

# Salem United Methodist Church

1321 Salem Church Road  
Irmo, South Carolina 29063  
Established 1873  
December 24, 2018



## Nativity of the Lord

December 24, 2018

A Service of Word, Table and Light

*The Color white is used to denote the purity of the Christ child*

The Gathering with Prelude

**\*Choral Call to Worship** with Procession & Lighting of the Candles

**\*Hymn, 234** (vs. 1-4) *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Chiming of the Hour

The Welcome

*We maybe are not sure of why we have come here tonight. It may be because it's just what we do; after all it is Christmas Eve. It may be to join our voices in the singing of certain songs, because our heart needs to hear them, because we need to join with them. It may be because we need to hear the story again; our spirit is in need of it. It may be the light that calls us like the wise ones of old. It may be because, because, because....*

*Whatever the reason there may be that brings us here, may it come to pass that in the presence of the Lord we find our story fulfilled, our eyes brightened, and our spirits fed. Whatever the reason, make it so Lord, make it so.*

**\*The Lighting of Advent** 5:30 The Lovett Family  
7:00 The Bykalo Family

**Family:** Once we were no people, once we lived in darkness, once we did not know the love of God.

**People:** **Once our world was formless and void and darkness covered the face of the deep. Once we were a people without 'others' to share life in and with, without a name, without a place.**

**Family:** Now, Now we have seen light. We long for light. We wish to share in the light. And our hope is that in the company of those who love light we will become light. Tonight we light four candles, the "lower lights", the "lessor lights". They point to the greater light of God's Word that swept across the dark waters and separated Light from darkness.

**People:** **The greater light is the light of God's Love for us, with us, in us.**

**Family:** His name is "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace" and in His coming he gives to us his name that is above all names; that in His light we might give light to all the world.

**People:** **Come holy light, come! Light our way, light our lives, be the light of our living. Amen and amen.**

**\*Hymn, 2090** (vs.5)

*Advent Song*

Light the Christmas candles, now: Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow; birthday candles for the King, let the alleluias ring. Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night; candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

*(As the call to worship is sung the family will light the appropriate candles for the day and then take their seat.)*

Opening Prayer

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 9:2-7*

Homily *"Darkness Is Infinitely Deep"*  
Chandra Mohan Jain, also known as Osho

Anthem 5:30 *Morning of Promise* Choir  
7:00 *Almost There*  
Donna Corley, Sarah Bridges, Dolly Kent, Matthew Smith

\*Gospel Reading *Luke 2:1-20*

Homily *"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only Light can do that"*  
Dr. Martin L. King

Offertory 5:30 *O Holy Night* Bryson Stutts  
7:00 *O Holy Night*  
Sarah Bridges, Donna Corley, Steve Smith

**\*Doxology, 95**

**The Great Thanksgiving, 18 Musical Setting B**

**The Lord's Prayer, 895**

The Fraction

**Receiving the Bread and Cup**

**Prayer after Receiving (in unison)**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may receive into our hearts the Christ Child this night. Amen. Grant that we may hold fast to the Christ all our days. Amen. Grant that we may live as the Christ light in this world through the strength of your Spirit. Amen. Grant that our lives may truly reflect the wisdom and nature of your eternal light, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen and amen!

Epistle Reading

Titus 2:11–14

**\*The Lighting of the Christ Light**

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word. In the Word was life and in the life was light.

**People: He was in the world, and the world came into being through him. But the world would not know him. We chose to live in darkness.**

Pastor: On this night, this very night, this holy night, God comes again into human history. And the Word that was life and light became flesh and lived among us.

**People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it. Thanks be to God.**

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen!**

**\*Hymn with Candle Lighting, 239**

*Silent Night, Holy Night*  
With Matthew Smith

\*The Benediction

**\*Departing with Postlude**

*\*Indicates that the Congregation stands. If standing is uncomfortable, please remain seated and continue with your participation.*

**Bold Titles** indicate Congregation Participation.

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**WELCOME**

*Welcome to our Christmas Eve Service. May God bless you and your families as you celebrate the birth of the Christ child. The staff of Salem wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!*

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**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP:**

**Ushers:** 5:30 Scott Butler, Ted Hornsby, Ron Joye  
Hope Mitchell, John Mitchell, David Thomas

7:00 Scott Butler, Julie Hilliard  
Randy Hilliard, Bill Sills

**Acolyte:** 5:30 Madison Lewis, Mason Lewis  
7:00 Claire Tanner

**Nursery:** (5:30 only) Sheri Hood, Julie Hilliard

**Communion Servicers:**

5:30 Tommy, Tyler & Carson Hodges  
Jeremy & Nicole Watford, Ralph Payne

7:00 Richard & Vicky Harris

**Trustee:** Randy Hilliard



**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Thursday  
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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**OUR MINISTRY TEAM**

Gary Phillips — Pastor

Sarah Bridges — Director of Music

Marissa Hill — Communications Coordinator

Beth Chastie — Business/Finance Manager

Miriam Y. Lovett — Organist

Jim Magann — Youth/Outreach Ministries

Tina Overton — Director of Creative Ministries

Paul Perry — Seminarian Intern

Marie Wicker — Administrative Assistant