



Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Eve Family Worship

December 24, 2024 | 4 pm



St. John's Lutheran Church
Salisbury, NC



WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

Please note that this afternoon'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. If you are without a church home, or are seeking a deeper connection to Christ, we invite you to become a part of the ministry of St. John's. For more information, fill out a Connection Card, speak with one of our pastors after the service, or visit our website at stjohns-salisbury.org.

Christmas Eve Family Worship: This worship experience is intentionally designed for children and their families. In the place of a sermon, we will have a simple reenactment of the Christmas story. For a more traditional worship experience, we invite you back to the sanctuary for our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship of Holy Communion, tonight at 8pm in the Sanctuary and at 11 pm in the Chapel.**

Holy Communion: All baptized 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). Ushers will invite you to the table where we will commune in the round kneeling or standing around the altar. Please wait for all to be communed and for the Pastor to say a blessing before returning to your seat. For those with special needs, please note that grape juice is available and the bread is already gluten free. Those with walking difficulties may receive the bread and wine by notifying an usher. A pastor will then bring you communion after distribution.

Children are invited to gather with Ms. Stacey in the Narthex at **3:50 pm**. We will process in together after the Kingdom Kids Choir performs to have an interactive telling of the Christmas story. If your child would like to come up to hear the story as we process in they are welcome to join.

A warm note of thanks to our Decorating Team, who have helped us prepare for the seasons of Advent and Christmas and whose faithful work helps direct our hearts and minds to Christ as we worship. Thank you for your ministry!

Our 4 pm and 8 pm services are broadcast live.

Visit stjohns-salisbury.org click "watch live", YouTube.com (search "SJLC"), or FaceBook live.

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.



GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella
Noah Young, Piano

French Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Stan Jordan, Trumpet

Traditional Polish Carol

Go Tell It on The Mountain
Emmett Stephenson, Piano

R. Averre and R. Glover

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Isaiah 9:2, 6

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a Son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace.

ENTRANCE CAROL*+

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)*

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. 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.**



WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song. All children are invited to the front of our church to join our Nativity Parade. Kids will be processing down the aisles bearing the light of Christ as they trace the movements of Christ's nativity, adapted from "The Story of Christmas," by Martina Smith.

THE KINGDOM KIDS CHOIR

Whatcha Gonna Call That Baby?

by Phyllis Wolfe-White

Directed by Kimberly Lentz and Carol Everhart

Scene 1: Nazareth

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary, foretelling the birth of Christ.

Congregational Carol

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Scene 2: Mary travels to visit her cousin, Elizabeth

Mary visits her cousin, Elizabeth who is pregnant with John the Baptist, who leaps for joy upon recognizing the Christ child.

SOLO

Mary, Did You Know?
Ondria Witt, Soloist

Mark Lowrey

Scene 3: Journey to Bethlehem

A census is called by the Roman Empire, and the Holy Family travels to Bethlehem, the City of David.

THE JOYFUL RINGERS

On This Day Earth Shall Ring
Kimberly Lentz, Director

Anna Laura Page

Scene 4: Shepherds witness the birth of Christ

Shepherds from the surrounding fields are visited by a host of angels who bring them “good news of great joy.” They travel to Bethlehem to witness the birth of Christ. Each child will receive a sheep ornament to help them remember the story.

Congregational Carol

Angels We Have Heard On High

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

Scene 5: Wisemen journey to celebrate the newborn king.

Following the emergence of a new star, Magi from the East journey to Palestine, to pay homage to Jesus the Christ, the newborn King.

Congregational Carol

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain

*Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!*

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, Alleluia heaven and earth replies.
(Refrain)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION* *Each petition ends: "God of grace, receive our prayer."*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated

COLLECTION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Let Us Adore
9:27 Musicians

OFFERTORY CAROL

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

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!



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY PRAYER*

Let us pray. God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen**

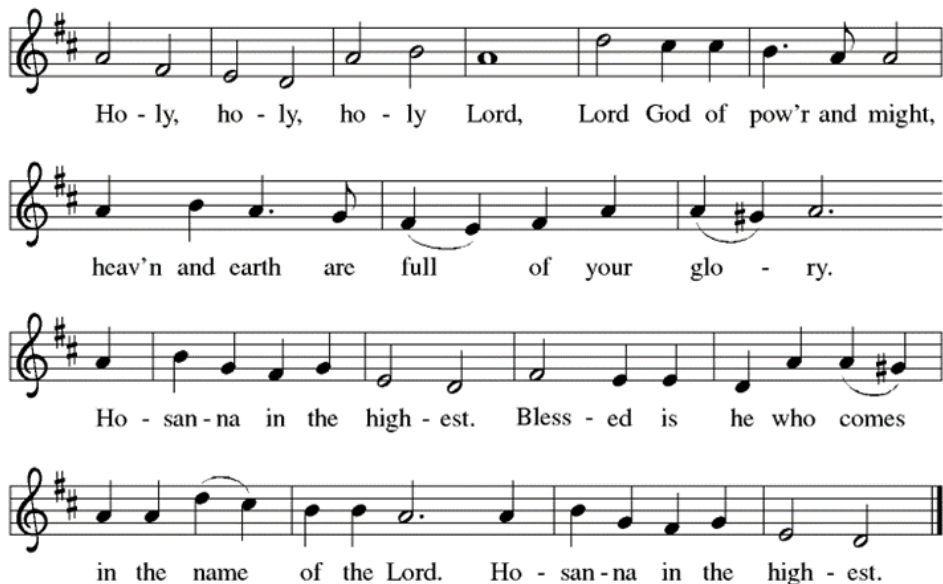
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING*

