



*Salem Lutheran Church*  
shalom - salaam - salem - peace

**A Reconciling in Christ (Open and Affirming) congregation  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**May 17, 2020**

**9:30 AM**



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**Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT**

# Gathering

**GATHERING SONG**

**Draw Me Close**

**Kelly Carpenter**

*Verse*

**Draw me close to You never let me go  
I lay it all down again To hear You say that I'm Your friend**

**You are my desire no one else will do  
'Cause nothing else could take Your place To feel the warmth of Your embrace**

**Help me find the way bring me back to You**

*Chorus*

**You're all I want You're all I've ever needed  
You're all I want Help me know You are near**

*Ending*

**Help me know You are here**

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## WELCOME

In the name of the risen Christ, welcome to virtual church!  
We are glad to have you worship with us!

You can find us at our website: [www.SalemBridgeport.org](http://www.SalemBridgeport.org) ,  
on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/SalemBridgeport](https://www.facebook.com/SalemBridgeport) ,  
and on our YouTube Channel: Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, CT.

You can enable closed captioning in Facebook  
by going to Settings / Accessibility / Subtitles & Captioning on your device.  
You can enable closed captioning in YouTube  
by clicking on the 3 dots in the upper right corner and going to Captions.

Links to this worship bulletin, to the sermon, to our donate page,  
and to other resources are included on our website and FB page.

As we worship, please note that unless otherwise indicated,  
parts in normal font are read by the pastor, leader or lector  
**while responses in bold font are read by the congregation.**

## INTRODUCTION

**Jesus does not abandon his followers.**

**Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation.**

**As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded of the work of the Spirit of the Living God.**

In one way, everything that is, is animated by the Spirit, or Energy of God.

The Spirit is what causes electrons to spin around the nucleus in every atom.

The Spirit is what gives breath to every living thing. The Spirit is what allows God to communicate with us and **it is only through the Spirit of the risen Christ that we know God.**

As Martin Luther said,

*"I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with her gifts, sanctified & kept me in true faith. In the same way She calls, gathers, enlightens, & sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith."*

The Spirit is what enlivens, enlightens and enables us to live as God's people. The Spirit plants gifts within us – *wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and the fear of the Lord, & joy in God's presence.* And as we nurture those gifts, we produce the fruit of the Spirit – *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

**Today we rejoice because no matter what challenges we are facing,  
God has not left us comfortless, but has sent the Spirit to live, not just with us, but in us.**

## OPENING HYMN

### This Is My Father's World (a favorite hymn of the congregation)

ELW # 824

- 1 This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.
- 2 This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair.  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev'rywhere.
- 3 This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget  
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is king, let heaven ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

*Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901; Music: Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930, adapt.*

*Tune Name: TERRA PATRIS, TERRA BEATA; Text Meter: SMD*

*This hymn is in the public domain.*

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!  
**And also with you!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. (*a brief silence*) Great and Gracious God,  
when the disciples were feeling lost and alone, Jesus promised to send them a comforter.  
As we face feelings of fear and frustration, as we deal with doubts, disease, and death,  
and as we struggle against the stresses and strains of this strange new world, send the Spirit  
to quiet our minds, comfort our hearts, calm our bodies & fill our souls with peace. **Amen**

# Word

## FIRST READING: ACTS 17:22-28

<sup>22</sup>Then Paul stood up before the council of the Areopagus and delivered this address: “Citizens of Athens, I note that in every respect you are scrupulously religious. <sup>23</sup>As I walked about looking at your shrines, I even discovered an altar inscribed, ‘To an Unknown God’. Now, what you are worshiping in ignorance I intend to make known to you. <sup>24</sup>For the God who made the world and all that is in it, the Sovereign of heaven and earth, doesn’t live in sanctuaries made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>and isn’t served by humans, as if in need of anything. No! God is the One who gives everyone life, breath — everything. <sup>26</sup>From one person God created all of humankind to inhabit the entire earth, and set the time for each nation to exist and the exact place where each nation should dwell. <sup>27</sup>God did this so that human beings would seek, reach out for, and perhaps find the One who is not really far from any of us <sup>28</sup>the One in whom we live and move and have our being. As one of your poets has put it, ‘We too are God’s children’.”

Word of God, Word of life!

**Thanks be to God!**

## GOSPEL – John 14:15-21

The Holy Gospel, according to Saint John!

