

# *Service of Lessons and Carols*



December 22, 2024



St. John's Lutheran Church  
Salisbury, NC



# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

*We're so glad God has brought you here!*

**Christmas Eve Services**—*See page 11.*

**The Church Office will be closed** Dec. 25, returning Jan. 2. A pastor will be available for emergencies.

**Offering Envelopes**—Now available in the Sanctuary narthex and Peeler Hall through the end of the year, and in the Church Office beginning in January.

**Altar Flowers**—Given to the glory of God and in memory of her husband W.L. Stirewalt on the 91st anniversary of his birth today, Dec. 22, by Emily Stirewalt.

*Our nursery is available during the service, please see an usher for details.*



**W**hen these few days before Christmas, the world is reminded of a simple yet profound story: of a baby born in the backstreets of Bethlehem. A baby who would change the world forever. But why Christmas? Through a series of lessons and carols, today's worship addresses that very question. The first reading retells the age-old struggle with sin despite God's desire to be in relationship with his people. As humans continued to fall away, the prophecy of Isaiah sets the stage for God's dramatic intervention — becoming one of us, born of Mary. May the beautiful music and these time-honored readings be a blessing to you this morning as we prepare our hearts and minds for the Christmas celebration.



### ***The Advent Wreath.***

*One of the most recognizable customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life. Its circular shape, without beginning or end, symbolizes God's unending love for us. The wreath itself is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life, even during the dormant time of winter. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light, despite the wintry darkness that surrounds us.*

### **Worship Navigation**

The Congregation is invited to respond where words are in **Bold**.

**\*** = Please stand as you are able      **+** = Face the Cross

**+** = You are invited to make the sign of the Cross.

**Hymns are found by number in the red worship books located in each pew.**



# A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The festival of “Lessons and Carols” was first held on Christmas Eve 1918 at Kings College in England. The service always begins with the English tune, *Once in Royal David’s City*, and includes lessons that span throughout salvation’s history. Lessons and Carols at St. John’s has been held for over 35 years.

## THE PRELUDE

*Angels From the Realms of Glory*  
The Luther Ringers, Kimberly Lentz, Director

arr. Hart Morris

## ENTRANCE CAROL\*

*Once In Royal David’s City*

IRBY

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him through his own redeeming love.  
For that Child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## APOSTOLIC GREETING\*

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY\*

*Let us pray.* Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE—Kelly and Carol Everhart

♩ = 82

Peace, rest - less soul. Hope, wear - y heart. Light in - to a

6  
trou - bled world, come, Je - sus, come.

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff has a tempo marking of a quarter note equal to 82 beats per minute. The lyrics are: 'Peace, rest - less soul. Hope, wear - y heart. Light in - to a'. The second staff starts with a measure rest of 6 measures, then continues with the lyrics: 'trou - bled world, come, Je - sus, come.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature of 4/4.

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## Sacrament of Holy Baptism

*Ruby Jean Hochuli*

Child of *Jeff and Mindy Hochuli*

Godparent: *Collins Pritchett*

*Baptismal family gathers at the font.*

### Presentation and Prayer

*Candidates for baptism, parent(s), Godparent(s) and baptismal partner(s) gather with the minister at the font. The presiding minister addresses the parents and the congregation.*

### The Congregation's Response:

People of God, do you promise to support Ruby and pray for her in her new life in Christ? **We do.**

### The Profession of Faith

People of God, do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God...unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Rite of Baptism** *The Rite of Baptism includes three symbols used in baptismal liturgy since the beginning of the church: water (for cleansing), oil (for sealing), and light (for proclaiming).*

**Baptism with Water.** *Ruby is baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**Imposition of Oil.** *Oil is used to make the sign of the cross on Ruby's forehead, a symbol that she is sealed in relationship with Christ.*

**Gift of Light.** *Ruby is welcomed into the Family of God. A candle (the light of Christ) is presented to her with the words, "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).*

*Let us welcome the newly baptized.*

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:**

**Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative redeeming Word to all the world.**

*As Ruby is introduced to the congregation; all are invited to sing "Jesus Loves Me."*

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.**

***Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.***

## CHRISMON DISTRIBUTION

*Every year at Christmas, all children and youth of St. John's are presented with a "Chrismon" (Christ monogrammed) ornament. The Chrismon this year is a key, symbolizing the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.*

## THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:26-27 & 31; Genesis 3:1-13, 21-24

## Congregational Carol

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI 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.

