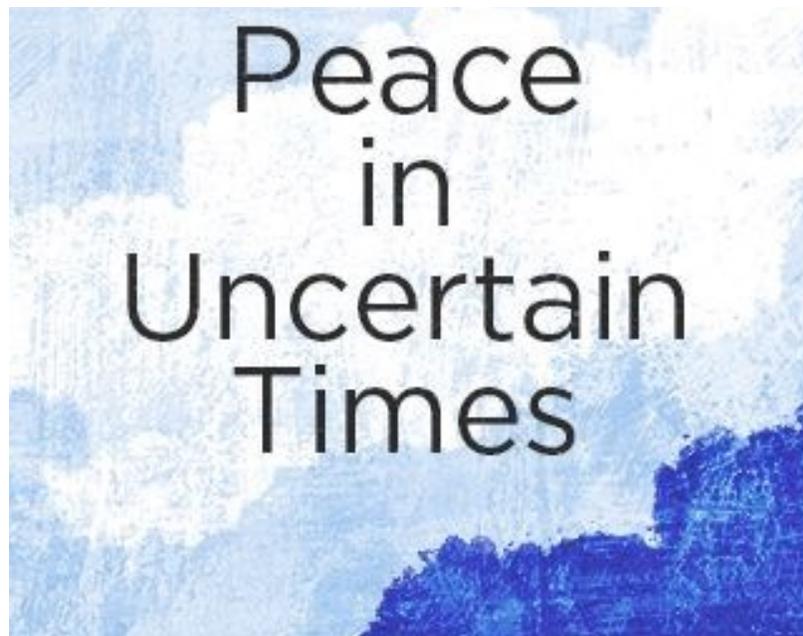


# Welcome

**4th Sunday of Advent**

December 19, 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 Lo, How a Rose E're blooming/O come, O come, Emmanuel Burkhardt  
*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 And so it was that people forgot how to laugh. There was gloom of deep sadness and fear. Happiness was pursued in the accumulation of things as people paid to be happy. And the words "joy" and "contentment" were replaced with "Me!" and "Mine!" Then, when smiles seemed to have been forgotten, frowns and scowls seemed a normal dress accessory and the shadows of gloom were almost tangible, God said, "Let there be light." And there was Joy.

(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

P By this time people had learned not to care. Love had turned to hatred, to lust, or to infatuation. 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.

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.**

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

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (verse 4)

WOV 630

C **Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.**

**He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!**

**P** The light of Love tickles our hearts in Advent. In the light of Love, faces are lit with gladness, frowns and scowls are left at the door, and all eyes flicker with a renewed wonder found in Christ. In its light, we learn again to delight in simple things - a smile on the face of a stranger, the sparkle in a friend's eye, the birth of a baby, the song of a mother at night. My soul magnifies the Lord.

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

*Brief moment of self-reflection.*

**HYMN** My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

Hymn Tune: Tallis Canon

Hymn Tune can be found on page LBW 278

- 1 My soul now magnifies the Lord;  
My Spirit leaps for joy in him.  
He keeps me in his kind regard,  
And I am blest for time to come.
- 2 For he alone who shows such might  
Has done amazing things to me.  
His mercy flows; his name like light  
Remains in time perpetually.
- 3 His arm is strong; his strength is great.  
He scatters those of proud intent,  
And casts them down from high estate;  
Then gives the low his nourishment.
- 4 He feeds the hungry as his own;  
The wealthy leave with empty hands.  
He gives his help to Israel;  
His gracious promise always stands.

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



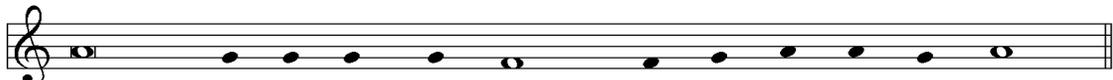
☩ For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



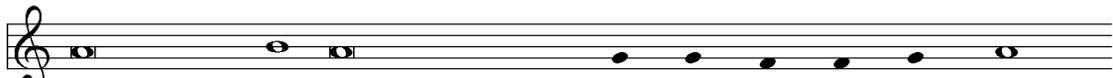
☩ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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



☩ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. ☩ 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. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. With your great might, give us your help, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by your grace; 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: Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And he shall be their peace.

Lay Reader Here ends the reading.

PSALM 80:1-7 *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 10:5-10

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" <sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Lay Reader Here ends the reading.

