

Welcome

4th Week of Advent

Wait Upon the Lord with Gratitude

Tuesday, December 21, at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 22, at 10:00 a.m.



UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRESERVICE MUSIC

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. Psalm 9:1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand as able.

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

C Amen.

P Wait upon the Lord.

C Be strong and courageous.

P Wait upon the Lord. That's what Zechariah did. Then he gave thanks, saying—

C Blessed be the Lord God of Israel.

P For he has visited and redeemed his people.

C To guide our feet into the way of peace.

P Wait upon the Lord.

C Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P God of all mercy and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

C We admit that we have become impatient with ourselves, each other, and sometimes with you. We have turned to our own way and have gone astray from your will. Lost in sin and needing to become strong and courageous, we ask you, O Lord, to forgive our sin, cleanse our hearts, and keep us patiently waiting for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

You are encouraged to be mindful of our brokenness and sinfulness. You are also invited to meditate on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.

P Believe and receive the good news! God sent his Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show his infinite love and forgiveness for all people. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of + Christ who came and indeed, will come again.

C Amen.

P Wait upon the Lord.

C Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun-tains in re-ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad-some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O Lord, rend the heavens and come down. Be our strength every morning and our salvation in the night of despair. Show forth your power and might, just as you did in the days of Zechariah the priest; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit—God forever.

C Amen

Please be seated.

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

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 51:2-4

Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. For the Lord comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

Lay Reader Here ends the reading.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 5:17-19

Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.

Lay Reader Here ends the reading.

Please stand as you are able.

P Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

C Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. Hallelujah!

GOSPEL: Luke 1:67-79

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

Pastor Heidi Punt

Wait Upon the Lord with Gratitude

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

Everlasting God

Verse

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

Pre-Chorus

Our God You reign forever

Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer

Chorus

You are the everlasting God

The everlasting God

You do not faint

You won't grow weary

You're the defender of the weak

You comfort those in need

You lift us up on wings like eagles

APOSTLES' CREED (Romans 10:9-10)

P Together with all brothers and sisters in Christ we confess our faith in the one true God.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

*Or, He descended to the dead.

**Or, the holy Christian Church,

PRAYERS

The Prayers are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Heavenly Father, we wait for you.

C More than watchmen wait for the morning—

P More than watchmen wait for the morning.

C Lead us in your truth and teach us.

P For you are the God of our salvation.

C For you we wait all the day long.

P O God, inspire us to wait for you faithfully.

C Serve you joyfully.

P And give to others generously.

C Gracious Lord, grant healing for the sick.

P Courage for the fainthearted.

C Hope for the discouraged.

P And great clarity for all in the valley of decision.

A moment of personal petitions and prayers are offered at this time.

P Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray trusting in your mercy and grace.

C Amen

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

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:22-27)

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

P May God give us the faith of Abraham, the hope of Isaiah, the joy of Elizabeth, and the gratitude of Zechariah. God will make us strong and courageous.

C As we wait upon the Lord! Amen.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

THE SENDING (Matthew 28:19)

The minister may dismiss the congregation.

P You have been nurtured in Word 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**

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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Salisbury, NC 28146

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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
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Rev. T. C. Plexico, Pastor Emeritus

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Everlasting God CCLI Song # 4556538

Brenton Brown | Ken Riley

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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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