



The Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Eve Family Worship

December 24, 2021 | 5 pm



St. John's Lutheran Church | Salisbury, NC



Welcome to St. John's!

*Please note that today's service is printed entirely in this worship booklet.
Congregation responses are in **bold**.*

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS! We hope that you will feel a warm sense of welcome today. If you are without a church home, we invite you to become a part of the ministry of St. John's. For more information, visit our website at stjohns-salisbury.org.

HOLY COMMUNION. All baptized and communing Christians are welcome to receive God's gift of grace through the sacrament of Holy Communion. We will commune by intinction (dipping the bread into the wine). All stations will be on the chancel floor. Please follow the directions of the ushers. For those with special needs, please note that grape juice as well as non-gluten wafers are available. Those with walking difficulties may receive the bread and wine by sitting in the reserved front pew.

WE GATHER TOGETHER in this sacred space to set aside a time to worship the Lord. Please feel welcome and invited to greet your neighbors and enjoy this time together, but as the prelude begins let us be silent and prepare ourselves for worship. Because this is a time of worship, we ask that you turn off all electronic devices and limit picture-taking to before or after the service.

Join us in worship each Sunday!

Worship on Sunday mornings at 9:27 and 11:00.
Our 11:00 service is broadcast live. Visit stjohns-salisbury.org, click "watch live", Youtube.com (search "SJLC"), or Facebook live.

Sunday, Dec. 26 worship will be a Unity Service at 11 am in the Sanctuary. There will be no 9:27 service this Sunday.

Tonight we join with nearly three billion Christians from around the world in celebrating the birth of Jesus. We're glad God has brought you to worship tonight, and pray that you will be filled with the love, hope, and promise that the Christ Child brings to all creation. Many people are searching for a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. If that happens to be you, we invite you to contact one of our pastors at your convenience. God's blessings to you this night!



Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Preludes

A Christmas Joy
Rob Durocher, Organ

Traditional

Joseph's Hallelujah L. Cohen, Text by Darren Overcash
Randy Overcash, soloist, Accompanied by Ricky Howsare

Fantasia on Veni Emmanuel by Davis Brown
Davis Brown, pianist

O Holy Night Adolphe Adam
Hannah Addair, soloist

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ. *During this age-old proclamation, the light of Christ is placed in the center of our worshipping congregation.*

Entrance Carol 283

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Oh, Come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the king of angels:

Refrain *Oh, come let us adore him, oh come, let us adore him,
Oh come, let us adore him. Christ the Lord.*

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God – glory in the highest! **Refrain**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus to thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. **Refrain**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Welcome



Hearing the Story

All children are invited to the front of the church, the congregation sings "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." They will return to their seats as we sing "Away in a Manger."

The Christmas story is from Luke 2:1-20

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."

Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Away in a Manger

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

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.



Responding to God's Gift

They offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11

Prayers of Intercession: *Offering the prayers this evening are Lily Dangerfield, Aiden Townes, and Ryan Brady.*

Collection of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Solo

All is Well

Michael W. Smith

Kimberly Howsare, Soloist; Ricky Howsare, Accompanist



Sharing in God's Meal

Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and said, 'Take; this is my body.' Mark 14:22

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Response

Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel

Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel,

And ransom captive Israel,

That mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Eucharistic Prayer, followed by the Lord's Prayer

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.

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Distribution of Holy Communion. *Communion this evening is by intinction, in which the bread is dipped into the wine. Please proceed down the center aisle, following the lead of the ushers. Gluten-free bread is available at the top of the aisle. Our acolytes are holding chalices of grape juice. Specific instructions are found on page 2 of this bulletin.*

Hymn

Lamb of God

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.

Communion Carols

What Child Is This

What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherd's watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud. The babe, the son of Mary.

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.

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old.
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious king."
The word in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

Go Tell It on the Mountain

**(Refrain) Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **(Refrain)**

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **(Refrain)**

Following the distribution of communion, please stand for the blessing:

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

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, that we may see your light shining in the dark and embrace it as children of the light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



We are sent into the World

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God. Luke 2:20

Candle Lighting. *The ushers light the candle of the person near the aisle. Please pass the light by holding your burning candle upright for the person next to you, allowing them to light their unlit candle from your flame.*

During the candle lighting, we sing "Silent Night," raising our candles during the third stanza to symbolize our acceptance of Jesus' call to be a light to the world. Please extinguish your candle after the Benediction and place it in a box in the narthex as you leave.

Carol

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.



