

Welcome

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021

4:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. Candlelight Service



UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

PRELUDE

The First Noel
Abbey Deaton, flute; Brad Huffman, trumpet; Jan Huffman, horn; Morgan Deaton, tuba
Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella
Dawn Merrell, Organ

Fetler

Euheline

The Wexford Carol
Belles and Beaus

Krug

Carillon and Sortie on “The First Noel”
Dawn Merrell, Organ

Ashdown

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The service is one of Scripture and Christmas Carols. The Word of God will be read throughout. The selected Carols and Special Music pieces help tell this story. As you join us in song and prayer, you are participating in this wonderful opportunity of proclaiming Jesus’ birth, bringing real hope and sustainable truth into our world. We are glad you came and hope that you are touched by the power of the Holy Spirit.

GREETING

Congregation please stand as 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.

C Amen

ADVENT WREATH LITANY *based on Psalm 23*

P Behold, the Lord God comes with might and his arm rules for him.

C **The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want.**

P Behold his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

C **He makes me lie down in green pastures; he restores my soul.**

P He will tend his flock like a shepherd.

C **He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.**

P He will gather his lambs in his arms.

C **Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me; your rod and staff they comfort me.**

P He will carry them in his bosom.

C **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

P And gently lead those that are with young.

C **Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

SPECIAL MUSIC
Dawn Merrell, Harp

Lo, How a Rose

arr. Woods

The four advent candles are lit at this time by the acolyte.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P We come to you wounded and broken.

C **Without your power we are lost and alone. We confess to you that we are powerless to save ourselves. We are powerless over sin. We are powerless over death. We are powerless. To you we come, Lord Jesus, for you have invited us to repent and promised to receive us as your children. Powerless we come to you for pardon and peace.**

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P **Jesus said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." He hides his power in weakness, in a baby, in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes. The power of God is the power to forgive our sins. We are powerless; he is powerful. We are weak; he is strong. We are sinful; he is holy. By this grace of God and by your confession, I therefore declare to you the complete forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Sanctuary lights are turned down at this time.
The Congregation is invited to be seated.*

THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LBW# 45

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Please remain seated and engage by listening attentively.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who is one of the little clans of Judah, from you, shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. (Micah 5:2)

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. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

THE ANGELS VISIT MARY AND JOSEPH

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

LBW# 71

1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Please remain seated and engage by listening attentively.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:26-38)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, (Matthew 1:18:24)

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM
Youth and Kid's Christmas Choir

Christmas in Song

Merrell

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Following the message the children return to their parents and guardians.

SPECIAL MUSIC
Beaus and Belles

Away in a Manger

Sherman

Congregation please stand as able.

SCRIPTURE READING

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.³ All went to their own towns to be registered.⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1-7)

Congregation please be seated.

SERMON

The Lord Is Come

Pastor Heidi Punt

THE ANGELS AND SHEPHERD'S RESPONSE

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LBW# 60

SCRIPTURE READING

Please remain seated and engage by listening attentively.

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:15-20)

Congregation please stand as able.

NICENE CREED (Romans 10:9-10)

P As the shepherds and angels responded we also get to respond by confessing our faith:

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

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

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.

The Congregation is invited to 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 received today will go towards a Christmas Offering. 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

Christmas Gloria

Lovelace

Chancel Choir and Pete Nguyen, Percussion

Congregation please stand as able.

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

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:

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him
should not perish, but have eternal life.
We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

The Congregation is invited to 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 week. 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.

COMMUNION HYMN What Child is This? LBW# 40

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 on Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 while shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 haste, haste to bring him laud,
 the babe, the son of Mary!

COMMUNION HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem LBW# 41

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
 how still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 the silent stars go by;
 yet in thy dark streets shineth
 the everlasting light.
 The hopes and fears of all the years
 are met in thee tonight.

COMMUNION HYMN It Came upon the Midnight Clear LBW# 54

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
 That glorious song of old,
 From angels bending near the earth
 To touch their harps of gold.
 "Peace on the earth, good will to all,
 From heav'ns all gracious king."
 The world in solemn stillness lay
 To hear the angels sing.

COMMUNION HYMN The First Noel LBW# 56

1 The first Noel the angel did say
 was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
 in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
 on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
 Born is the King of Israel.

Once everyone has received the Sacraments. 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**

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**

BLESSING

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**

Sanctuary lights are turned down completely.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The minister lights her candle from the Christ Candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world (Jesus Christ) of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lit candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.

The minister and her family will sing a verse in German before the congregation is invited to join in.

HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night! (*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht*) LBW# 65
Abbey Deaton, Flutist

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

- 1 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.
- 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 your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

THE STORY OF ANNA

SCRIPTURE READING

³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. (Luke 2:37-38)

The candles are extinguished. Please give a few minutes for the wax to harden before handing to the ushers on leaving.

DISMISSAL

The minister may dismiss the congregation.

P Go in peace

C **and share the good news!**

P that Jesus Christ is born. Amen!

POSTLUDE

Make Room

Keith and Tina Thrasher, Guitar

Merry Christmas!

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: Genevieve Baker (4:00 p.m.)

Tara Davis ~ Elbert Kluttz ~ Nikki Nguyen (8:00 p.m.)

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

Offering Counting Team:

Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt, Sonya Mulkey, and Vivian Sprinkle

Information....

