

# Salem United Methodist Church

1321 Salem Church Road  
Irmo, South Carolina 29063  
Established 1873  
December 24, 2019



## Nativity of the Lord

December 24, 2019

A Service of Word, Table and Light

*The color blue is used to denote the peace of  
waiting and watching.*

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

THE GATHERING WITH PRELUDE 5:30 Bryson Stutts

PROCESSION & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*You are my Hope*

*You are my hope, hope like no other. Peace like no other reaches to me. In the fullness of our joy, in the power of your name. you lift me up, you lift me up. unfailing love, stronger than mountains, deeper than oceans, reaches to me.*

### \*THE LIGHTING OF ADVENT

5:30 The McCrary Family

7:00 The Cole Family

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you**

The risen Christ is with us.

**Praise the Lord!**

Above all else 'Hope' is what we hold onto most firmly.

**Hope is aspiring to something sufficiently good enough –  
something sufficiently blessed and promising enough –  
to sustain us in the life that God wants for us.**

Above all else Hope sustains us by teasing us along towards that which is not yet grasped.

**It is a light to our path and so we light a candle to hope.**

It was the angels that declared, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace among all men with whom God is pleased to dwell."

**This declared peace is summed up as 'Shalom'; a tranquil state of being, an assuredness in one's own connection to Sacredness, fearing nothing from God and content with one's own place in the world."**

The Christ himself leaves us his very own peace.

**It is a light to our path and so we light a candle to peace.**

Scripture, Holy Writ instructs, "Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say rejoice."

**To rejoice is to give expression to a sense of joyfulness when it is made manifest in our lives.**

The joy of the Lord gives shape to our waiting and watching.

**It is a light to our path and so we light a candle to joy.**

God created out of a desire to be in a loving relationship with the created order.

**All that God has done has been out of love for humankind. Even to the point of being Immanuel, God with us. It is an act of love to come and live in our very midst.**

In coming God begins the work of changing us, transforming us redeeming us that we may love for the first time freely and unencumbered.

**It is a light to our path and so we light a candle to Love.**

**With thanks we receive the promise of hope, peace, joy and love until it is fulfilled by the Christ himself. Thanks Be to God. Amen.**

### \*HYMN 218

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

OPENING PRAYER

EPISTLE READING

Titus2:11–13

\*GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1–20

ANTHEM

*O Holy Night*

5:30 Chancel Choir

7:00 Sarah Bridges, Donna Corley

HOMILY

"For the Grace of the Lord has Appeared"

OFFERTORY WITH DRESSING OF THE TABLE

7:00

*You're Almost There*

Sarah Bridges, Donna Corley

Dolly Kent, piano

\*DOXOLOGY 95

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, Pg. 13

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE FRACTION

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

**PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING**

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. Grant that we may hold fast to the Christ all our days. Grant that we may live as the Christ light in this world through the strength of your Spirit. 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!

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 96:1-4, 9-12

**\*THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST LIGHT**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
**Those who lived in a land of deep darkness- on them light has shined.**

For a child has been born for us. A son is given to us.  
**His name is and always shall be Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. In his name we go into all the world declaring his goodness and mercy for all humankind.**

**\*HYMN WITH CANDLE LIGHTING 239** *Silent Night, Holy Night*

**\*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.

---

**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!*

---

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP:**

**Ushers:** 5:30 Sandra Durst, Ron Joye, Bill Sills  
Sandra Sills, David Thomas  
7:00 Julie Hilliard, Randy Hilliard  
Hope Mitchell, John Mitchell  
**Acolyte:** 5:30 Molly Vyskocil  
7:00 Ella Hodges  
**Nursery:** 5:30 Janet Haas, Julie Hilliard  
**Trustee:** Randy Hilliard



**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Thursday  
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
1321 Salem Church Road, Irmo, SC 29063  
Website: [salemumcsc.com](http://salemumcsc.com)  
E-mail: [smethodist@aol.com](mailto:smethodist@aol.com)

Phone 803-781-1626

*In case of an emergency, call  
843-209-9273 or 803-422-9400*



**OUR MINISTRY TEAM**

Gary Phillips — Pastor  
Sarah Bridges — Director of Music  
Mary Catherine Greenway — Communications Coordinator  
Stephanie Knott — Pianist  
Angie Lain — Business/Finance Manager  
Miriam Y. Lovett — Organist  
Jim Magann — Youth/Outreach Ministries  
Tina Overton — Director of Creative Ministries  
Marie Wicker — Administrative Assistant