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

*[Jesus said,]* “<sup>15</sup>If you love me and obey the command I give you, <sup>16</sup>I will ask the One who sent me to give you another Advocate, another Helper to be with you always — <sup>17</sup>the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept since the world neither sees her nor recognizes her; but you can recognize the Spirit because she remains with you and will be within you. <sup>18</sup>I won’t leave you orphaned; I will come back to you. <sup>19</sup>A little while now and the world will see me no more; but you’ll see me; because I live, and you will live as well. <sup>20</sup>On that day you’ll know that I am in God, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup>Those who obey the commandments are the ones who love me, and those who love me will be loved by Abba God. I, too, will love them and will reveal myself to them.”

The Gospel of Our Lord!

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

## SERMON

**The Reverend Marjo Anderson**

## SONG OF THE DAY

**On Eagle's Wings**

**ELW # 787**

**1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in this shadow for life,  
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"**

**Refrain And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

**2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear;  
under God's wings your refuge, with faithfulness your shield. Refrain**

**3 You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day;  
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. Refrain**

**4 For to the angels God's given a command to guard you in all of your ways;  
upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

**Final Refrain And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand;  
and hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.**

*Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1957; Text © 1979 OCP Publications*

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## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us affirm our faith together:

**I believe in God, who places joy in our souls,  
dancing in our toes and songs in our hearts.**

**I believe God wanted gladness to flow like a river  
and so created a bountiful earth with plenty for all to share.**

**I believe in Jesus,  
who turned water into wine,  
partied with outcasts and sinners,  
and touched the broken so they could leap & dance.**

**I believe Jesus opened the doors and set an extra place so we could feast.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who prompts us to smile,  
who sends us invitations to come and dine,  
who nudges us to openness and tenderness.**

**I believe the Spirit is present every time we gather  
and is always urging us to live joyfully and walk hopefully.**

**Forever, I will live in the embrace of God  
and be a witness to resurrection joy.**

**Amen**

## **PURPOSE STATEMENT**

As members and friends of Salem Church,  
let us remind ourselves who we are:

**We are a community of Christian disciples  
called by the Holy Spirit.**

**In response to God's transforming love,  
we share our joy through praise and service.**

May it be so!

**Amen**

## PRAVERS OF INTERCESSION

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection,  
we join the people of God in all times and places  
in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

*Individual worshipers are invited to read aloud petitions as moved by the Spirit.*

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Embolden your church, as your followers,  
to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living.  
We pray for our mission partners,  
especially today for Kids Empowered with Your Support, and the New Paradigm Theatre,  
and for Salem members and families, especially those celebrating their birthday this week:  
Andy Andrews, Deborah Palmieri, and Maria Caragol.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the creator of heaven and earth.  
Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water  
that give life to your creatures.  
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call all people of the world your children.  
Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed,  
and speak truth to power through your prophets.  
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress.  
We pray for those who suffer in any way, especially Barbara, Jerry, Andrea, Audry, Diane,  
Dolores, Dawn, Grace, Hazel, Jacob, Jana, Katherine, Liz, Maria, Martha, Ron, Sarah, Steve,  
and all we name in our hearts.  
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your commands are good and merciful.  
Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises  
to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless,  
and free the oppressed and imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit.  
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end.  
We remember the saints who have gone before us.  
Unite us forever in your final victory over death.  
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God,  
we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

# Thanksgiving

## OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you said, “Give, and it will be given to you...  
for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”



**Give us the confidence to cheerfully give our tithes & offerings of time, talent & treasure to your work in this place, trusting that you will provide abundantly for all our needs. We pray this in the power of your Spirit. Amen**

## OFFERING

In response to God’s grace, it is our joy to return to God our tithes and offerings. Although our building at 3160 Park Avenue in Bridgeport, CT is closed at present, our financial obligations continue and we are dependent upon your generosity.

If you are watching and are part of another faith community, we encourage you to give your tithes to your own church first, and, if in addition to that, you would like to support our work here at Salem, we would be most grateful.

Simply go to the menu on our website at [SalemBridgeport.org](http://SalemBridgeport.org) and click “donate” or scan the QR code here in our Sunday worship program with a QR reader on your smart phone which will take you to that page.