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise. ... And join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER*

Holy One, the beginning and the end...

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...We look with hope for His coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

...Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...All praise and glory are yours, Holy one of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God now and forever.

Amen

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION*

A Child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

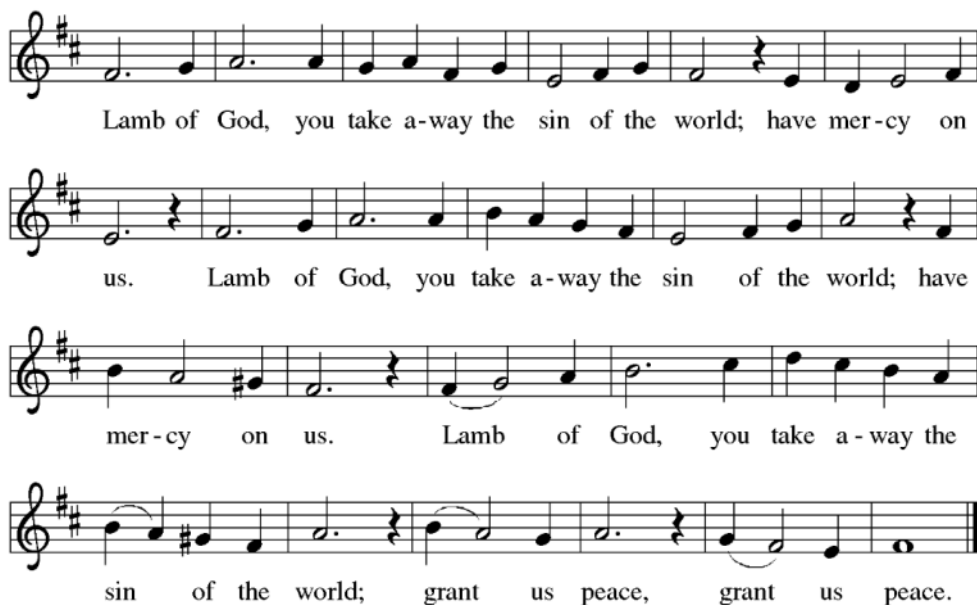
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION. *All baptized 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 nave level. 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 or by notifying an usher. A pastor will then bring you communion during distribution.

COMMUNION HYMN



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DUET

O, Holy Night
Ondria Witt and Michael Board

Adolphe Adam

POST COMMUNION BLESSING*

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION*

Merciful God,
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy. **Amen.**



SENDING

Forgiven and nourished, we are now sent into the world to share God's love.

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.*

We sing "Silent Night," raising our candles during the third stanza to symbolize our acceptance of Jesus' call to us 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

STILLE NACHT

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.

BENEDICTION*

May the Word that Mary brought to birth
carry you into new and abundant life.
May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms
enfold you with love and strength.
May the Word that angels proclaimed in song
bring harmony to the world.
And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ✚ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

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. The Word of God dwells in you richly.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Christmas Decorations

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

Poinsettias Given in Honor of

Amy Shue by Charlie and Lori Graeber
Bethanie and Laith Kayat by Barbara Stauffer
Carol and Johnny Miller by Nan Martin
Carolyn Myers by Betsy, John, Riley, Grace and Griffin Myers
Pastor Dan Joyner Miller by Charles Dabbs
Harold Snider by Charlie and Lori Graeber
Jan Snider by Charlie and Lori Graeber
Janie Rollins by Charles Dabbs
Jim and Jacque Rice by Eddie and Patricia Graham
Jimmy and Elizabeth Brady by Eddie and Patricia Graham
Jimmy and Nancy Linn by Charlie and Lori Graeber
Judy "Bonga" Childress by her kids, grandkids, and great grandkids
Kent and Carol Brown by Eddie and Patricia Graham
Kristin and Shawne Stauffer by Barbara Stauffer

Lib Page by Tommy and Mary Willis Page
Lillian Phipps by Devin and Ashley Graham Phipps
Lindsay and Mark Wineka by Nan Martin
Mack and Meetta Lampert by Eddie and Patricia Graham
Mark Bias by Charles Dabbs
Mark Tysinger by Charles Dabbs
Martin Luther Class Teachers Gary Rhodes and Lee Ketner by Diane Everhart
Mary K. Evans by Barbara Stauffer
My Gran and Papa by Kolbe Moss
Nichol, Erron, Connor and Jillian Towns by Michael and BJ Connor
Our children and grandchildren by Darryl and Barbara Corriher
Our Family and Friends of St. John's by Dr. George and Shirley Everhart
Our grandchildren - Connor, Emily, Abby, and Hailey by Chuck and Judy Moll
Our grandchildren - Leonardo and Monica by Steve and Karen Puckett
Pansy and Gerald Peeler by Eddie and Patricia Graham
Pastors Lori, Dan, and James by Patricia Holt
Rand and Yvonne Yost by Jake and Carole Parrott and Family
Rev. and Mrs. Ed Harper by Darrell and Kathy Norris
Rev. Carl Sachtleben by Steve and Christina, and Michael and Joanna Sachtleben
Rob Durocher by Charles Dabbs
Ryan, Amber, Ben and Abbey Lawson by Jerry Lawson
Sean, Ester, Theo, Sean Michael, and Bennett Connor by Michael and BJ Connor
St. John's Staff by Michael and BJ Connor
W. A. & Joyce Cline by your children, grandchildren & great-grandchildren

Poinsettias Given in Memory of

Dr. Chris Agner by Dianne Agner and family
"Aunt" Dr. Hilda Bailey by Kevin, Kelly and Kim
Mr. and Mrs. Bryce Barger by Steve Barger
Our mothers, Betty Crenshaw and Ruth Tysinger by Cathy and Mark Tysinger
Laura Lennox Campbell by Lisa Lennox
Renard and Mary Cassar by Glenn Terry
David Curlee by Jenny Ryerson
Elma Dinker Dabbs by Charles Dabbs
Mildred Warlick by Charles Dabbs
Evelyn Eiss, Charles Eiss, Jr. and Donald Eiss by Patricia Wagner
Howard Everhart by Diane Everhart
Howard Everhart by Kimberly Lentz, Kenneth and Kelly Everhart
Connie and Corinna Gardner by Sandra, Rob, Robert, & Katherine Sullivan
Bud Graeber by Charlie and Lori Graeber
Charles "Bud" Graeber by Kevin, Kelly and Kim
Nan Graeber by Charlie and Lori Graeber
Dr. and Mrs. D. F. Hord by Bonnie and David Hord
Thomas Hurlocker by Connie Hurlocker

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Ireland by Ernie and Pat Keich
Karen Johnstone by Jenny Ryerson
Gerald Jones by Jane Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest William Keich, Sr. by Ernie and Pat Keich
Fran Lawson by Jerry Lawson
Reba and Dayton Lawson by Jerry Lawson
My husband, Bruce Lennox by Joan Lennox
Eric Lentz by Diane Everhart
Eric Lentz by Kimberly Lentz
Bill Marcum by his family
Dick Nelson by Pat Nelson
Frances Norris by Darrell and Kathy Norris
Our parents, Marvin and Reba Jones, and Bill Page by Tommy and Mary Willis Page
Steve and Betty Parrott by Jake and Carole Parrott and Family
Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Patterson by Bonnie and David Hord
Larry Phillips by Linda Phillips
Chris Pinkston by his family
Gary Pinkston by his family
Davey Rhodes by Gary and Scott Rhodes
Our Parents by James and Jacqueline Rice
Jim Roos by Pat, Julia, Katie Wen Roos, and Warren Roos and Family
Joan Rusher by Kevin, Kelly and Kim
Joan Rusher by W. A. and Joyce Cline
Becky Russell by her family
Cathy Ryerson by Jenny Ryerson
Ann Marie Sachtleben by Carl Sachtleben
Ann Sachtleben by Steve and Christina, and Michael and Joanna Sachtleben
Danny Safrit by Bill and Linda Safrit
James and Anna Safrit by Perry and Carolyn Hood
Jane Shuping by Jenny Ryerson
William & Cora Lee Shuping by Jenny Ryerson
Joe Ivan and Barbara Sims by their family
Joe L. and Hester Sims by their family
Maggie Safrit Smale by Bill and Linda Safrit
Tom Smith by Judy and Tom Childress
Roy and Sarah Snider by Diane Everhart
Grace Stiller by Jerry Lawson
Barbara Marie Terry by Glenn Terry
Rev. Dr. R. Harold and Kathryn Terry by Glenn Terry
Mr. and Mrs. Emmette Thompson, Jr. by Judy T. Moore
"Aunt" Gladys Van Poole by Kevin, Kelly and Kim
"Aunt" Mary Ruth Van Poole by Kevin, Kelly and Kim

