



Union Lutheran Church

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



1st Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

We welcome children to be a part of worship. A nursery is also provided for those attending to the needs of infants and small children.

*(Please stand when indicated by *)*

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal

With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

P=Pastor, C=Congregation, L=Lay Reader

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Welcome & Announcements

Recognition of Outgoing Council Members

Thank you for faithfully serving God through your leadership on the Church Council: Larry Barringer, Jennifer Curlee, Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt, Steve Hutchens, Matt Miller

Prelude: *Savior of the Nations, Come* (arr. Nelson)

GATHERING

* Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness

P In this season of waiting and watching for the return of Christ, we are gathered together to worship in the name of the Father, Son, **+** and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a pathway for our God." Let us come humbly before our Lord, asking for forgiveness and mercy for our sins, known and unknown. (Isaiah 40:3)

(Silence for self-reflection and examination)

P God of grace,

C we confess that we have not been attentive to the urgent call to prepare for the coming of your Son. We have neglected to serve our neighbors, near and far. We have relied too much on our own strength rather than relying on your power, grace, and comfort in our lives. Grant us forgiveness and restore us to a right relationship through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P The God who desires his people to depend upon him, offers us comfort in the knowledge that all our sins are forgiven. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever. Live joyfully in the grace and mercy of our Lord. (Isaiah 40:8)

C Amen.

ADVENT

626

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant-ed
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to

year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the
 there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in
 brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as
 earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming with the

hearth and set the ta - ble.
 course the flower may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look east, and sing to -
 sun and moon to - geth - er.
 word, the Lord is com - ing.

day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

* Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ for whom we wait, the love of the Father who will never let us go, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

* Kyrie (*Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent.*)

LBW p. 78-79

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen

* Salutation

LBW p. 82

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

* Prayer of the Day

P Stir up your power, O Lord, and come, that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by your mighty deliverance; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORD

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence — ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our

iniquities. ⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 80:1-7 *read responsively*

L ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

C ²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

L ³Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

C ⁴**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

L ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

C ⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

L ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

New Testament Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

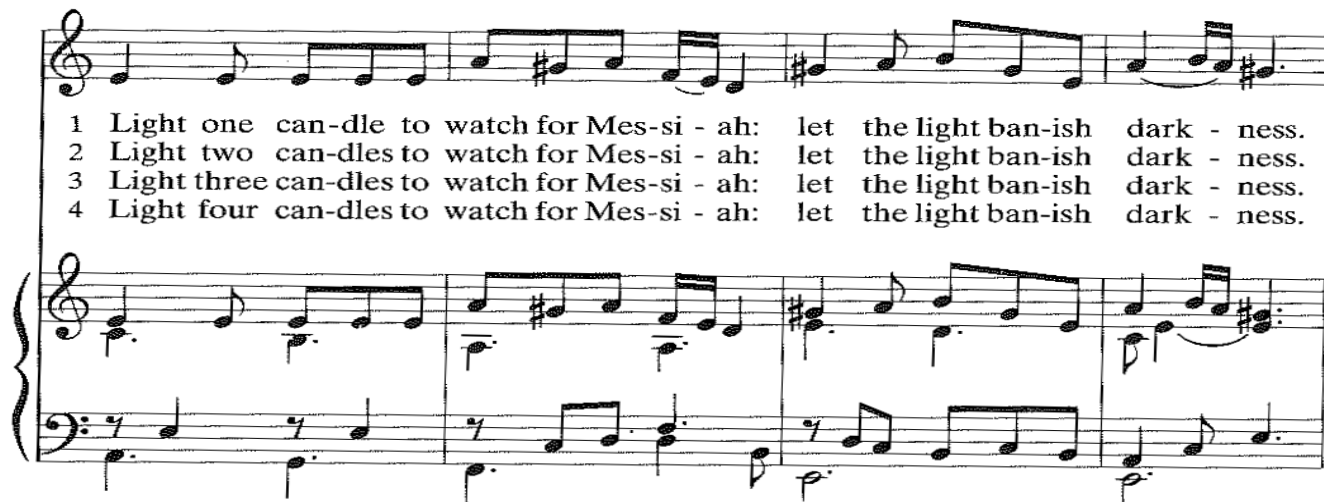
³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L Here ends the reading.