## OFFERTORY SONG

**Breathe**

*Marie Barnett*

*(Marjo Anderson, vocalist)*

*Streamed with permission under CCLI License # 11092038. Song # 1874117.*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. (*a brief silence*)  
God of all love and all power,  
**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.**  
**Receive them for the sake of the One who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:  
**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;**  
**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

# Sending

## BLESSING

May God calm your body, quiet your mind, comfort your heart, & still your soul now & always.  
**Amen**

## SENDING HYMN

### Shout to the Lord

Darlene Zschech

**My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like You;  
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.**

**My Comfort, my Shelter, Tower of refuge and strength;  
let ev'ry breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.**

**Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of Your name.**

**I sing for joy at the work of your hands; forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.**

**My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like You;  
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.**

**My Comfort, my Shelter, Tower of refuge and strength;  
let ev'ry breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.**

**Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.**

**I sing for joy at the work of your hands; forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.**

*Streamed with permission under CCLI License # 11092038. Song # 1406918.*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace, held in the strong arms of the Spirit's embrace.  
**Thanks be to God!**

# Announcements

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic,  
our building at 3160 Park Avenue has been closed until further notice  
and in-person worship and meetings cancelled.*

*Even though the church building is closed, if we can help in any way,  
please know that you can still call the church office at 203-330-3300 and leave a message  
and your message will be picked up remotely and your call returned.  
Please also do not hesitate to call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441.*

*Pastor Marjo and our Office Manager, Karl, will be working primarily from their homes.*

*Pastor Marjo plans to come in on Sundays to stream worship  
and Karl plans to come in once a week  
to take care of tasks that cannot be accomplished remotely.*

**Worship will be streamed from the sanctuary via FacebookLive and YouTube  
at 9:30 on Sunday mornings.  
Please join us!**

## **TENTATIVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:**

**5/24 – Worship with the New England Synod  
with dialog sermon by Pr. William Barter and Pr. Angelika Zollfrank ,  
both of whom work as chaplains in mental health ministries.**

**5/31 – Celebrate Pentecost with a joint drive in service  
with Genesis Gospel Café & New Direction Ministries, complete with communion.**

**6/7 – Celebrate Trinity Sunday with the ELCA with a sermon by Presiding Bishop Eaton.**

**6/14 – Salem may try our first Zoom worship.**

**6/21 – Worship with the New England Synod with sermon by Bishop Hazelwood.**

*If you can't watch at 9:30 Sundays,  
video worship services will be saved to Facebook and YouTube  
so you can watch them later.*

*You can enable closed captioning in Facebook  
by going to Settings / Accessibility / Subtitles & Captioning on your device.*

*You can enable closed captioning in YouTube*

*by clicking on the 3 dots in the upper right corner and going to Captions.*

*Links to this worship bulletin, to the sermon, to our donate page, and to other resources  
are included on our website and FB page.*

*Coffee Hour, Bible Study, meetings and other events  
are being held online via Zoom.*

*Just go to our website at [SalemBridgeport.org](http://SalemBridgeport.org),  
click on the Resources tab,  
then on Calendar.*

*On the calendar just find the day and click on the event  
and a zoom invitation will appear.*

*Sometimes you may have to click on “(+2 more)”  
in order to see additional events that don’t fit in the calendar square.*

*If your Salem committee or group would like to meet via Zoom, please contact Karl  
by emailing him at [salemsec123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salemsec123@sbcglobal.net)  
or by leaving a message on the church phone, 203-336-3300.*

*Please email announcements, prayer requests, thanksgivings and God-sightings  
to the Church Office at [salemsec123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salemsec123@sbcglobal.net)  
so they can be distributed to the congregation.*

*Even though the building is closed,  
our ministry continues with online worship, Bible study, and outreach programs.*

*We encourage you to continue to support Salem as generously as you can.*

*Also, in order to protect our staff and volunteers  
from having to spend time in the building, handling cash and checks,  
we strongly urge you to make your donations online.*

*Just click on the donate tab at [SalemBridgeport.org](http://SalemBridgeport.org), and follow the instructions.*

*It takes less than 5 minutes the first time  
and you can set it up for automatic payments if you want.*

*If you need help accessing Facebook or our website or donating online,  
please call Karl so we can get you the help you need.*

*And if you need pastoral care – even just to talk –  
please don’t hesitate to call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441.*

# Food Pantry Update

I guess all good things must someday come to an end! Unfortunately, Salem's pantry fits the mold. For a multitude of reasons, we have decided to close our doors. The coronavirus served as the catalyst and gave us the opportunity to stop and assess "where we've been and how we could move forward".



The age of Salem's volunteers was paramount in our decision as well as not having younger member(s) to take the pantry into the future. A severe decline in financial support — and the fact that Salem's facility is up for sale also factored into our decision. And finally, my health is such that I am unable to continue overseeing the operation. For me, and for all our volunteers God was saying "well done good and faithful servants, now it's time to rest".



I want to thank everyone who helped get the pantry established and by sustaining it through many hours of volunteering or with financial donations. For this I thank you very much.

**Joe Bales**

## COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

### **Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160**

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden.

As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

**Monday, May 18, 2020**

### **Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330**

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith.

She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.

**Thursday, May 21, 2020**

## CREDITS

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