Oh come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**THE SECOND LESSON**

Isaiah 40:1-11

**Anthem**

*And the Glory of the Lord*  
St. John's Chancel Choir

by G.F. Handel

And the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed.  
And all flesh shall see it together,  
for the Mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

**THE THIRD LESSON**

Luke 1:26-35, 38

**Anthem**

*Breath of Heaven*  
St. John's Chancel Choir, Ondria Witt, Soloist

by Chris Eaton and Amy Grant

I have traveled many moonless nights, cold and weary with a babe inside  
And I wonder what I've done. Holy Father, you have come  
And chosen me now to carry your Son.  
I am waiting in a silent prayer, I am frightened by the load I bear.  
In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone?  
Be with me now.

*(Refrain)*

Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.  
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me your holiness,  
For you are holy. Breath of Heaven.

Do you wonder as you watch my face, if a wiser one should have had my place?  
But I Offer all I am for the mercy of your plan.  
Help me be strong, help me be, help me. *(Refrain)*

**Congregational Carol**

*Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN ROSE

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,  
It came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know:  
Bring us at length we pray, to the bright courts of heaven  
And into endless day.

**THE FOURTH LESSON**

Micah 5:2-5a

**Congregational Carol**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

## THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

### Anthem

#### *Christmas Sanctus*

by Lee Dengler

The St. John's Women's Ensemble, Mark Tysinger, Piano

See the weary pair, nestled in a stable bare  
Gazing at their baby boy, filled with love and praise.  
Earth and heaven sing, worshipping the newborn King,  
Who has come to change the world. Join in songs of praise.

*(Refrain)* Holy, holy, holy is the blessed one.  
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.  
Holy, holy, holy is the promised Son.  
Glory be to God in the highest.

See the shepherds run, searching for God's precious Son,  
Kneeling at his manger bed, filled with love and praise.  
Every knee will bow, every tongue confessing now,  
Jesus Christ is Lord of all. Join in songs of praise. *(Refrain)*

### Congregational Carol

#### *Away in a Manger*

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

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

## THE SIXTH LESSON SUNG AS NARRATIVE AND CHORUS

Luke 2:8-14

#### *Glory to God*

by G. F. Handel

Recitative, Rosemary C. Kinard, Soprano  
St. John's Chancel Choir

*(Recitative)* There were shepherds abiding in the fields,  
keeping watch over their flock by night.  
And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,  
and the glory of the Lord shone round about them:  
and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not for behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy,  
Which shall be to all people.  
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.'

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host  
Praising God, and saying,

(Chorus) Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth,  
Good will toward men.

## THE SIXTH LESSON CONTINUED

Luke 2:15-20

### Congregational Carol

*Angels We Have Heard On*

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo;*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo;*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

## THE COLLECTION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Sing Noel, Alleluia!*

arr. by John Leavitt

St. John's Chancel Choir

Sing Noel, Alleluia! Sing Noel, Alleluia!

Willie, take your little drum, Robin, bring your flute, and come.

When we hear the flute and drum, turelurelu, patapatapan:

Let our joyous Christmas come when we hear the flute and drum.

God and man today become closely joined as flute and drum.

Let the joyous tune play on! turelurelu, patapatapan:

As the instruments you play, we will sing this Christmas Day.

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we hear.

Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel.

On December five and twenty, Fum, fum, fum!

Now we all our voices raise, singing songs of joyful praise.

Celebrate in song and story all the wonders of His glory, Fum, fum, fum!

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here. Alleluia!

Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear. Alleluia!

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!

Sing Noel, Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!



## Congregational Carol

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King:  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

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.

