



## Union Lutheran Church

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



---

### 3rd Week of Advent

*A Little Child Shall Lead Them*

December 19 and 20, 2023

6:30 p.m. Tuesday Worship

10:30 a.m. Wednesday Worship

---

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

*During the prelude, the offering is collected. All loose offering will go towards SMI Haiti to assist in rebuilding a border/protection wall.*

#### OPENING LITANY

P Let us quiet our minds and hearts and observe a few moments of silence.  
*Silence is kept for meditation, centering ourselves, and preparation for worship.*


P O Lord, open my lips,  
C **And my mouth will declare your praise.** (Psalm 51)

P Make haste, O Lord, to deliver me.  
C **May all who seek you rejoice and be glad.** (Psalm 70)

P Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
C **As it was in the beginning, is now and forever, world without end. Amen. Thanks be to God.**

C **Now in God's time, our Lord arrives.  
We put our faith in him.  
Our ev'ry thought and deed and word  
Become for us a hymn.**  
*melody: Hark, the Glad Sound*

P The little Lord Jesus came when the time was right to save us from evil.  
C **With faith in him, we know that all things will work together for our good.**  
P We were once under the law of sin.  
C **But we have been redeemed by Christ.**

**C** When we were lost, we disobeyed  
The law our Lord decreed.  
 **Founded by the Lord, our God and King,  
We from all sin are freed.**

*melody: Hark, the Glad Sound*


**P** Jesus paved the way for us to follow in and take each step by faith.

**C** **In good times and bad, we put our trust in him.**

**P** By his birth and perfect life, our Savior took the place that we deserved upon the cross.

**C** **His sacrifice for us was prepared by God from the beginning.**

**C** **Jesus was born and lived perfectly.**


 **He said he came to save.  
In faith we trust eternally.  
His holiness he gave.**

*melody: Hark, the Glad Sound*

**P** When Jesus was born to us, he provided a path to paradise.

**C** **Heaven is ours because of him.**

**C** **Guided by Christ, we go with him**

 **To ev'ry place and thing  
That points the way to hope in Christ,  
As saints and angels sing.**

*melody: Hark, the Glad Sound*

*Light three candles on the Advent wreath.*

*Light in the Fellowship Hall is dimmed.*

*Silence is observed.*

Prayer of the Day *based on Psalm 91*

**P** Father, we praise You as the Almighty God. Thank you that not only can we run to You for shelter, but we can set up camp, get comfortable, and rest in the shade of your powerful protection. Please help us draw so close to You that no enemy dares to approach us as we rest in Your shadow.

**C** **Amen.**

WORD

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:1-6

“At that time, declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people.”<sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD: “The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.<sup>4</sup> Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines and shall go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.<sup>5</sup> Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit.<sup>6</sup> For there shall be a day when watchmen will call in the hill country of Ephraim: ‘Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God.’”

Second Lesson: Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,<sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.<sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”<sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Holy Gospel: John 14:27-31

<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.<sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.<sup>29</sup> And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.<sup>30</sup> I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me,<sup>31</sup> but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

Reflection

Pastor Heidi Punt

Hymn: *Surely It Is God Who Saves Me*


WOV# 635

Melody: *Lord of Light* LBW# 405

**1 Surely it is God who saves me; I shall trust and have no fear.**



**For the Lord defends and shields me and his saving help is near.  
So rejoice as you draw water from salvation’s healing spring;  
In the day of your deliv’rance thank the Lord, his mercies sing.**

- 2 **Make God's deeds known to the peoples; tell out his exalted name.**  
**Praise the Lord, who has done great things;**  
 **All his works God's might proclaim.**  
**Zion, lift your voice in singing; for with you has come to dwell,**  
**In your very midst, the great and Holy One of Israel.**

### RESPONSIVE PRAYER

*Ask your neighbor at the table how you can pray for them and as a table pray for each other concluding the prayer time with the following response.*

- L Let us gather our hearts together as one and offer our prayers to God.
- L Lord, have mercy on us.  
C **Christ, have mercy on us.**
- L Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy.  
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**
- L O God, from you comes all efforts and all desires to do what is holy in this human life. You are the One source of anything good we might ever accomplish. Grant us your everlasting peace which cannot be obtained anywhere else but in you. Stir up our hearts so that we might be obedient disciples of your Son. Defend us from all harm, cast out fear, and protect us from our enemies, so that we may spend this night in quiet and rest. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray.  
C **Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

- P As you go from this place, remember that with God a Little Child shall lead us. May God the Father, Son, ✝ and Holy Spirit go before you, beside you, and with you wherever you go. (Luke 1:37)  
C **Amen.**

Postlude

*Thank you for worshipping with us this week!*

Augsburg Fortress license # SBL10475L © AF Liturgies License  
Augsburg Fortress license # SBL10475H © AF Hymns License  
CCLI License © #20615971 & CCLI Streaming License © #20615988  
Sola Worship Resources (www.solapublishing.com) — © 2023 Sola Publishing. Permission granted to active subscribers to photocopy for congregational use.  
Scripture taken from ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®). Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**New: 1:00 p.m.** Christmas Caroling (Wednesday, December 20)

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 24**

**8:45 a.m.-9:15 a.m.** Beginner Bells

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

**9:35 a.m.** Sunday School Christmas Party in large fellowship hall  
*Please bring a wrapped \$5 exchange gift.*

Adult Sunday School Class:

Expectant Mother's Faith ~ Luke 1:1-25, 39-45, 56-60; Philippians 4:10-19

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

1st Advent Candle (Prophecy/Hope), 2nd Advent Candle (Bethlehem/Faith),  
3rd Advent Candle (Shepherd/Joy), 4th Advent (Angel/Peace)

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-5; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38  
Sermon: *Sharing Peace*

Please pick up yours and family members 2024 offering envelopes  
from the front pew.

**Christmas Eve, December 24**

**4:00 p.m.** Informal Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

**7:40 p.m.** Prelude Music-**8:00 p.m.**  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary