

January 3, 2016
Second Sunday After Christmas

Prelude: The Old Year Now Hath Passed Away
J.S. Bach

Chiming of the Hour

***Hymn:** #119 *As With Gladness Men of Old*

Welcome

Joys and Concerns

Choral Introit: *The Christ-Child* Peter Cornelius
Brooke Schooley, soprano

Call To Worship (*John 1*)

In the beginning and even before there was a beginning, there was a Holy Word;
this Word was God's expression, God's creation;
This Word generates even now;
This Word launches us every morning;
This Word has been present in God from before the beginning.
The Word is God.
We delight to worship the great Creator,
Source of the Word made flesh.

Invocation

Dear One, Brother Jesus, Holy Man,
God incarnate,
You are always present in Spirit
Every day of the year.
We focus on you as we are reminded that
you seek
Our broken hearts and closed minds.
You desire that we know you.
Enable us to see and hear what is in front of us,
And to recognize you in each other's full
humanity.
Thank you very much. Amen.

Call To Confession

Together we can face what is difficult to face
alone. Let us pray in unison:

Prayer of Confession

God of life and death, you know who we are. You rejoice when we come to you. You do not condemn us; you redirect us. On this day, please show us where we have been untrue to ourselves, our friends and our ideals. Some of us have lost our way. For those times when we have been busy, bored, lazy or lukewarm, we are sorry, and we ask for release from our faults.

Moment of silent prayer

Assurance of Pardon

God is ever inviting us to receive the refreshment that he offers. God's forgiveness heals us if we allow it. Our weariness and discouragement melt away and we have a lighter step. Friends, believe the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***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 147: 12-20
(Page 716 OT in the pew bible)

Hebrew Scripture Reading – Jeremiah 31: 7-14
(Page 898 OT in the pew bible)

***Hymn:** #135 *O Jesu Sweet, O Jesu Mild*

Sacrament of Communion

Communion Prayer
Gracious Lord Jesus, you have come close to us once again.
We go from this table renewed in faith, renewed in courage, and mended by your Presence.
Thank you for loving us so tenderly and so constantly.
Thank you for calling us to know you better as our days continue.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** #135 *O Jesu Sweet, O Jesu Mild*

(Children will leave for Sunday School and Youth Discussion Group during hymn.)

Offering of Gifts

Anthem: *Nun Wandre, Maria* Hugo Wolf
Brooke Schooley, soprano

Keep going now, Mary, keep going my dear.
I hear roosters crowing; the township is near.
Keep going my dear one, my precious gem:
we'll soon be arriving in Bethlehem.

And there you will lie down and sleep free from fear.

***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

Please transform our resources into actions that touch lives with love.
Accept and enlarge our thankful hearts
As we rejoice in your goodness.
Let our gifts manifest godliness in this church, in this community and in our precious World,
through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us, Amen.

Epistle Reading – Ephesians 1: 3-14
(Page 235 NT in the pew bible)

Sermon *"May the Eyes of Your Heart be Enlightened"*

Reverend Eileen Epperson

Pastoral Prayer, Silent Prayer, Lord's Prayer
Response: How Silently, How Silently

***Hymn:** #136 *On This Day Earth Shall Ring*
Benediction

Choral Response: O Holy Child of Bethlehem

Postlude: In Thee Is Gladness J.S. Bach

(*Please stand if able.)

Please join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship following worship. Our host today is the Maxwell Family.

Our ushers today are Bob Weber & Vince Hanlon.
Our Lay Reader is Mike Clulow.
The flowers are donated by the Noble Family in memory of Djordje Soc.

Prayer List

Marilyn Ritchie, Rosie Bell, Nancy Tuckerman, Barbara Jacquette, Mary Wadsworth, Gloria Buckley, Petie Robinson, Sue Bucceri, Bruce McEver, Jim Aitchison, Jeri Johnson, Nancy Smith, Dick Dwelley, Louise "Weezie" Hannegan and the family and friends of Al Sly.

Calendar for the Week

Today: 1:00 pm Memorial Service for Djordje Soc
2:00 pm Worship at Noble Horizons Chapel
Thursday: 8:30 am "Silent" Retreat in the Parish Hall Library
4:30 pm Women's Bible Study
7:00 pm HousaTonics
Friday: 8:00 am Men's Bible Study
Next Sunday: 11:30 am Trustees

Reverend Eileen Epperson will be our Pastoral Leader during the month of January. She can be reached at the church office number; her office hours will be Monday through Thursday, 9-3. Feel free to also call her at 860-435-0288.

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2015-2016

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Delegates to State Conference and Litchfield North		
To Be Filled		
Nominating Committee 2015		
Carol Magowan	David Rich	Judith Frost
David Heck	Susie Belcher	Janet Kaufman

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Dr. Jack Bowman, Minister of Music
Barbara Collins, Religious Education; Mary Davidson, Bell and Children's Choirs;
Melissa Adam, Financial & Communications Assistant;
Kathy Wiggins Administrative Assistant; Cory Wiggins, Sexton
Church website: www.salisburycongregational.org
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Pastor's office hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9-5 or by appointment

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*