Sending

Benediction

Sending Carol

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the newborn King!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude



Christmas Decorations

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by Donna Weinhold and family—John, Jody and Marianna. In memory of the Weinhold family, Don and Merrea, Don Jr., Pat, Melena, Brandt, Claudia, and Dr. John Painter.

Poinsettias Given in Honor of

If you purchased a poinsettia, you may take it home with you after the 8 pm service.

L. P. Bell, Jr. by Brad, Heather, Bell and Graham Brady
Elizabeth and Jim Brady by Brad, Heather, Bell and Graham Brady
Eric, Ann, Kristen and Ryan Brady by Brad, Heather, Bell and Graham Brady
Carolyn Byrd by Meg and Jay Dees
Maggie Dees by Meg and Jay Dees
Archie Dees by Meg and Jay Dees
Rob Durocher by Charles Dabbs
Rob Durocher by Melody Moxley
Diane Everhart by Kimberly Lentz, Kenneth and Kelly Everhart
Nora Henson by Brett and Lauren Henson
Kimberly and Ricky Howsare by Mark Bias and Davis Cooke
Ricky Howsare by Charles Dabbs
Taylor Hutchins by David and Jeannie Hutchins
Marvin Jones by Tommy and Mary Willis Page
Rosemary Kinard by Charles Dabbs
Rosemary Kinard by Melody Moxley
Lib Page by Tommy and Mary Willis Page
Caroline Parrott by Penny, Chris and Aiden Moss
Patsy Purnell by Charles Dabbs
Annette and Haps Roberts by Brad, Heather, Bell and Graham Brady
Janie Rollins by Charles Dabbs
Charles Russell by Janet, Joe, Haley and Sydney Sims
Bill Safrit by Meg and Jay Dees
Stacey Shafer by Penny, Chris and Aiden Moss
Barbara Sims by her children and grandchildren
Katherine Addison Smith, my daughter, the sunshine and light of my life by Marybeth Smith
Pastor Rhodes Woolly by Charles Dabbs
Rand and Yvonne Yost by Jake, Carole, Caroline, Carsyn and Harrison Parrott

Poinsettias Given in Memory of

Sonny and Janie Allen by Betty Roof
Dorothy Brock, my Nana, by Bobby Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Coltrain by Raymond and Kay Coltrain
Elma Linker Dabbs by Charles Dabbs
Scott Denker, grandson, by Betty Denker
Edwin Denker, husband, by Betty Denker
Howard Everhart by Diane Everhart
Connie and Corinna Gardner by Sandra, Rob, Robert, and Katherine Sullivan
Charles Harris by Joan Harris
Charlie and Mary Ann Hoover by Jake, Carole, Caroline, Carsyn and Harrison Parrott
Jim Isenhower by Nash and Valinda Isenhower
Reba Jones by Tommy and Mary Willis Page
Eric Lentz by Diane Everhart
Eric Lentz by Kimberly Lentz
Bill Marcum by Gary and Betty Pinkston
Elmer, Mildred, and David Moxley by Melody Moxley
Dick Nelson by Pat Nelson
Bill Page by Tommy and Mary Willis Page
Steve and Betty Parrott by Jake, Carole, Caroline, Carsyn and Harrison Parrott
Chris Pinkston by Gary and Betty Pinkston
Scott Robinson by Ann and Parker Hatchett
Jerry Rowland by Jane Rowland
Becky Williams Russell by Janet, Joe, Haley and Sydney Sims
All of our parents by Walt and Cathy Ryerson
James and Anna Safrit by Perry and Carolyn Hood
Joe Ivan Sims by his children and grandchildren
Neal and Elizabeth Smith, my wonderful parents by Marybeth Smith
Roy and Sarah Snider by Diane Everhart
Nell and Leo Sowers by Nash and Valinda Isenhower
Ann and Emmette Thompson, Jr. by Judy Thompson Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wallace by Raymond and Kay Coltrain
Mildred Warlick by Charles Dabbs
Chris Whitton by Meg and Jay Dees

Wreaths Given in Honor of

Gary and Angela Graham by Brett, Lauren, and Nora Henson; Devin, Ashley, and Lily Phipps
Lauren, Brett and Nora Henson by Gary and Angela Graham
Margaret and George Kluttz by Meg, Jay, Archie and Maggie Dees

Bob Loeblein by Carolyn and Tim Byrd
Ashley, Devin and Lily Phipps by Gary and Angela Graham
Pastor Rhodes and Krista Woolly and my St. John's Family by Marybeth Smith
Children and grandchildren by Kay Wilson
Krista, Rhodes, Carter, Matt and Anna Grace Woolly by Meg, Jay, Archie and Maggie Dees
Pastor Rhodes by Gary and Betty Pinkston

