



**Salisbury United Church**  
**January 3, 2021**  
**Welcome to Worship Online!**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Hymn:** The First Nowell; #91VU, vs. 1-3

The first Nowell the angel did say,  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay akeeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

And by the light of that same star three wisemen came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

**Lighting of The Christ Candle** (*everyone lights their at-home candles*)

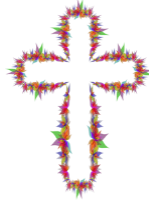
**The Light of Christ is with us, between us and all around us.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Passing the Peace** (*said with hands over our hearts*)

**The peace of Christ be with you!**

**Call to Prayer**

In the beginning of time, before creation began,  
the God's creative Word already existed.  
Indeed, before all things came to be,  
the Word was already with God and the Word was God.  
God spoke and God's radiant Word  
became manifest in the world of matter,  
in the living complexity of creation,  
in the voices of prophets and elders and sages.



Thus, the Word travelled the veil between time and eternity,  
until the time came when the Word settled down among us  
in the fragile frame of one unique human life.  
God's Word became a Living Word, at one with us and all of creation,  
and we have been alive to see the fullness  
of the Word's luminous grace and truth.

**Hymn:** Halle, Halle, Hallelujah; pg. 958VU

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

**Opening Prayer & Lord's Prayer**

Holy God, Ruler and Maker of the Universe,  
Creator of All Life, you are beyond time, eternal and boundless.  
Yet you enter into time to be with us.  
Your light appears among us in the frail form of an infant,  
now days old.  
Such light is given to us to guide us in our humble,  
sacred walk through creation.  
Guide us onwards as we pray in Jesus' name,  
who taught us to pray, saying...

**Our Father,**  
**Who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy name,**  
**thy kingdom come,**  
**thy will be done,**  
**on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread,**  
**and forgive us our trespasses,**  
**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**  
**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom,**  
**the power and the glory**  
**for ever and ever, amen.**



**Discovery Time**

**Hymn:** We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*Refrain:*

*O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 60:1-5a



**Hymn:** Halle, Halle, Hallelujah; pg. 958VU

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:41-52



**Sermon**

**Hymn:** Arise Your Light Has Come; #79VU

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

**Recognition of Offering**

God of majesty and mystery, we bring our gifts to you,  
grateful that you are with us in good times and in hard times.  
We do not know what the year ahead will hold  
but your love shines like a star to guide us.  
Bless these gifts that they may keep the light of Christ  
shining through us to embrace the world you love. Amen

**Prayers for the Journey**

God of all time and space, as we gather in prayer,  
we recognize that our lives are but small details  
in the vast expanse of your universe.  
So we thank you for caring about small things.  
We thank you for the year just past,  
for walking through the hard days and uncertainties with us,  
and for the gifts of encouragement and friendship that cheered us.  
We give thanks for accomplishments in ministry and mission,  
for generosity offered to those in need,  
and for new possibilities explored in online worship,  
education and outreach.

As your Spirit guides us into the future,  
our hearts lie open before you, O God;  
Receive our humble prayers.

The year just ending has held so many sorrows  
and challenges for so many.  
We remember dear ones who have died  
and pray for those who look ahead in loneliness or sadness...

We pray for those who have faced challenges in health,  
in their families or at work...  
Support each one who needs you close by.

*(prayers offered in silence)*

God of light and love, as we face the year ahead,  
we are aware that much around us is still uncertain.  
We seek your strength and guidance in each challenge we will face.  
Draw near to each one who must confront illness,  
loss or changing circumstances.  
Guide those for whom new opportunities appear  
and choices must be made.

*(prayers offered in silence)*

God of community and commitment,  
we pray for wisdom and courage in the year ahead.  
Strengthen us as a community of faith  
to be committed to your way of love.  
Help us reach out to our community in creative ways,  
and make us effective citizens in these challenging times.  
Guide leaders in our nation and in nations around the world  
so that justice and peace may prevail,  
so that resources to meet health and hunger needs are shared,  
and so that understanding and respect  
will grow among divided peoples.  
Receive our humble prayers and encourage us onward  
in the name of Jesus our Christ, in whose name we pray,  
Amen.

**Hymn:** This Little Light of Mine;

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!  
Let it shine, let it shine, hallelujah, amen!

Won't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine!

## Saying Goodbye To The Light Of Christ

The Christ light can never be put out.  
Even when we blow it out, it simply changes form,  
and drifts like smoke into all the four directions of the world.

*(The Christ Candle is extinguished)*

**The smoke rises like a blessing, until we meet again,  
and can put a flame to the candle wick,  
declaring that the light of Christ is with us,  
between us and all around us.**



## Blessing

May God who creates you give you light.  
May God who sustains you make you wise.  
May God who preserves you give you love.  
May God who surrounds you give you peace.  
May the grace of God, the love of Jesus,  
and the abiding friendship of the Holy Spirit,  
holy diversity within holy unity,  
go with you all now and always, Amen.



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- *Blessing: Voices United, Louise Skibsted, Trinity UC, Creston, BC & United Church of Canada, "What Is Creation Saying to Us?", First Sunday, Year B: Speak for Me!*

## Music

- *The First Nowell; Oxford University Press*
- *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah; GIA Publications*
- *We Three Kings; public domain*
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- *This Little Light of Mine; public domain*

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