Wreaths Given in Honor of

Brett, Lauren, Nora and Rose Henson by Gary and Angela Graham
Devin, Ashley and Lily Phipps by Gary and Angela Graham
Erin Norris, Jonathan, Kristen, Zach and Tyson Rogers by Eric and Kathy Norris
Gary and Angela Graham by the Graham Phipps (Ashley, Devin, and Lily) and Henson (Lauren, Brett, Nora, and Rose) families
Lynn Wisecarver by Carol and Kelly Everhart
Melody Moxley by Dale and Margaret Basinger
Mike and BJ Connor with love by Connor, Jillian, Theo, Sean Michael and Bennett
Mrs. Stacey (Shafer) and The Children of St. John's by Angela Graham
Nora and Rose Henson by Brett and Lauren Henson
Our children and grandchildren by Dr. George and Shirley Everhart
Our family, Steven, Julie and Anna Page, and Rebecca Jones by Tommy and Mary Willis Page
The Woolly Family by Mimi and Tommy Carlton

Wreaths Given in Memory of

Gene and Becky Auten by Kevin, Kelly and Kim
Gene and Becky Auten by their grandchildren Dylan, Kristen, Addie and Molly
Bryce and Almeda Barger by Jane Jones
Jerry and Claudette Barger by Tim and Kerry Gardner and family
Rufus and Elizabeth Coltrain by Kay and Raymond Coltrain
Dr. Jim Emerson by Bonnie and Ike
Bud and Nan Graeber by Betsy, John, Riley, Grace and Griffin Myers
Bud Graeber by Charlie and Lori Graeber
Nan Graeber by Charlie and Lori Graeber
Robert Myers by Betsy, John, Riley, Grace and Griffin Myers
Logan Grubb by Penny, Chris and Aiden Moss
Hermon and Helen Hood by Perry and Carolyn Hood
Gene Myers by Susan Myers and family
Harold and Barbara Rufty by Bonnie and kids and grandkids
Steve Shirley by Nancy Shirley
Charles and Sug Wallace by Kay and Raymond Coltrain
Floyd and Juanita Williams by Perry and Carolyn Hood
Our friend, Brian Wisecarver by Carol and Kelly Everhart

Decorations Given in Honor of

Bob Rusher by Bobby & Kathy and family, Joey & Cindy and family, Lori & Todd and family, and Kristin and family
Franco and Brenda Goodman by Bud and Betty Mickle
Gran Waggoner by Noah, Madison & Steven
Our grandson Harley by Ann and Parker Hatchett

Our Pastors: Daniel Joyner Miller, James Demmel, and Lori Carter by Ann and Parker Hatchett

Decorations Given in Memory of

Oma and Opa Hines by Noah, Madison & Steven

Rhonda Lawson by Jerry Lawson

Loved Ones by Pastor David P. Nelson and B. Vernon Davis

Dot and John Miller by Their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren

Joan Trexler Rusher by Bobby & Kathy and family, Joey & Cindy and family, Lori & Todd and family, and Kristin and family

Papa Waggoner by Noah, Madison & Steven

Other Acknowledgments

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

Worship Participants

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S PROCESSIONALISTS:

Acolyte: Katie Ann Dangerfield and Gabriel Shafer

Crucifer: Aiden Moss

Banner Bearer: Lillie Dangerfield

PERCUSSIONIST: Davis Brown

TRUMPET: Stan Jordan

SOUND: Mike Agee

STREAMING: Taylor Hutchins



"Kissing the Face of God"
By Morgan Weistling

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 CareLori Carter...ext. 2050
Pastor for Youth and OutreachJames 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), DirectorGina 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.*



Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 24, 2024 | 8 pm



St. John's Lutheran Church
Salisbury, NC



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A Reflective Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—tonight at 11 pm 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.

A warm note of thanks to our Decorating Team, who have helped us prepare for the seasons of Advent and Christmas and whose faithful work helps direct our hearts and minds to Christ as we worship. Thank you for your ministry!

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Worship Navigation

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* = **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.



