



Union Lutheran Church

4770 Bringle Ferry Road
Salisbury, NC 28146
704-636-5092
office@ulcsalisbury.org
www.ulcsalisbury.org



The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2022

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

OUR MISSION:

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

OUR VISION:

One Relationship at a Time

BE OUR GUEST

Can't wait to see what God can do!



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Joy to the World* (Burkhardt)

Dawn Merrell, Organ

The Altar Candles, advent candles, and Christ Candle are lit at this time during the Prelude.

The minister leads the congregation in the invocation.

Please stand as able and turn to face the cross.

P Greetings on this Christmas morning...in the name of the Father, and of the ✙
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19)

C **Amen**

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom
no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your
Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy
name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if
we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and
cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have
sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and
by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son,
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we
may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy
name. Amen**

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake,
forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of
Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of
all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
(John 20:22-23)

C **Amen**

HYMN: *Joy to the World*

LBW# 39

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.**

(LBW) Lutheran Book of Worship (green hymnal)
(WOV) With One Voice (blue hymnal)

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Krug)

Belles & Beaus

SALUTATION (2 Timothy 4:22)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the new birth of your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set free all who are held in servitude under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Jesus Is Born* (Burkhardt)

Kids Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ⁸The voice of your watchmen — they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Lay Reader: Here ends the reading.

PSALM 2 (*Congregation is invited to listen reflectively while the Psalm is sung.*)

EPISTLE LESSON: Hebrews 1:1-12

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire." ⁸But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." ¹⁰And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of

the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, ¹²like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

Lay Reader: Here ends the reading.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Good Christian Friends*

**1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

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

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

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

Please be seated.

SERMON: *Amazing Birth of Jesus*

Pastor Heidi Punt

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN: *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*

LBW# 45

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

**Or, We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.*

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)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

ANTHEM: *For Unto Us a Child is Born* (Handel)

Chancel Choir

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 Youth Missions/Retreat Fund. During the month of December, the Benevolence focus is on Food for the poor. If you wish for your giving to go there please specify accordingly.

Please stand as you are able.

Congregation please join in singing following brief organ introduction.

OFFERTORY HYMN: *What Child is This* Youth Chimers and Congregation

**3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

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: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

**5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore! Amen**

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. For those who prefer individually sealed units please indicate. Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request. Please fill out a communion card located in the pew and hand to the Usher while following their directions to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

AGNUS DEI: *Away in a Manger*

3 **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

COMMUNION MUSIC: *Lo, How a Rose Ere' Blooming* (Moklebust) Belles & Beaus

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

Please stand as you are able.

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

C **Amen**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

3 **Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

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: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

LBW# 70

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: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Staszkeski

Scriptures for January 1, 2023: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18; Micah 5:1-5; Luke 1:26-35, 38;
Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:8-20; Matthew 2:1-12; John 1:1-14
Theme: *Lessons & Carols*

Those Serving in December

Acolytes: Micah Nguyen and Adam Thompson

Altar Guild: Robyn Arey, Mary Hutchens, and Patsy Lyerly

Communion Assistants: Vicki Hunter, Elbert Kluttz, and Franklin Merrell

Trumpeter: Brad Huffman ~ **Saxophone:** Michael Punt

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

Ushers: Mike Cauble, Phil Cauble (HU), Elbert Kluttz,
Wade Leazer, and Ronald Vellines

Offering Counters:

Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt, Sonya Mulkey, and Vivian Sprinkle

(LBW) Lutheran Book of Worship (green hymnal)

(WOV) With One Voice (blue hymnal)

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

Augsburg Fortress [Copyrighted element(s)] [Copyright notice] Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license#

SBL10475L. AF Liturgies License. Augsburg Fortress [Copyrighted element(s)] [Copyright notice]

Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license# SBL10475H. AF Hymns License.

CCLI License #20615971 & CCLI Streaming License #20615988 Sola Publishing (www.solapublishing.org), Sola Online Worship Resource Site Permission is granted to active subscribers for local congregational use.