

Welcome

The Feast of the Epiphany & Celebration of Light Service

January 6, 2022

6:30 p.m. Worship



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

The Epiphany feasts completes the season of Christmas by inviting us to discern the identity of the Christ child. Three traditions – baking a King’s Cake, marking a door lintel with the Magi’s blessing, and elaborating worship with lighted candles – help us interpret the Christ season appropriately. Tonight we will mainly focus on the celebration of light.

According to Luke and John, God’s appearance in the person of Jesus is comparable to light entering a darkened world. When Simeon took the Christ child in his arms, he praised God for sending salvation and light to all nations and as a glory to God’s people Israel (Luke 3:32). The prologue of John proclaims that the Word is God’s light, already appeared in our midst (John 1:4-5).

The service will begin in a darkened sanctuary. The “light” will be brought into the sanctuary from the narthex and the two side doors, during a reading of the Opening Dialogue and accompanied with quiet music when available. The three lights brought into the sanctuary, together light the Christ Candle from where then the altar candles will be lit.

During the reading of the psalm, sanctuary lights are turned up brighter.

Tonight we join the Magi in seeking and adoring the Christ child.

PRELUDE

As With Gladness Men of Old

Leavitt

OPENING DIALOGUE

P Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C **The light no darkness can overcome**

P Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening.

C **And the day is almost over.**

P Let your light scatter the darkness.

C **and illumine your Church**

P For even the darkness is not dark to you.

C **The night is bright as the day.**

SALUTATION AND PRAYER

P The Lord be with you

C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give home thanks and praise.**

P Heavenly Father, by the leading of a star, you revealed your only begotten Son. You sent him to be the Light to all nations, so may his light shine in and through us. Send us to be Christ’s light in our homes, schools, workplaces and to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

As With Gladness Men of Old

LBW# 82

PSALM 72:1-15 *read responsively*

- ¹Give the King your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- ²**That he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
- ³That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- ⁴**He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**
- ⁵He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
- ⁶**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
- ⁷In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- ⁸**He shall rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.**
- ⁹His foes shall bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust.
- ¹⁰**The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**
- ¹¹All kings shall bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.
- ¹²**For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,
and the oppressed who has no helper.**
- ¹³He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- ¹⁴**He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**
- ¹⁵Long may he live! and may there be given to him gold from Arabia;
may prayer be made for him always, and may they bless him all the day long.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship

him.”⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

SERMON

One Purpose, One Dream

Pastor Heidi Punt

APOSTLES' CREED (Romans 10:9-10)

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 was 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*

ANTHEM

Arise, Shine, for Your Light Has Come

Bender

Chancel Choir

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

The Offering is received at this time. All loose offering will go towards the Social Ministry Fund. During the month of January, the Benevolence focus is on Rowan Helping Ministries. If you wish for your giving to go there please specify accordingly.

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

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

C In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN We Three Kings of Orient Are WOV# 646

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

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

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

POSTLUDE We Three Kings Staszkeski

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal
With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal
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THOSE SERVING IN JANUARY

Altar Guild: Deena Lanning and Karen Morgan

Lay Reader: Deena Lanning,

Ushers: Phil and Linda Cauble, Mike and Brenda Cauble, and Frank and Dawn Merrell

Offering Counting Team: Jennifer Curlee, Doris Shepherd, and Wayne Vellines

Information....

- **Renumbered Sunday Worship Offering Envelopes** for Adults, Youth, and Children are available to pick up for 2022 from the Narthex in alphabetical order. **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.

Feast of the Epiphany

The Light of the World has come as promised, casting out darkness and sin. God has revealed his salvation through the birth of his one and only son, Jesus. The prophets spoke of him long ago, assuring God's people that the glory of the Lord would shine upon them. For those who have waited in despair, the thrill of His radiance will fill their hearts. This message is for all to hear — wise and foolish alike.



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

Interim Organist: Dawn Merrell

Staff Support: Genevieve Baker - office@ulcsalisbury.org

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