GATHERING

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

PRELUDES

The Coventry Carol

Traditional

The Festival Brass

Angels From the Realms of Glory

Setting by M. Burkhardt/R. Hobby

Connie Burleson, Organ

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. by Stephen Cesare

Eilene Fain, Soprano and Janie Rollins, Piano

Fantasia on Noel Nouvelet

by Davis Brown

Davis Brown, Piano

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. by Steven S. Nelson and Marshall McDonald

Kevin Agner, Cello and Mark Tysinger, Piano

Sinfonia from The Christmas Oratorio

by J.S. Bach BVW 248

Mark Tysinger, Piano

Prepare Thyself, Zion

From The Christmas Oratorio, J.S. Bach

Cathy Tysinger, Mezzo Soprano and Mark Tysinger, Piano

Joy to the World

arr. by A. Travis and M. Burkhardt

Connie Burleson, Organ

Ave Maria

by J.S. Bach and C. Gounod

Kevin Agner, Cello, Mark Tysinger, Piano

Ding Dong, Merrily On High

arr. John Rutter

The Festival Brass

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS*+

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God with us,
**we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.
Turn us from our ways to your ways.**

**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.
Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.
Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!
You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
✚ forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE CAROL*+

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.*

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *(Refrain)*

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)*

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. 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.**



WORD

God speaks to us in reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and His kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL

*Please stand and turn toward the Gospel procession, as God's Word is brought into the midst of God's people.
Together we 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!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE*

Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of

Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL RESPONSE*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!

Hail the Sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris'n 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 newborn king!"

Please be seated

CAROL *

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

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

*(Refrain) Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *(Refrain)*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *(Refrain)*

NICENE CREED*

The creed links us to one another and to history. In reciting it, we join ourselves to believers in the past, some of whom professed these words at great risk to their lives. Together, we profess what we hold in common — our belief in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION* *Each petition ends: "God of grace, receive our prayer."*

PEACE*

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated

COLLECTION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Shepherd's Carol

arr. Dan Forrest

Carols so sweet, angels did sing.
As lately we watched o'er our fields through the night:
A star there was seen of such glorious light.
All through the night, angels did sing
Carols so sweet of the birth of a King.

His throne is a manger, His court is a loft.
But hosts of bright angels, in strains sweet and soft,
Him they proclaim, our Christ by name,
And earth, sky, and air straight are filled with His fame.

Then shepherds, be joyful, salute your new King.
Let hills and vales ring to the song that you sing.
Blest be the hour. Welcome the morn
For Christ our dear savior on earth now is born.

OFFERTORY CAROL*

What Child Is This?

GREENSLEEVES

What child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherd's 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.



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY PRAYER*

Let us pray. God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING*

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise. ... And join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER*

Holy One, the beginning and the end...

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...We look with hope for His coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

...Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...All praise and glory are yours, Holy one of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God now and forever.

Amen

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION*

A Child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come receive the gift of Jesus.

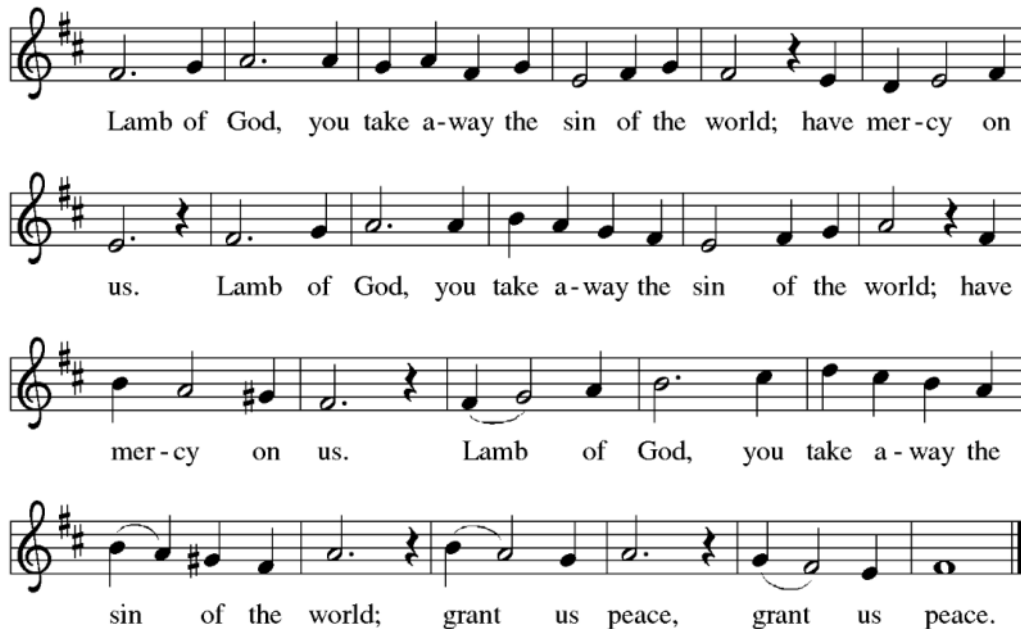
Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION. *All baptized 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 nave level. 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 or by notifying an usher. A pastor will then bring you communion during distribution.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

PIANO MEDITATION

Joy to the World
Janie Rollins, Piano

arr. by John Helgen

SOLO

All Is Well
Corinne Mauldin, Soloist

by Michael W. Smith

THE FESTIVAL BRASS

Lo, How A Rose

arr. S. Frack

POST COMMUNION BLESSING*

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION*

Merciful God,
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy.
Amen.