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 630



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Children's Message

* Gospel Acclamation ("Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go...")

LBW p. 83

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 13th chapter.

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

* Holy Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

²⁴{Jesus said,} “In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵Therefore stay awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning — ³⁶lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

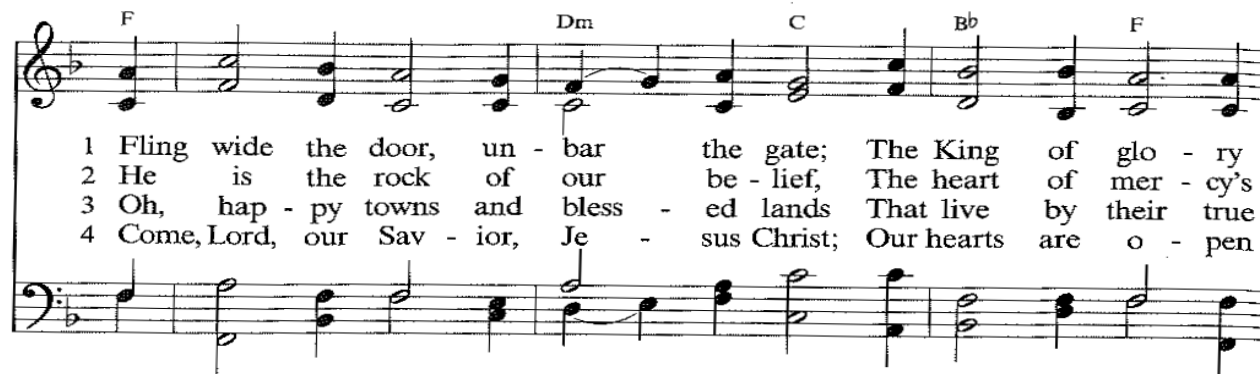
Sermon: *Finding Hope*

Pastor Heidi Punt

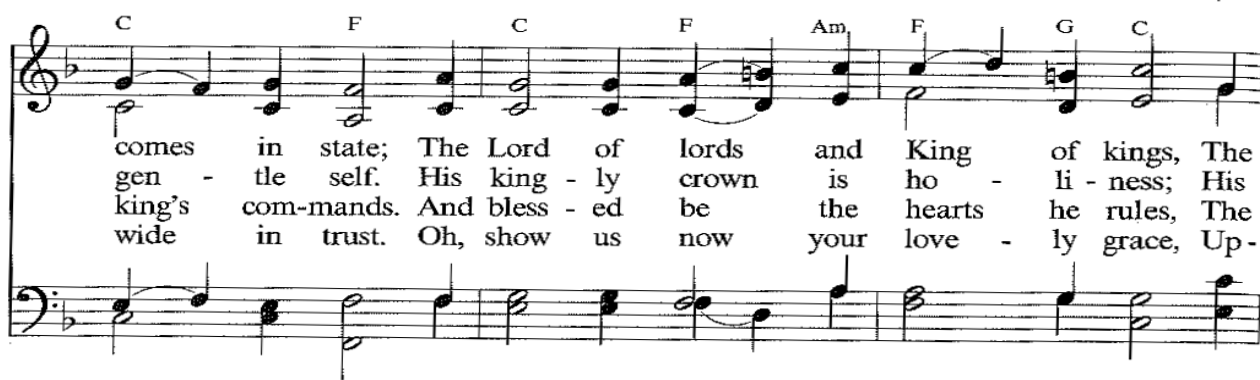
ADVENT

32

Fling Wide the Door



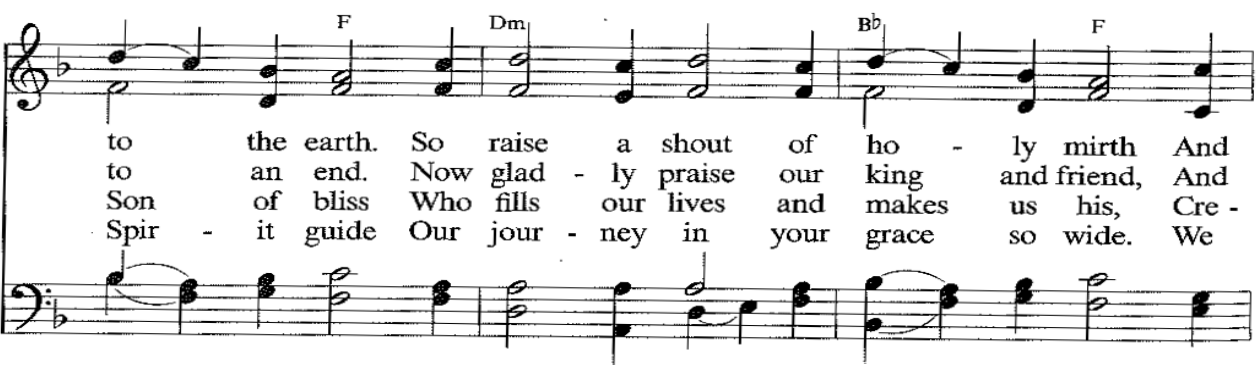
1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; The King of glo - ry
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, The heart of mer - cy's
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands That live by their true
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; Our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; The Lord of lords and King of kings, The
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; His
king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, The
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, Up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings His great sal - va - tion
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; He brings our sor - rows
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
on our sor - rows shine your face, And let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth And
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, And
Son of bliss Who fills our lives and makes us his, Cre -
Spir - it guide Our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We

praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 wor - ship him with song For sav - ing us from wrong.
 a - tor of the world, Our on - ly strength for good.
 praise your ho - ly name, From age to age the same!

Church Council Recognition, Installation, and Reaffirmation

The following were elected to serve a three-year term on the Church Council:
 Phil Cauble, Kevin Huffman, John Knight, and Thad Mulkey

The following was elected to serve a one-year term on the Church Council:
 Frank Merrell

Reaffirmation of Current Church Council Members :

Amanda Cauble, Tara Davis, Ali Davis, Vicki Hunter, Sharon Leazer, Dusty Morgan, Sr., and Debbie Rinehart.

P The following persons, having been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership, are asked to come forwards their names are read.

In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of his Church. Through Word and Sacrament you have been nurtured in faith. I ask you, together with all who are here gathered, to confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we are baptized.

Congregation please stand as able.

* Nicene Creed

