



Union Lutheran Church

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

1st Sunday after Christmas

January 1, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

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

WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* (Burton)
The Altar Candles are lit at this time during the Prelude.

Dawn Merrell, Harp

Please stand as able.

HYMN: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

LBW# 50

DIALOGUE

P Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C By day and night he shines for all to see.

P Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

P God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

P Jesus is the light of the world.

C Jesus is the light of our lives.

P Sing to God a new song!

C A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER

P Let us pray: Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts.

C Amen

Please be seated and remain seated unless asked to stand.

HOMILY

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18 (ESV)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

HYMN: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (stanza 1)

LBW# 42

SECOND LESSON: Micah 5:1-5 (ESV)

Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek. ²But 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. ³Therefore 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. ⁴And 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. ⁵And he shall be their peace.

HYMN: *Once in Royal David's City* (stanzas 1 & 2)

WOV# 643

THIRD LESSON: Luke 1:26-35, 38 (ESV)

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He 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 father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God.

³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

HYMN: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* (stanzas 1-3)

WOV# 632

FOURTH LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25 (ESV)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

HYMN: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (stanzas 1 & 4)

LBW# 41

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-20 (ESV)

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

LBW# 71

SIXTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “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.”³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.⁵ They 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.””⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.⁸ And 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.

HYMN: *We Three Kings of Orient Are* (stanzas 1 & 5)

WOV# 646

SEVENTH LESSON: John 1:1-14 (ESV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was in the beginning with God.³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.¹⁴ And 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.

HYMN: *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful* (stanza 4)

LBW# 45

Please stand as able.

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.*

PRAYER

P Let us pray, Almighty God, you have given us your only begotten Son to take our nature and be born of the Virgin Mary. Grant that we, having been redeemed and made your children by grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

P It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

C **Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**

P In his light, draw all to the manger

C **to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**

P In his light, draw all to the manger

C **to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**

P In his light, draw all to the manger

C **to sing for joy with the angels.**

P In the brightness of his life

C **cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**

P It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

C **In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. 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: *Carols Around* (Nygard)

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 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.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY HYMN: *The First Noel* (stanza 5)

**5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

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: *O Come All Ye Faithful* (arr. Burton) Dawn Merrell, Harp

COMMUNION HYMN: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (stanza 1) LBW# 54

COMMUNION HYMN: *The First Noel* (stanza 1) LBW# 56

COMMUNION HYMN: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* LBW# 60

Communion Hymns will continue until everyone has received the Sacrament or Blessing.

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: *From Heaven Above*

**14 “Glory to God in highest heav’n,
Who unto us his Son has giv’n.”
With angels sing in pious mirth:
A glad new year to all the earth!**

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 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

C **Praise God, all creatures here below!**

P You are the shepherds telling the story.

C **We tell it in the streets and across the land.**

P You are the wise ones worshipping with thanksgiving.

C **We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.**

P You are the angels announcing peace.

C **We live with you and go now in peace.**

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

LBW# 55

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: *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* (Burkhardt)

(LBW) Lutheran Book of Worship (green hymnal)

(WOV) With One Voice (blue hymnal)

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

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