Wreaths Given in Memory of

Dr. Jim Emerson by Bonnie, Ike, Geof, Christine, Kemp, Heather, Claire, Sadie and Oliver
Howard Everhart by Kimberly Lentz, Kenneth and Kelly Everhart
Charlie Harris by Joan Harris
Liz Harry by Meg, Jay, Archie and Maggie Dees
Floyd and Juanita Williams, Herman and Helen Hood by Perry and Carolyn Hood
Mary Katharine and Earl Kluttz by Meg and Jay Dees
Anne Loeblein by Carolyn and Tim Byrd
Dot and John Miller by their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren
Shirley and Raymond Ritchie by Mark and Jane Ritchie
Lillian and Clifford Peeler by Mark and Jane Ritchie
Barbara Rufty by Bonnie, Ike, Geof, Christine, Kemp, Heather, Claire, Sadie and Oliver
Brian Wisecarver by his St. John's Life Group

Candles Given in Honor of

Penny Moss by Sandy and Stan Jordan
Our children Anna, Steven, and Julie Page by Tommy and Mary Willis Page
My family by Barbara Sims

Candles Given in Memory of

Joyce Bell by Brad, Heather, Bell and Graham Brady
Manti Jordan Bell by Sandy and Stan Jordan
Allen C. Duke, Sr. by Sandy and Stan Jordan
Allen C. Duke, Jr. by Sandy and Stan Jordan
Cheryl Duke by Sandy and Stan Jordan
Eric Allen Greene by Sandy and Stan Jordan
Logan Grubb by Penny, Chris and Aiden Moss
Larry James Hinson by Jeff and Jeanette Wilhelm
Idell and Harold Roberts by Brad, Heather, Bell and Graham Brady
Scott Robinson by Stan and Sandy Jordan
Steve Shirley by Nancy Shirley
Scott Smith, my husband, by Marybeth Smith
Norde Wilson by Kay Wilson
Brian Wisecarver by his St. John's Life Group

Additional Decorations Given in Honor of

Stan and Sandy Jordan by Harold and Peggy Mowery

Peggy Smith by Harold and Peggy Mowery

St. John's Staff, Decorating Team, by Ann and Parker Hatchett

Additional Decorations Given in Memory of

Raymond and Shirley Ritchie by Harold and Peggy Mowery

Jean Ruffy by Harold and Peggy Mowery

Joe Ivan Sims by Eleanor Andrews

Rev. Dr. Robert F. Sims by Eleanor Andrews

Other Acknowledgments

The Peeler Hall nativity scene is given in memory of Dot Miller.

The nativity scene at the pulpit was given by Fran Hoke.

The brass nativity scene in the balcony was given by Tippiie Miller.

The beaded Nativity scene at the Baptismal font was made and given by Eleanor Sifford.

The Chrismon tree and the lighting of the tree are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Wilson and Evelyen Smith by Ronnie & Janis Smith.

Thank you to the Decorating Team for the many ways they have beautified our worship spaces this Christmas season.

Soli Deo Gloria!



Worship Participants

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Rosalind Hines, Kelly Everhart, Stacey Shafer, Jenny Ryerson

ACOLTYES/TORCH BEARER: Ryan Brady

USHERS: Noah Young, Gabriel Young, Bailian Witt, Noah Trick, Grant Shafer, Gabriel Shafer

READERS: Lynn Wisecarver, Lauren Stephenson

SONG LEADERS: Ricky and Kimberly Howsare, Hannah Addair, Randy Overcash

SOUND: Mike Agee

STREAMING: Taylor Hutchins

Christmas Blessings to you and your family!



"Kissing the Face of God" by Morgan Weistling



St. John's Lutheran Church

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stjohns-salisbury.org • To contact a staff member: first name@stjohns-salisbury.org

Pastoral Ministry

Senior Pastor.....Rhodes Woolly
Visitation.....Wade Rouzer

Worship and Music Ministry

Minister of Worship and the Arts.....Rob Durocher, deacon
9:27 Worship Leader.....Ricky Howsare
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins
Director of Music Emeritus.....Karl Kinard Jr., deacon

Program Ministry

Interim Youth.....Caroline Parrott
Children.....Stacey Shafer
Senior AdultsDiane Poole
St. John's Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds), DirectorTeresa Stoner
Child Development Center, Executive DirectorPaula Levianu

Administrative Team

Business ManagerRuth Ann Diehl
Office Manager.....Deborah Cross
Accounting.....Mark Bias
Communications Specialist.....Angel Owens
Maintenance.....David Ellenburg