LBW p. 84

**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.*

***Or, the holy Christian Church,*

Please be seated.

P *St. Paul's writes:* There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all.

P You have been elected to position of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect Him in whose name we gather.

You are to work together with other members to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation, and that God's will is done in this community and in the whole world.

You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully to carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected? If so, please respond:

Council Members: Yes, by the help of God.

P People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

C **Yes, by the help of God.**

* Prayers of the Church

LBW p. 85

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

P God of new beginnings, in these days of Advent prepare our hearts and minds to receive your Word in ever powerful ways. By the power of your Holy Spirit, stir us to wait with joyful expectation for the coming of your Son. *Lord in your mercy ...* **hear our prayer.**

God of light and life, shine the light of your presence into our lives during these weeks of waning daylight. Fill the darkness of this world with your love, that all people would see your glory and know that you are the source of all good things. *Lord in your mercy ...* **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you give us signs of Jesus' return. Help us to see and discern those signs that we would be prepared for his coming and be ready for his arrival. Let us not be complacent in showing love to others. Let us not be slow to act when we see a neighbor in need. Let us not fall asleep spiritually, but continue to listen and watch for Jesus each day of our lives, serving him in faithfulness and devotion. *Lord in your mercy ...* **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, your healing touch transcends time and space. Strengthen and console those who are anxious, grieving, lonely, ill, or discouraged in any way. [We pray particularly for ...] Shine the light of your presence into their lives through the compassion which your people share with them. *Lord in your mercy ...* **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.

* Sharing of the Peace

LBW p. 86

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Offering *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 December, the Benevolence Teaching Moment is on Food for the Poor. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Benevolence Fund.*

Organ Offertory: *An Advent Introit* (Birchwood)

MEAL

* Offertory (*"Let the Vineyards be fruitful Lord..."*)

LBW p. 86

**C Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

* Offertory Prayer

P Loving God, we give you thanks for the gifts you have first given us. May the gifts we offer out of what you have granted to us, be pleasing in your sight and reflect our tender love for you.

