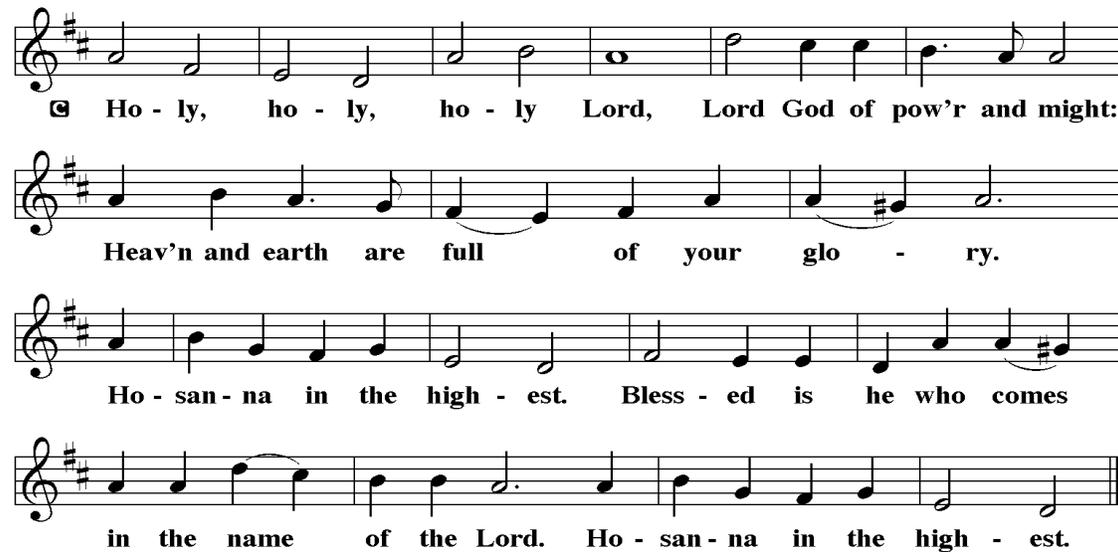
OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,  
C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us-our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for**

GREAT THANKSGIVING (2 Timothy 4:22)

P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**  
P Lift up your hearts.  
C **We lift them to the Lord.**  
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (Isaiah 6:3 and Matthew 21:9)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

P In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

C Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13)

C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

*Please be seated.*

COMMUNION (Mark 14:23)

*As the minister gives the bread and wine, and says these words to each communicant:*

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: Amen*

*At Union Lutheran Church the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday. All baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper are invited to commune. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please follow the directions of the Ushers.*

AGNUS DEI (John 1:29)



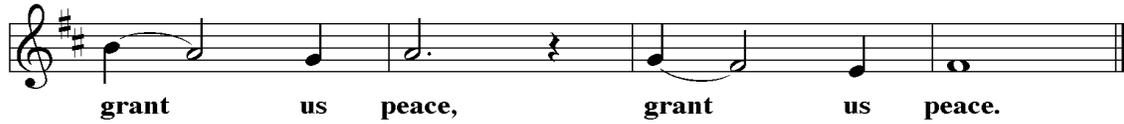
**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**Lamb of God, you take a- way the sin of the world;**



COMMUNION HYMN      Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness      LBW# 224

*Please stand as you are able.*

*After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.*

**P**      The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C**      **Amen**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE (Luke 2:29-32)



PRAYER

*The following or a similar post-communion prayer is said.*

**P**      Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C**      **Amen**

BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:22-27)

*The minister blesses the congregation, using this or another appropriate blessing.*

**P**      The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C**      **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LBW# 30

THE SENDING (Matthew 28:19)

*The minister may dismiss the congregation.*

**P** You have been nurtured in Word and Sacrament now go therefore and make disciples of all nations

**C** **Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

**P** Union Lutheran Church you are sent!

**C** **Amen, amen, amen**

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hopson

**Next Week's Readings (December 19):**

Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45



**“A SIMPLE EXPLANATION OF THE CHURCH SERVICE”**

*Welcome to church! As you participate in the church service, we will be providing you with weekly nuggets to help you understand more of what is happening, why it is happening, and some of the special language used in church.*

**NUGGET #8: SALUTATION** (...is a special greeting between the pastor and people.)

The **SALUTATION** is a special greeting between the congregation and its pastor. It announces the Lord's coming to us in the readings that follow and makes us aware that important things are about to happen.

*The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.*” 2 Timothy 4:22

*(“A Simple Explanation of the Church Service”, page 10, Concordia Publishing House, 2018)*

*Music Ministry Staff: We would like to wish Mr. Isaiah Cornelius and Mrs. Tina Brown a blessed Advent and Christmas. After prayerful consideration and in every attempt to be Christ like, the council of ULC decided to offer our Music Ministry Staff a paid sabbatical (time for healing and discernment) during the month of December.*

*In the interim we would like to thank musicians such as Mrs. Dawn Merrell and others for partnering with us in mission and ministry through music.*

*May God grant us all hope, peace, love and joy during this season.”*

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal

With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 2 (pages 77-97)

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## THOSE SERVING IN DECEMBER

**Guest Organist:** Dawn Merrell

**Acolytes:** Jordan and Mallory Eagle

**Altar Guild:** Robyn Arey, Jan Huffman, Mary Hutchens, and Vivian Sprinkle

**Communion Assistants:**

Vicki Hunter, Franklin Merrell, Doris Shepherd, and Vivian Sprinkle

**Lay Readers:** Robyn Arey, Ruby Leazer, Wayne and Pam Vellines

**Ushers:** Larry Barringer, Mike Cauble, Phil Cauble (HU), and Don Davis

**Offering Counting Team:**

Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt, Sonya Mulkey, and Vivian Sprinkle

## UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH

A charter congregation of North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

### OUR MISSION:

*Christ Centered - Mission Driven - Traditionally-Grounded - Congregationally Focused*  
(Matthew 28:18-20)

**OUR 2021 VISION:** *One Relationship at a Time*

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Website: <https://ulcsalisbury.org/>

**OFFICE HOURS:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday

### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

9:30 a.m. Sunday School (please remember to practice social distancing)

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

### CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Heidi Punt, Pastor - [pastor@ulcsalisbury.org](mailto:pastor@ulcsalisbury.org)  
(815) 883-4883

Rev. T. C. Plexico, Pastor Emeritus

Music Director: Isaiah Cornelius - [musicdirector@ulcsalisbury.org](mailto:musicdirector@ulcsalisbury.org)

Organist: Tina Brown - [organist@ulcsalisbury.org](mailto:organist@ulcsalisbury.org)

Staff Support: Genevieve Baker - [office@ulcsalisbury.org](mailto:office@ulcsalisbury.org)

Facilities Manager: Phil Cauble (704) 213-0646 - [sexton@ulcsalisbury.org](mailto:sexton@ulcsalisbury.org)