*Please stand as you are able.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (John 6:68)



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1st chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

SERMON

Pastor Heidi Punt

Peace in Times of Uncertainty

*Please stand as you are able.*

HYMN

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

LBW# 34

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 Building and Repair 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

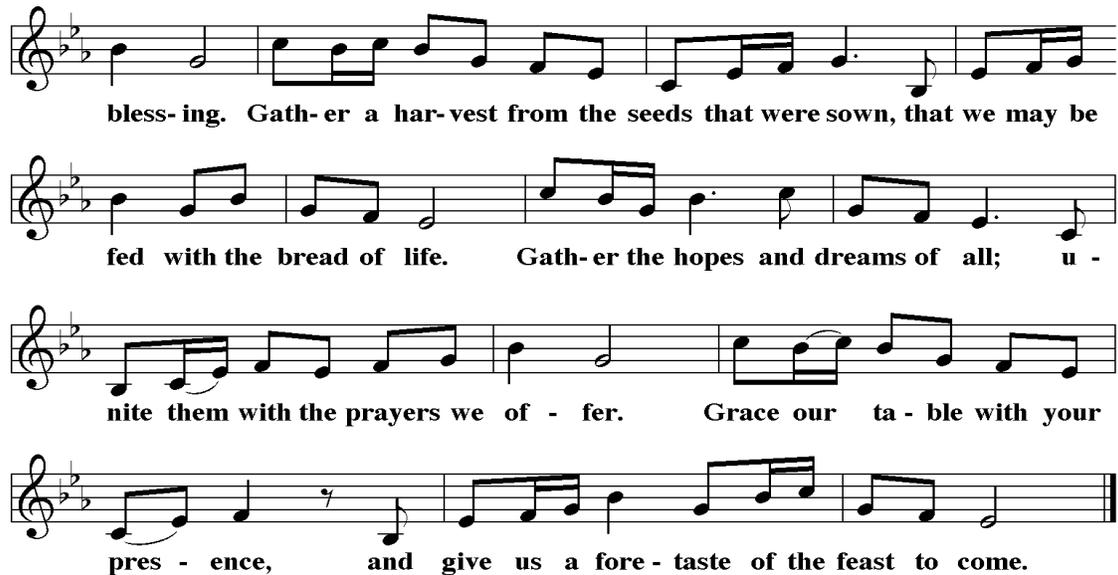
Comfort Ye, Comfort Ye (Sleeth)

*Please stand as you are able.*

OFFERTORY



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



bless-ing. 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.

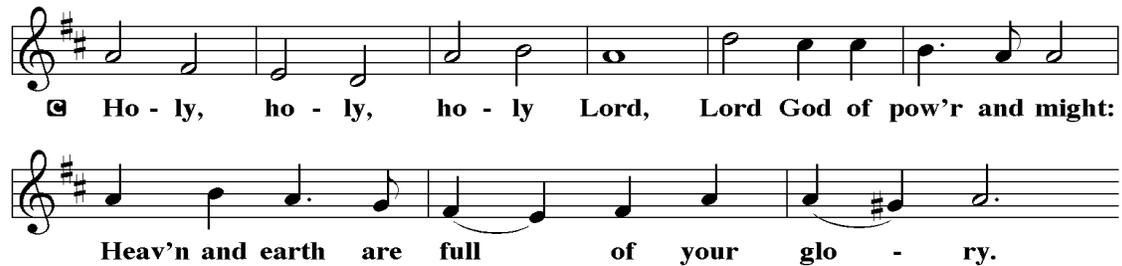
OFFERTORY PRAYER

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 the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

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)

**L** 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;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN Sent Forth by God's Blessing LBW# 221  
*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)



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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**

Savior of the Nations, Come

LBW# 28

**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

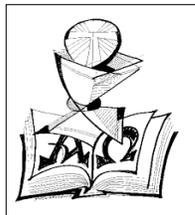
**POSTLUDE**

Savior of the Nations, Come

Bender

**Next Week's Readings (December 26):**

Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15; Psalm 111; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:22-40



**“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 #9: COLLECT OF THE DAY** (...is a short prayer.)

The **Collect of the Day** “collects” in a concise and beautiful manner the Gospel message for the day. Most of these prayers have been in continuous use in the Church for more than 1,500 years. In the **Collect of the Day**, we join with the great body of believers, the communion of saints, and with the generations yet to come. The congregation makes the **Collect** its own with its **“Amen.”**

**Amen** is the congregation’s declaration that what has been said is true and worthy of agreement; “Yes, yes, this is most certainly true.”

*(“A Simple Explanation of the Church Service”, page 11, Concordia Publishing House, 2018)*

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

**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 Reader:** Robyn Arey

**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*

4470 Bringle Ferry Road  
Salisbury, NC 28146

Phone (704) 636-5092 ~ Fax (704) 636-1022

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)