C Amen.

* Great Thanksgiving

LBW p. 88

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 him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary . . . (*Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:*) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

* Sanctus (*"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord..."*)

LBW p. 89

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

* Words of Institution

LBW p. 89

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.

* Lord's Prayer

LBW p. 91

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

Lamb of God (*"Lamb of God, you take away..."*)

LBW p. 92

C **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution of Communion All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the form of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request. Please fill out the communion card in the pew and hand to the Usher while following their directions to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

* Blessing

LBW p. 92

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

* Post-Communion Canticle (*"Thank the Lord..."*)

LBW p. 92-93

**C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

* Post-Communion Prayer

P God of new beginnings, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Strengthen us for the journey as we wait and watch for the Lord's Messiah to break into our world in ever amazing ways.

C Amen.

SENDING

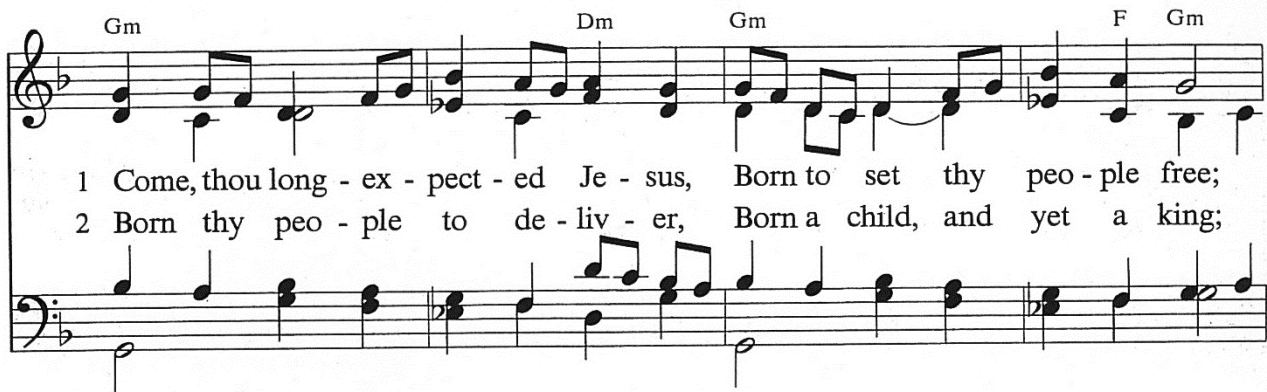
* Benediction

P As you go from this place, remember that with God, nothing is impossible. May God the Father, Son, ✝ and Holy Spirit go before you, beside you, and with you wherever you go.
(Luke 1:37)

C Amen.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

30



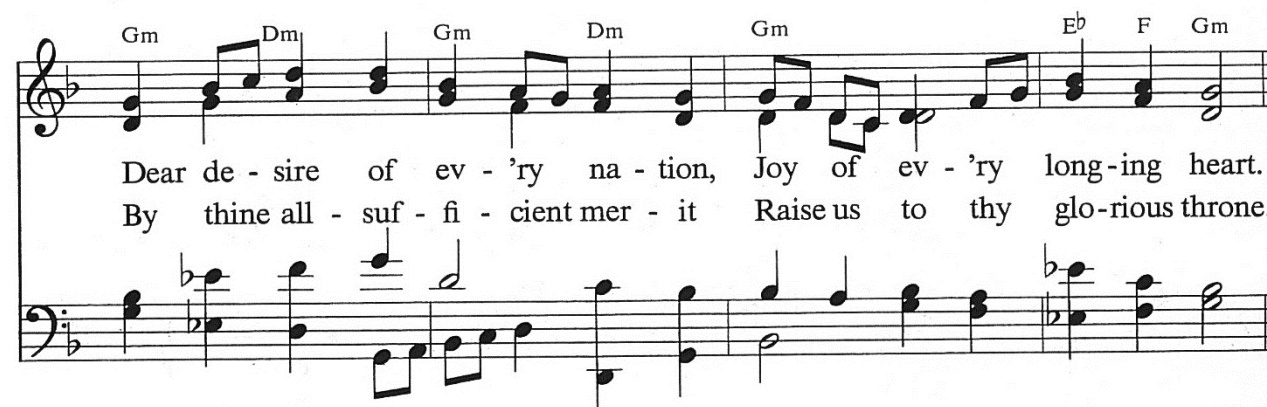
1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, Born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child, and yet a king;



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
By thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

* Sending

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: *The King Shall Come* (arr. Nelson)

Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 2 (p. 77-97)

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Those Serving Today

We welcome Nancy Sloop as our Guest Organist today!