Sending

Forgiven and nourished, we are now sent into the world to share God's love.

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.*

We sing "Silent Night," raising our candles during the third stanza to symbolize our acceptance of Jesus' call to us 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

STILLE NACHT

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.

BENEDICTION*

May the Word that Mary brought to birth
carry you into new and abundant life.
May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms
enfold you with love and strength.
May the Word that angels proclaimed in song
bring harmony to the world.
And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen

SENDING 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 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 Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Carol of the Bells

UKRANIAN BELL CAROL



Christmas Decorations

If you purchased a poinsettia, you may take it home with you after tonight's service.

Poinsettias Given in Honor of

Amy Shue by Charlie and Lori Graeber
Bethanie and Laith Kayat by Barbara Stauffer
Carol and Johnny Miller by Nan Martin
Carolyn Myers by Betsy, John, Riley, Grace and Griffin Myers
Pastor Dan Joyner Miller by Charles Dabbs
Harold Snider by Charlie and Lori Graeber
Jan Snider by Charlie and Lori Graeber
Janie Rollins by Charles Dabbs
Jim and Jacque Rice by Eddie and Patricia Graham
Jimmy and Elizabeth Brady by Eddie and Patricia Graham
Jimmy and Nancy Linn by Charlie and Lori Graeber
Judy "Bonga" Childress by her kids, grandkids, and great grandkids
Kent and Carol Brown by Eddie and Patricia Graham
Kristin and Shawne Stauffer by Barbara Stauffer
Lib Page by Tommy and Mary Willis Page
Lillian Phipps by Devin and Ashley Graham Phipps
Lindsay and Mark Wineka by Nan Martin
Mack and Meetta Lampert by Eddie and Patricia Graham
Mark Bias by Charles Dabbs
Mark Tysinger by Charles Dabbs
Martin Luther Class Teachers Gary Rhodes and Lee Ketner by Diane Everhart
Mary K. Evans by Barbara Stauffer
My Gran and Papa by Kolbe Moss
Nichol, Erron, Connor and Jillian Towns by Michael and BJ Connor
Our children and grandchildren by Darryl and Barbara Corriher
Our Family and Friends of St. John's by Dr. George and Shirley Everhart
Our grandchildren - Connor, Emily, Abby, and Hailey by Chuck and Judy Moll
Our grandchildren - Leonardo and Monica by Steve and Karen Puckett
Pansy and Gerald Peeler by Eddie and Patricia Graham
Pastors Lori, Dan, and James by Patricia Holt
Rand and Yvonne Yost by Jake and Carole Parrott and Family
Rev. and Mrs. Ed Harper by Darrell and Kathy Norris
Rev. Carl Sachtleben by Steve and Christina, and Michael and Joanna Sachtleben
Rob Durocher by Charles Dabbs
Ryan, Amber, Ben and Abbey Lawson by Jerry Lawson
Sean, Ester, Theo, Sean Michael, and Bennett Connor by Michael and BJ Connor

St. John's Staff by Michael and BJ Connor

W. A. & Joyce Cline by your children, grandchildren & great-grandchildren

Poinsettias Given in Memory of

Dr. Chris Agner by Dianne Agner and family

"Aunt" Dr. Hilda Bailey by Kevin, Kelly and Kim

Mr. and Mrs. Bryce Barger by Steve Barger

Laura Lennox Campbell by Lisa Lennox

Our mothers, Betty Crenshaw and Ruth Tysinger by Cathy and Mark Tysinger

Renard and Mary Cassar by Glenn Terry

David Curlee by Jenny Ryerson

Elma Dinker Dabbs by Charles Dabbs

Mildred Warlick by Charles Dabbs

Evelyn Eiss, Charles Eiss, Jr. and Donald Eiss by Patricia Wagner

Howard Everhart by Diane Everhart

Howard Everhart by Kimberly Lentz, Kenneth and Kelly Everhart

Connie and Corinna Gardner by Sandra, Rob, Robert, & Katherine Sullivan

Bud Graeber by Charlie and Lori Graeber

Charles "Bud" Graeber by Kevin, Kelly and Kim

Nan Graeber by Charlie and Lori Graeber

Dr. and Mrs. D. F. Hord by Bonnie and David Hord

Thomas Hurlocker by Connie Hurlocker

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Ireland by Ernie and Pat Keich

Karen Johnstone by Jenny Ryerson

Gerald Jones by Jane Jones

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest William Keich, Sr. by Ernie and Pat Keich

