

December 11, 2016
Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude: Oh, Come, Emmanuel Wilbur Held
Chiming of the Hour

***Hymn:** #107 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

Welcome

Joys and Concerns

Choral Introit: *Light Three Candles to Watch for Messiah*

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle – Joy

One: There are some blessings that are only revealed to us when the day is darkest.

All: There are some mercies that only shine when the shadows are deepest.

One: There are some graces that are only glimpsed when the night is the longest.

All: O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel. The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

One: In Advent, we remember the darkest days

All: And await the brilliant light of hope.

(The candle of Hope is lit)

One: In Advent, we remember the thirsty days

All: And await the quenching light of peace.

(The candle of Peace is lit)

One: In Advent, we remember the silent days

All: And await the singing light of joy.

(The candle of Joy is lit)

One: Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God...
who will come and save you."

All: Our souls magnify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.

Advent Response: *Light Three Candles*

Call to Worship

One: Come away from haste and frantic busyness.
This is the season for quiet waiting.

All: It is hard to still our souls when we are so busy. It is hard to be patient with ourselves or others.

One: Receive God's mercy and strengthen your hearts.
A Savior is coming; God's love is near.

All: We want to hear and believe God's Promises. We want to become patient, loving seekers.

One: God presents us with a high and holy way. Come before God now with praise and singing.

All: We sense the joy God offers to us. Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

One: Come, let us worship God together!

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Mighty One, we rejoice that you strengthen our weak hands and make firm our feeble knees. You open our eyes and unstop our ears. You meet our hungers with good things. You disturb our false pride while helping us discover our true strength. You topple us from our pretensions while lifting up the lowly to claim the inner power you alone can provide. We have assembled to worship you. Awaken the gladness that comes when we recognize your presence. We long to know you in this hour. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Come into our emptiness, gracious God. We feel empty because we have shut you out of our lives. Break through our pretensions, Holy One. We pretend to be powerful because we have not claimed the peace that is available deep within when you dwell with us. Quiet our grumbling and complaining. We are impatient because we have focused on things, not on you. Enter our lives with the forgiveness you have promised to all who are

truly sorry for their unfaithfulness. Release us from self created prisons. Hear now our silent confessions as we turn to you seeking mercy, forgiveness and grace.

Moment of Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Love

***Gloria Patri:** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Responsive Reading – Psalm 146: 5-10

(Page 715 HS in the pew bible)

Reading from the Hebrew Scripture – Isaiah 35:1-10

(Page 811 HS in the pew bible)

Children's Message and Lord's Prayer (debts)

(Children will leave for Sunday School and Youth

Discussion Group)

***Hymn:** #99 *My Soul Gives Glory to My God*

Offering of Gifts

Anthem: *Ave Maria*

Franz Schubert

Imelda Bogue, alto

***Doxology:** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

New Testament Reading – Luke 1:46-55

(Page 69 NT in the pew bible)

Sermon: *'My Soul Magnifies the Lord'*

Reverend Diane Monti-Catania

Pastoral Prayer, Silent Prayer

***Hymn:** #116 *The Snow Lay on the Ground*

Benediction

Postlude: From Heaven Above

Wilbur Held

(*Please stand if able)

If you are visiting us today, Welcome! Please sign the guestbook at the front door and introduce yourself to our Pastor or to one of our Deacons.

Please join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship following worship. All are welcome. Our host today is Nancy Rossi.

Please see an usher:

If you would like to use a hearing device

If you would like to bring your child to the Nursery

Many thanks to:

The Maxwell Family for lighting the Advent Candle

Imelda Bogue our alto soloist

Bob Maxwell for serving as the lay reader

Sharon Tingley & Joe Catania for ushering

The Bok Family for donating the flowers

Prayer List

Al, The Sosnoff Family, Wilma Tillerman, Emily, Leonard Kaufman, Trish Johnson, Laura Flores, Margie Vail, Gordon Weekly, Paul McAbee, Shirley Rogers, Jane Fitting, Nancy Tuckerman, Kit Kellogg, Barbara Jacquette, Gloria Buckley, Petie Robinson, Jeri Johnson, family and friends of Jimmy Noyes

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Today	11:15 am Christmas Pageant 3 pm Christmas Concert
Monday	4-8 pm Sinfonietta Rehearsal
Tuesday	5:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:30 pm Faithful Discussions
Wednesday	5:30-8:45 pm Sinfonietta Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	4:30 pm Women's Bible Study 7 pm HousaTonics Rehearsal
Friday	7:30 am Men's Bible Study 5-9:30 pm Sinfonietta Rehearsal
Saturday	9 am -12 pm Sinfonietta Rehearsal 5 pm "Amahl" Concert ~ 1 st Show 7 pm "Amahl" Concert ~ 2 nd Show
Sunday	11:15 am Christmas Caroling 4 pm Chorus Angelicus Concert

OPPORTUNITIES

GLORY! GLORY! GLORY!

Come join us this afternoon at 3 pm for our Annual Christmas Concert. The Bell Choir and the Adult Choir along with the Salisbury Sinfonietta Brass will be performing. Admission is free & donations are welcome.

SIGN UP FOR CHRISTMAS POINTSETTIAS

You are invited to contribute a plant in the name of a loved one and take the plant home with you after Christmas Eve service. Donations are \$15 for each plant. Please send a check, along with a form to the office by December 16th.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The annual Christmas Giving Tree has been put up in the Meeting House by the Board of Christian Action. Written on each paper ornament is a wish from children and their families who live in our nearby communities. We ask that you choose an ornament, purchase the item requested, and place the unwrapped gift under the tree by December 18. Santa and his helpers will deliver the gifts to the Astor Early Childhood Program.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALISBURY

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SALISBURY, CONNECTICUT**

*GATHERED IN 1744
INCORPORATED IN 1949*



CREATED BY GOD
CALLED BY JESUS CHRIST
GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
DEDICATED TO LOVING AND SERVING GOD AND NEIGHBOR

The Reverend Diane Monti-Catania, *Pastor*