Assisting during the Service: Robyn Arey, Vicki Hunter, Mary Hutchens

Ushers: Phil Cauble, Larry Barringer, Tara Davis & Micah Nguyen

Offering Counters: Jennifer Curlee, Doris Shepherd & Wayne Vellines

Union News

1st Sunday of Advent, December 3

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir (5th grade and younger)

Preparing for singing during worship next Sunday, December 10.

9:35 a.m. Sunday School

A Water Wonder ~ Matthew 14:22-33

Take Heart; it is I. Do not be afraid. (Matthew 14:27)

Adult Sunday School Class: The Faith of Rule

Actos 10:34-38; Ruth 1; 4:13-22

10:30 a.m. LBW Setting 2 and 1st Advent Candle: Prophecy/Hope

Worship & Holy Communion

Isaiah 65:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Sermon: *Finding Hope*

10:30 a.m. Church Council Recognition, Installation & Reaffirmation

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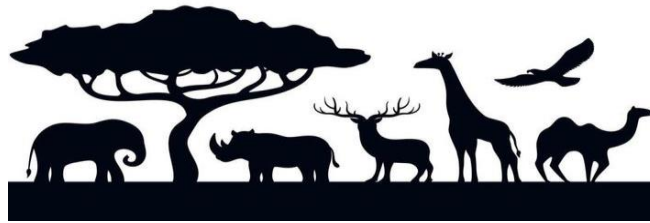
Following worship, the 250th Anniversary Committee will meet briefly.

1:30 p.m. Executive Committee

2:00 p.m. Church Council including newly elected Council members

2:45 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Beginner Bells

4:45 p.m. Union Middle/High School Youth meet at Salem to go to Zootastic.
Cost is \$17 per person. Please bring spending money too!



During the season of Advent, the Altar Greenery is given to the glory of God.

This Weeks' Activities:

- Monday, Dec. 4 Genevieve Baker will be out of the office. The church office will be open during her absence.
- Tuesday, Dec. 5 5:45 p.m. Advent Meal hosted by Good Timers
6:30 p.m. Advent Mid-Week Service
- Wednesday, Dec. 6 10:30 a.m. Advent Mid-Week Service
Lunch following service
4:00 p.m. Lay Ministers
6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
- Thursday, Dec. 7 Frank Merrell has reserved the large fellowship hall
- Friday, Dec. 8 4:30 p.m. Haiti Pastors Bible Study online
- Saturday, Dec. 9 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Christmas program walk through
-

2nd Sunday of Advent, December 10

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir (5th grade and younger) in Sanctuary

9:35 a.m. Sunday School
A Confident Confession ~ Matthew 16:13-23
You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. (Matthew 16:16)
Adult Sunday School Class:
The Faith of David ~ Psalm 27; 1 Samuel 17:1-58

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion
1st Advent Candle (Prophecy/Hope) and
2nd Advent Candle (Bethlehem/Faith)
Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8
Sermon: *Living in Faith*

The congregation is invited to the wedding ceremony of Robin Augram and Kevin Huffman during the worship service on Sunday, December 10.

4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Little Lutherans (5th grade and younger)

During the season of Advent, the Altar Greenery is given to the glory of God.

Deadline to donate items for the Footprints in the Community Service Project.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, December 12

2:00 p.m. Mary & Martha Circle Christmas at Deena Lanning's home
130 Kesler Pastures Road, Salisbury, NC 28146

5:45 p.m. Advent Meal in large fellowship hall
Thank you to the Middle/High School Youth & Parents
for providing and serving the meal.