Fran Lawson by Jerry Lawson

Reba and Dayton Lawson by Jerry Lawson

My husband, Bruce Lennox by Joan Lennox

Eric Lentz by Diane Everhart

Eric Lentz by Kimberly Lentz

Bill Marcum by his family

Dick Nelson by Pat Nelson

Frances Norris by Darrell and Kathy Norris

Our parents, Marvin and Reba Jones, and Bill Page by Tommy and Mary Willis Page

Steve and Betty Parrott by Jake and Carole Parrott and Family

Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Patterson by Bonnie and David Hord

Larry Phillips by Linda Phillips

Chris Pinkston by his family

Gary Pinkston by his family

Davey Rhodes by Gary and Scott Rhodes

Our Parents by James and Jacqueline Rice

Jim Roos by Pat, Julia, Katie Wen Roos, and Warren Roos and Family

Joan Rusher by Kevin, Kelly and Kim

Joan Rusher by W. A. and Joyce Cline

Becky Russell by her family
Cathy Ryerson by Jenny Ryerson
Ann Marie Sachtleben by Carl Sachtleben
Ann Sachtleben by Steve and Christina, and Michael and Joanna Sachtleben
Danny Safrit by Bill and Linda Safrit
James and Anna Safrit by Perry and Carolyn Hood
Jane Shuping by Jenny Ryerson
William & Cora Lee Shuping by Jenny Ryerson
Joe Ivan and Barbara Sims by their family
Joe L. and Hester Sims by their family
Maggie Safrit Smale by Bill and Linda Safrit
Tom Smith by Judy and Tom Childress
Roy and Sarah Snider by Diane Everhart
Grace Stiller by Jerry Lawson
Barbara Marie Terry by Glenn Terry
Rev. Dr. R. Harold and Kathryn Terry by Glenn Terry
Mr. and Mrs. Emmette Thompson, Jr. by Judy T. Moore
"Aunt" Gladys Van Poole by Kevin, Kelly and Kim
"Aunt" Mary Ruth Van Poole by Kevin, Kelly and Kim

Wreaths Given in Honor of

Brett, Lauren, Nora and Rose Henson by Gary and Angela Graham
Devin, Ashley and Lily Phipps by Gary and Angela Graham
Erin Norris, Jonathan, Kristen, Zach and Tyson Rogers by Eric and Kathy Norris
Gary and Angela Graham by the Graham Phipps (Ashley, Devin, and Lily) and Henson (Lauren, Brett, Nora, and Rose) families
Lynn Wisecarver by Carol and Kelly Everhart
Melody Moxley by Dale and Margaret Basinger
Mike and BJ Connor with love by Connor, Jillian, Theo, Sean Michael and Bennett
Mrs. Stacey (Shafer) and The Children of St. John's by Angela Graham
Nora and Rose Henson by Brett and Lauren Henson
Our children and grandchildren by Dr. George and Shirley Everhart
Our family, Steven, Julie and Anna Page, and Rebecca Jones by Tommy and Mary Willis Page
The Woolly Family by Mimi and Tommy Carlton

Wreaths Given in Memory of

Gene and Becky Auten by Kevin, Kelly and Kim
Gene and Becky Auten by their grandchildren Dylan, Kristen, Addie and Molly
Bryce and Almeda Barger by Jane Jones
Jerry and Claudette Barger by Tim and Kerry Gardner and family
Rufus and Elizabeth Coltrain by Kay and Raymond Coltrain
Dr. Jim Emerson by Bonnie and Ike
Bud and Nan Graeber by Betsy, John, Riley, Grace and Griffin Myers

Bud Graeber by Charlie and Lori Graeber
Nan Graeber by Charlie and Lori Graeber
Robert Myers by Betsy, John, Riley, Grace and Griffin Myers
Logan Grubb by Penny, Chris and Aiden Moss
Hermon and Helen Hood by Perry and Carolyn Hood
Gene Myers by Susan Myers and family
Harold and Barbara Rufty by Bonnie and kids and grandkids
Steve Shirley by Nancy Shirley
Charles and Sug Wallace by Kay and Raymond Coltrain
Floyd and Juanita Williams by Perry and Carolyn Hood
Our friend, Brian Wisecarver by Carol and Kelly Everhart

Decorations Given in Honor of

Bob Rusher by Bobby & Kathy and family, Joey & Cindy and family, Lori & Todd and family, and Kristin and family
Franco and Brenda Goodman by Bud and Betty Mickle
Gran Waggoner by Noah, Madison & Steven
Our grandson Harley by Ann and Parker Hatchett
Our Pastors: Daniel Joyner Miller, James Demmel, and Lori Carter by Ann and Parker Hatchett

Decorations Given in Memory of

Oma and Opa Hines by Noah, Madison & Steven
Rhonda Lawson by Jerry Lawson
Loved Ones by Pastor David P. Nelson and B. Vernon Davis
Dot and John Miller by Their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren
Joan Trexler Rusher by Bobby & Kathy and family, Joey & Cindy and family, Lori & Todd and family, and Kristin and family
Papa Waggoner by Noah, Madison & Steven