- 2021 is quickly coming to a close. If you want to have any **special giving credited** to your account before the year ends please do so by **Sunday, December 26**.
- **Renumbered Sunday Worship Offering Envelopes** for Adults, Youth, and Children are available to pick up for 2022 from the front pew in alphabetical order. ***Please do not use until January 2, 2022.*** **Please note:** **1** Confirmed active members with children and youth will receive a physical envelope. **2** Inactive members will not receive a physical envelope. If during the year upon request a physical envelope will be assigned.
- **2022 Altar Flowers sign up sheet** is available in the Narthex. Please fill out the dates that you would like to reserve. The church office will contact you the week of for bulletin wording
- The church office will begin working on the **2022 Church Yearbook** in January. If you have any changes in your primary contact information (phone, address, email, etc.) please contact the office as soon as possible.
- All organizations, committees, groups, and individuals who are to turn in reports for the **ANNUAL YEARBOOK REPORT**, please do so by **Sunday, January 9**. This is a very important document in reflecting the life of Union's for the past year and for planning activities for the coming year. We want to get it out to the members of the congregation as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.
- **2021 Yearend Statements** will be mailed out at the end of January. Please note that those who have emails the statements will be sent via email.

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
(815) 883-4883

Rev. T. C. Plexico, Pastor Emeritus

Music Director: Isaiah Cornelius - musicdirector@ulcsalisbury.org

Organist: Tina Brown - organist@ulcsalisbury.org

Staff Support: Genevieve Baker - office@ulcsalisbury.org

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

For unto us
a child
is born,
to us
a son is given
Isaiah 9:6



POINSETTIAS

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in honor of Marvin and Phoebe Nunn and in memory of Dollie Shaver by:

Don and Tara Davis

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in memory of Kay Edmiston, Sue Eagle, and Jerry Taylor by:

Don and Tara Davis

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in honor of Sharon and Sonya Leazer, Karen and Larry Barringer, and Wade Leazer by:

Ruby Leazer

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in honor of Adam Thompson, Dalton and Wyatt Thompson by:

Ruby Leazer

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in memory of John and Mae Oddie, Pauline Leazer, Pauline Oddie, and John Oddie, Jr. by:

Ruby Leazer

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God in memory of Rev. and Mrs. Vernon Frick, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Merrell, Franz Merrell, and Elaine Honbarrier by:

Frank and Dawn Merrell

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in memory of Floyd and Margaret Peeler by:

Steven and Malynda Peeler

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in honor of Paul Baker sharing his musical talents during the Advent Season by:

Pastor Heidi Punt

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Nursing Home Residents - Brenda Mahaley, Pat & Wayne Miller, Ruth Monroe, and Jane Peeler (Autumn Care), Jean Ray (Brookdale), Gene Honbarrier (Liberty Commons), and Betty Denker (Trinity Oaks, Apt. 123B)

Homebound Members - Rachel Earnhardt, Jean Kluttz, Frances Norris, Zarah Plyler, Billy Waller, and Michael Walton

Sick/Surgery/Recovery - Kathleen Agner, Melissa Arey, Bill Broadway, Mike Cauble, Linda Hartley, Steve Hutchens, Tommy Kerns, Pat Kluttz, Nancy Kesler, John Knight, Margaret Lyerly, Eric Miller, Donnie Miller, Harold Miller, Dusty Morgan, Gladys Morgan, Kay Morgan, Ruth Myers, Marvin Nunn, Karen Plyler, Ann Tucker, Effie Vellines, and Wayne Vellines.

Continual Prayer - Nancy Ballew (mother of Kat Clifton), Evonne Batten (mother of Lisa Morgan), Yvette Bates (co-worker of Karen Barringer), Jimmie Cagle (sister of Pat Kluttz), Vanna Calloway (friend of Kat Clifton), Arnold Cauble, Ophelia Curlee (sister-in-law of Grace Morgan), Karen DeMunbrun (niece of Grace Morgan), Janet Dunning (sister of Doris Shepherd), Martha Eller (friend of Pat Kluttz), June Fraley, Emily Jones (sister of Jimmy Plyler), Amy Lowder Harrison, and Jesse Morgan, Jr., Teresa Kesler, Glenn and Betty Sue Lowder, Tim MacLeod (uncle of Lisa Morgan), David Mitchell (friend of Pete Nguyen), Della Morgan (mother of Pam Vellines), Dusty Morgan, Sr. Family (Dusty, Sr., Lisa, Felisaty, and Dusty, Jr.), Shari Morgan (friend of Jan Huffman), Hong Nguyen (mother of Pete Nguyen), Maggie Safrin Smale (great niece of Effie Vellines), Laura Stokes (friend of Frank and Dawn Merrell), Brinley Rose Upchurch, Union Fire Department #76, and those affected by natural or political disasters.

Confirmation Students: Mallory Eagle, Harlem Jones, Micah Nguyen (Faith Coach), Makenzie Poole, Emme Poole, Bailey Wilhelm, and Lucas Wilhelm

Remember in Prayer List Note: We strive to list the prayer requests and names correctly. Please let us know if a correction is needed or you would like a name added/or returned to the list. If there is a name that can be removed, please contact the church office with that information as well. In an effort to keep the list current, we will update/remove prayer requests on a monthly basis, with the exception of known prolonged/ongoing issues. Thank you!