6:30 p.m. Mid-Week Advent Service: A Little Child Shall Lead Them
Isaiah 9:2-7; John 1:10-14; Mark 2:13-17

Wednesday, December 13

10:30 a.m. Mid-Week Advent Service: A Little Child Shall Lead Them
Isaiah 9:2-7; John 1:10-14; Mark 2:13-17
Lunch following the service.

6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 14

10:00 a.m. Good Timers Christmas Party
Please bring finger foods to sample and a \$1.00 gift for prizes.

6:00 p.m. Worship & Music Committee

Friday, December 15

4:30 p.m. Haiti Pastors Bible Study online

6:30 p.m. Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 17

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir (5th grade and younger)

9:35 a.m. Sunday School

A Mountaintop Wonder ~ Luke 9:28-36

God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.

1 John 4:9

Adult Sunday School Class:

The Family of Faith ~ Genesis 38; Joshua 2; 6:22-25; 2 Samuel 12:24; Ruth 4:13-22; Psalm 9:1-1; Matthew 1:1-17

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

1st Advent Candle (Prophecy/Hope), 2nd Advent Candle (Bethlehem/Faith),
3rd Advent Candle (Shepherd/Joy)

Isaiah 6:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon: *Walking in Joy*

Following worship the Church Council, including newly elected, their families and staff will eat lunch at Blue Bay (E. Innes) for a Christmas Lunch.

During the luncheon those interested will engage in a Christmas game. Please bring a gift around \$10-15 wrapped.

6:30 p.m. Christmas Program in large fellowship hall

Deadline for Poinsettia booklet information to the church office.

Deadline for January *Messenger* articles.

During the season of Advent, the Altar Greenery is given to the glory of God.

Our Love and Sympathy is extended to the Family of Evonne Batten on her death, November 25.

As of November 19, 2023, if you wish to continue to list a loved one on the prayers, please contact the church office since we are refreshing the list.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Nursing Home Residents – Brenda Mahaley, Ruth Monroe, Jean Ray, Jay Rusher & Mike Taylor (Autumn Care)

Homebound/Shut-ins Members – Sarah Bame, Arnold Cauble, Rachel Earnhardt, Tommy & Joan Kerns, Teresa Kesler, James & Jean Kluttz, Glenn Lowder, Frances Norris, William Page, Rev. TC & Mary Plexico, Macky Swicegood, Effie Vellines, Billy Waller & Michael Walton

Sick/Surgery/Recovery – Genevieve Baker, Brenda Cauble, Glenn Eagle, Glenn Honeycutt, Jr., John Knight, Sharon Moore, Kay Morgan, Doris Page, Doug Peeler, Sylvia Peeler, Wayne Vellines & Pat Wiles

Continual Prayer –Bill Broadway, Pat Kluttz, Union Fire Department #76, Global Missions (Congo, Slovakia, and Haiti), & those affected by natural or political disasters

Confirmands: Caylea Cline, Mallory Eagle, Landon Kesler, and Noah Trexler

Stewardship Update

Current Fund (11/19)	\$4,364.50
Sunday School (11/26)	38
Worship & Holy Communion (11/26)	93
Current Fund (11/26)	\$3,992.00
2023 Weekly offering needed to meet our Ministry Support plan	\$6,482.37

How Can You Serve in December?



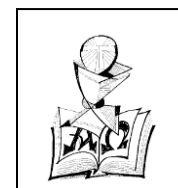
The **Sunday School Department** invites the congregation to serve Ashley Deaton's Footprints in the Community to assist with the Cookies with Santa Event on Saturday, December 16

Items needed: baby dolls, barbie dolls, easy puzzles (5-20 pieces), craft kits, educational toys, games, small lego kits, icing in tubes, Christmas sprinkles, red and green pompons all sizes, cotton balls, red and green washable tempera paint. ***Deadline to turn items in is Sunday, December 10.***

Also the Social Ministry Committee is collecting financial donations for the Battered Women's Shelter for Christmas and for making Homeless Bags.

Section 2: Service of the Word ~ Gospel

*The **Gospel** reading always contains the very words or deeds of Jesus. The **Gospel** is the summit of the **Service of the Word**. We recognize this by surrounding our Savior's words with songs of praise and standing to hear His gracious words.*



(A Simple Explanation of the Church Service, Concordia Publishing House, page 13)