

December 4, 2016
Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude: Sleepers Awake! A Voice Is Calling J.S. Bach
Chiming of the Hour

***Hymn:** #88 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (Verses: 1-4)

Welcome

Joys and Concerns

Choral Introit: *Rejoice! Rejoice!*

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle – Peace

One: We are God's gathered people.

All: And so come to this moment filled with holy hope.

(The candle of Hope is lit)

One: May justice roll down

All: And peace flow like a mighty river around the world

One: May equity be the reality for generations yet to come

All: And may peace flow throughout humanity, as it did with the One

One: The One who was sent here, the One who sent us, the One whose power never fails

All: Peace is possible and we are resolved today to believe. With God, anything we dream of can be a reality. We light this candle as we proclaim peace around the world. We stand together, from one end of the Earth to the other, knowing God is with us. (Candle of Peace is lit)

Advent Response: *Light Two Candles to Watch for Messiah*

Call to Worship

One: Rejoice together, people of God. Let all the earth

praise our Creator.

All: We have gathered to honor our God. In awe and reverence, we seek God's Word.

One: Welcome one another as Christ welcomes you.

Let each other know of Christ's presence.

All: Surely Christ has come to change us. Christ is coming still to redirect us.

One: This is time to take delight in the Spirit. This is the hour to seek knowledge and counsel.

All: We are ready to learn what the Spirit teaches. We are awaking to the Spirit's gifts.

One: Come let us worship together!

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Come, Spirit of God, to rest on our community, embracing the poor, bringing equity to the meek, turning away all expressions of evil. Come into this congregation to enliven our worship, to immerse us in righteousness, to prompt our faithfulness. Rain on us your hope and joy and peace, filling the whole earth with your glory. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Awesome God, we have disregarded your Word, failing to inquire after your will for us. We have ignored the needy, defended our advantages, and neglected our prayers. We have not appreciated or witnessed to your sustaining love. Instead we destroy the resources of the earth with little regard for those who follow us. We value our prosperity more than the harmony you envision for your people. O God, we do not like ourselves this way. Hear now our silent confessions as we turn to you seeking mercy, forgiveness and grace. Amen.

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 72: 1-7, 18-19

(Page 656 HS in the pew bible)

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures – Isaiah 11:1-10

(Page 784 HS in the pew bible)

***Hymn:** #83 *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (Verses 1 & 2)

Sacrament of Communion

The cut bread on the communion plate is gluten free.

The communion wine is non-alcoholic juice.

Communion Prayer

Gracious God, you have once again shown us your love by bringing us to this meal. We go from this table, renewed in faith, renewed in courage, and strengthened by your presence. Thank you for loving us so tenderly. Thank you for challenging us to know you better and to receive you more fully. It is in Christ's name that we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** #83 *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (Verses 3 & 4)

(Children leave for Sunday School and Youth Discussion Group)

Offering of Gifts

Anthem: *There is No Rose of Such Virtue* John Joubert

***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 – Matthew 3:1-12

(Page 3 NT in the pew bible)

Sermon: *“The Kingdom is Near”*

Reverend Diane Monti-Catania

Pastoral Prayer, Silent Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Response: *Rejoice! Rejoice!*

***Hymn:** #105 *People, Look East*

Benediction

Response: *Rejoice! Rejoice!*

Postlude: *Sleepers Awake!* Alec Wyton

(*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.

Hearing Assist Devices are available; Please see an usher if you would like to use one.

Nursery Care is available for children 0-4. Please ask an usher to direct you to the nursery.

Thank you to the Clulow Family for lighting the Advent Candle of Peace today.

Our Lay Reader today is Linda Estabrook.

Our ushers today are Sharon Tingley & Joe Catania.

Prayer List

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 & Henry La Torraca

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Today	11:30 am Board of Trustees Meeting 2:00 pm Worship at Noble Horizons
Chapel	3:30 pm Bell Choir performs in Copake
Monday	7 pm Bell Choir performs at Geer Village
Tuesday	5:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday	7 pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	4:30 pm Women’s Bible Study 6:30 pm Bell Choir participates in the mass at the Immaculate Conception Church in Norfolk 7 pm HousaTonics Rehearsal
Saturday	9 am -12 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	11:15 am Christian Action Meeting 3 pm Christmas Concert

OPPORTUNITIES

PHOTOS AFTER WORSHIP

Kristine Jennings is taking photos for our new directory after worship this morning and next Sunday. Kristine will be in the Parish Hall near the library. If you have not already done so, please make the time to see her, so you can be included in the new directory!

GLORY! GLORY! GLORY!

Come join us on Sunday, December 11th 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.

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*