## 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.**

## BENEDICTION\*

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Please stand and face the cross as it leaves the sanctuary reminding us that Jesus leads us into the world.*

## RECESSIONAL CAROL\*+

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born 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!"  
Hark! The Herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"

Christ, by highest heaven adorned, Christ the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, off-spring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"

**DISMISSAL\*** Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

Unless otherwise indicated, today's service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship and is reproduced by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies annual license # 26999.

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE



### THE STRING ENSEMBLE

Violins: Jorge Rodriguez Ochoa and Susan Gallimore

Viola: Nicholas Fuqua

Cello: Kevin Agner

### THE BRASS QUARTET

Trumpets: Mark Hibsichman and Cory Gaston

Trombone: Nick Lewis

Bass Trombone: Aleksandr Witt

**PERCUSSION:** Davis Brown

**SOLOISTS:** Ondria Witt and Rosemary C. Kinard

Rob Durocher, Minister of Worship and the Arts—organist, Chancel Choir Director,  
Women's Ensemble Director

Janie Rollins, Associate Parish Musician and accompanist for the Chancel Choir,  
organ and piano

Kimberly Lentz, Director of the Luther Ringers Ensemble

**READERS:** Pastor Daniel Joyner Miller, Pastor James Demmel, Pastor Lori Carter,  
Gerrie Blackwelder, Elaine Gerst, Chuck Moll, Dan Waggoner

### ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S PROCESSIONALISTS:

Acolytes—Hannah Jean Roy and Anelise Roy

Crucifer—Anna Kate Goodman

Banner Bearer—Samuel Goodman

**PASTORS:** Daniel Joyner Miller, Senior Pastor  
Lori Carter, Pastor for Congregational Care  
James Demmel, Pastor for Youth and Outreach

**SOUND:** Mike Agee

**CAMERA:** Taylor Hutchins, Production Manager

# Christmas at St. John's

## CHRISTMAS EVE Tuesday, December 24



**4 pm Christmas Eve Family Service**—in the Sanctuary. A worship service intentionally designed for children and families. Our children will be leading us in music and youth will help tell the Christmas story! Worship also features Holy Communion.

**8 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**—in Sanctuary. A traditional Lutheran worship service celebrating the Feast of the Incarnation of our Lord. Service features a sermon, Holy Communion, and candle lighting. Worship will be led by the St. John's Chancel Choir and brass.

**11 pm A Reflective Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**—in the Chapel. This holy service will have familiar sights and sounds of candlelight and carols. At the conclusion of our service, we will leave together to meet the new Christmas Day as the clock hits midnight. Expect a holy atmosphere where the Christmas story is told in a peaceful, beautiful, and holy way.

*(4 pm and 8 pm Christmas Eve services will be broadcast via live video stream on our website at [stjohns-salisbury.org](http://stjohns-salisbury.org). Click "Watch Live.")*

# St. John's Lutheran Church

200 West Innes Street, Salisbury, North Carolina 28144 | 704.636.3431  
stjohns-salisbury.org | To contact a staff member: first name@stjohns-salisbury.org

## Pastoral Ministry

Senior Pastor.....Dan Joyner Miller....ext. 2060  
Pastor for Congregational Care .....Lori Carter...ext. 2050  
Pastor for Youth and Outreach .....James Demmel.....ext. 2040

## Worship and Music Ministry

Minister of Worship and the Arts.....Rob Durocher, deacon.....ext. 2080  
Contemporary Worship Leaders.....Michael Board and Ondria Witt  
Assistant Parish Musician.....Janie Rollins  
Bell Choirs.....Kimberly Lentz  
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins.....ext. 2190  
Director of Music *emeritus*.....Karl Kinard, Jr., deacon

## Program Ministry

Children.....Stacey Shafer.....ext. 2020  
St. John's Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds), Director .....Gina Phifer.....ext. 2120  
Child Development Center, Executive Director.....Lea Anne Thomas.....ext. 3212

## Administrative Team

Church Administrator.....Deborah Cross.....ext. 2030  
Office Manager.....Vivian Connor.....ext. 2000  
Bookkeeper.....Mark Bias.....ext. 2170  
Ministry Program Coordinator.....Mary Wymbbs...ext. 2180  
Facility Manager.....David Ellenburg.....ext. 2070  
Custodian.....Brandt Cozad



Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*