Other Acknowledgments

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

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 CareLori Carter...ext. 2050
Pastor for Youth and OutreachJames 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), DirectorGina 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 Wymbs...ext. 2180
Facility Manager.....David Ellenburg.....ext. 2070
Custodian.....Brandt Cozad

Worship Participants

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Elizabeth and Eric Brady, and Gretchen Witt

THE FESTIVAL BRASS:

Trumpets: Corey Gaston and Mark Hibshman

Horn: Tim Papenbrock

Trombones: Charlie Fisher and Aleksandr (Sacha) Witt

TIMPANI: Davis Brown, Percussionist

SOUND: Mike Agee

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Taylor Hutchins

READER: Ryan Brady

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S:

Crucifer: Luke Yang

Torch Bearers: Balian Witt And Noah Young

Banner Bearer: Gabriel Young

Acolyte: Ashton Williams



Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 24, 2024 | 11 pm



St. John's Lutheran Church
Salisbury, NC

stjohns-salisbury.org | 704.636.3431



WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

Please note that this evening'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, or are seeking a deeper connection to Christ, we invite you to become a part of the ministry of St. John's. For more information, fill out a Connection Card, speak with one of our pastors after the service, or visit our website at stjohns-salisbury.org.

Holy Communion. All baptized 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). Ushers will invite you to the table where we will commune in the round kneeling or standing around the altar. Please wait for all to be communed and for the Pastor to say a blessing before returning to your seat. For those with special needs, please note that grape juice is available and the bread is already gluten free. Those with walking difficulties may receive the bread and wine by notifying an usher. A pastor will then bring you communion after distribution.

A warm note of thanks to our Decorating Team, who have helped us prepare for the seasons of Advent and Christmas and whose faithful work helps direct our hearts and minds to Christ as we worship. Thank you for your ministry!

Join us in worship each Sunday!

Worship on Sunday mornings at 9:27 am (Faith Center) and
11 am (Sanctuary).

Our 11 am service is broadcast live.

Visit stjohns-salisbury.org, click "watch live", [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) (search "SJLC"), or Facebook live.

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.



GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Quiet Songs of the Holy Night
Thom Hinson, Organ

arr. by Lani Smith

PROCESSIONAL

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. by Gilbert Martin

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION*

Traditionally, this Proclamation of the Birth of Christ has been read on Christmas Eve, before the celebration of Midnight Mass. It situates the Nativity of Christ within the context of salvation history, making reference not only to biblical events but also to the Greek and Roman worlds. The coming of Christ at Christmas, then, is seen as the summit of both sacred and secular history.

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth
and then formed man and woman in his own image;
long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;
twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in
freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king,
in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,
being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—
now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

ENTRANCE CAROL*

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.**

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! (*Refrain*)

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*)

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. 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.**



WORD

God speaks to us in reading, preaching and song.



In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So, all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them,

“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

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

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”



V. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

Please stand

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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
 while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
 O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
 and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

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!

NICENE CREED*

The creed links us to one another and to history. In reciting it, we join ourselves to believers in the past, some of whom professed these words at great risk to their lives. Together, we profess what we hold in common — our belief in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**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,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION* *Each petition ends: "God of grace, receive our prayer."*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated

COLLECTION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY SOLO

O Holy Night
Corinne Mauldin, Soloist

arr. Adolphe Adam



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY PRAYER*

Let us pray. God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING*

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise. ... And join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER*

Holy One, the beginning and the end...

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...We look with hope for His coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

...Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...All praise and glory are yours, Holy one of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God now and forever.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.

The assembly sings:



Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en.
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri-al
and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r,
and the glo-ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION*

A Child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come receive the gift of Jesus.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION *All baptized 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).*

Ushers will invite you to the table where we will commune in the round kneeling or standing around the altar. Please wait for all to be communed and for the Pastor to say a blessing before returning to your seat. For those with special needs, please note that grape juice is available and the bread is already gluten free. Those with walking difficulties may receive the bread and wine by notifying an usher. A pastor will then bring you communion after distribution.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION*

Merciful God,
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy.
Amen.



SENDING

Forgiven and nourished, we are now sent into the world to share God's love.

BENEDICTION*

May the Word that Mary brought to birth
carry you into new and abundant life.
May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms
enfold you with love and strength.
May the Word that angels proclaimed in song
bring harmony to the world.
And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ✙ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen

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.*

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

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.

DISMISSAL*

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.
Thanks be to God!

We now depart in the silent holiness of Christmas.

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Worship Participants

Order of St John's:

Acolytes—Caleb and Benny Rathbun

Crucifer—Aaron Shafer

Banner Bearer—Gabriel Shafer



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