



Salem Lutheran Church
shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

**4th Sunday after
Pentecost**

June 28, 2020

9:30 AM



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www.salembridgeport.org
www.facebook.com/salembridgeport
[YouTube](#) –
Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

Amazing grace (My Chains Are Gone)

as recorded by Michael W. Smith

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me; God's Word my hope secures.
Godwill my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;
but God, you called me here below, will be forever mine, will be forever mine.
You are forever mine. We are forever thine.

My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.
unending love, amazing grace, , unending love, amazing grace.

*Words and Music by Christ Tomlin and Louie Giglio
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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!

I'm Pastor Marjo Anderson of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT in the United States. While our building at 3160 Park Avenue is closed at present, you can find us at our website: www.SalemBridgeport.org, on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SalemBridgeport, and on our YouTube Channel: Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, CT.

Over these months of the pandemic we have been worshipping on Facebook and YouTube, except for Pentecost when we had a Drive-In Worship, which we streamed on Facebook Live, and 2 weeks ago when we worshipped online via Zoom which we also streamed live on Facebook, and posted later to YouTube.

Today we are having our second drive-in worship, but this time, since we are doing without the amplification system of New Direction Ministries or the expertise and man-power of Pastor Simmonds, we are trying out an FM transmitter which will allow you to hear via your car or portable radio. We are also going to try to stream it to Facebook Live.

Please remember that while you may not feel at risk for Covid-19, the person in the next car may be very much at risk or may feel that they are but they may be uncomfortable telling you, so unless you are in your car with the windows rolled up, please wear a mask, please maintain a minimum of 6' from anyone with whom you do not live, and please follow all the other guidance that we have passed along to you – guidance from government, medical experts, insurance companies, faith communities, and even musical groups.

Links to this worship bulletin, to the sermon, to our donate page, and to other resources are included on our website at SalemBridgeport.org/Live and on our Facebook page.

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

As I mentioned before, this is our very first time having a Drive-In worship using an FM Transmitter, so please pray that the God of technology be with us!

Will you pray with me?

Awesome God, we give you praise and glory!

We are grateful that we can gather together today in our cars to worship you and give you thanks. We ask your blessing on our worship this day.

Open us – body, soul, heart, and mind – so that we see and hear and imagine and feel all that you are just waiting to pour into us!

Empower us with your Spirit so that we might be shining lights leading all to life in Jesus' name.

Amen

OPENING HYMN

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me (*a favorite hymn of the congregation*)

ELW # 755

- 1 Jesus, Savior, pilot me over life's tempestuous sea;
unknown waves before me roll, hiding rock and treach'rous shoal;
chart and compass come from thee. Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**

- 2 As a mother stills her child, thou canst hush the ocean wild;
boist'rous waves obey thy will when thou say'st to them: "Be still."
Wondrous sov'reign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**

- 3 When at last I near the shore, and the fearful breakers roar
twixt me and the peaceful rest, then, while leaning on thy breast,
may I hear thee say to me: "Fear not, I will pilot thee."**

Text: Edward Hopper, 1818-1888

This text 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)

O God, you command us to have no other gods before you, and yet we do so all the time.
We hold on tightly to many things –
to prosperity & pride, power & privilege, paternalism & patronage, property & possessions,
and even people we love.

Help us to love and trust you as much as Abraham did,
so that we, too, are willing to give up even the things we hold dearest –
even our families and friends, our church, and our sacred traditions.

Help us to love and trust you as much as Jesus did
so that we, too, are willing to give up all we have in service to our neighbor.
We pray this in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Spirit.

Amen

Word

FIRST READING: Genesis 22:1-14

^{22:1} After these events, God tested Abraham. “Abraham!” God called. “Here I am”, Abraham replied. ²“Take your son”, God said, “your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, which means “Seeing”. Offer him there as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.”

³Rising early the next morning, Abraham saddled a donkey and took along two workers and his son Isaac. Abraham chopped wood for the burnt offering, and started on the journey to the place God showed them. ⁴On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

⁵Then Abraham said to the workers, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there; we will worship and come back to you.” ⁶Abraham took wood for the burnt offering and gave it to Isaac to carry. In his own hands he carried the fire and the knife. Then the two of them went on alone. Isaac said, “Father!” “Here I am, my child,” Abraham replied. “Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” ⁸Abraham answered, “My child, God will provide the lamb for the burnt offering”. Then the two of them went on together. ⁹When they arrived at the place God had pointed out, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged wood on it. Then he tied up his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill the child.

¹¹But the angel of God called to him from heaven: “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am!” he replied. ¹²“Do not raise your hand against the boy!” the angel said. “Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how deeply you revere God, since you did not refuse me your son, your only child.”

¹³Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. He went and took the ram, and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his child. ¹⁴Abraham called the place “God Provides”, and so it is said to this day: “On this mountain YHWH provides”.

Word of God, Word of life!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 13

¹ How long, YHWH? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

² How long must I wrestle with my anguish, and wallow in despair all day long?

How long will my enemy win over me?

³ Look at me! Answer me, YHWH, my God!

Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

⁴ lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed”, lest my foes rejoice when I fall.

⁵ I trust in your love; my heart rejoices in the deliverance you bring.

⁶ I’ll sing to you, YHWH, for being so good to me.

Word of God, Word of life!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW # 685

- 1 Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be wift and beautiful for thee.**
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.**
- 4 Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.**
- 5 Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.**
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.; This text is in the public domain.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together.

I believe it is a matter of faith to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.

I believe it is a matter of faith

**to recognize the equality of all members of God's human family,
to offer thanks & praise for God's beautiful gift of diversity, and to love people of every
race, culture, creed, class, age, ability, gender, sexual orientation and marital status.**

**I believe Jesus Christ came to us to free all people from sin and to make disciples –
people willing to live Christ's discipline of love and justice for all.**

I believe the Holy Spirit is that power within us

**that gives us courage and stamina to face the truth and to live it,
even to die for it, as Jesus died.**

**I believe in the resurrection, the victory over death,
the truth that is life for all in Jesus' name.**

**Glory be to God, the Three-in-One and One-in-Three:
Life Giver, Pain Bearer and Sustaining Power of Love. 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

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

God of companionship, encourage our relationships with our siblings in Christ.
Bless our conversations.

Shape our shared future and give us hearts eager to join in a festal shout of praise.
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Seafarers and International House,
the Lions Club and 12-step groups,
& for Salem members & families, especially those celebrating birthdays these last two weeks:
Paul Baronavski, Annika Larson, and Elise DeWalt.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of abundance, you make your creation thrive and grow to provide all that we need.
Inspire us to care for our environment and be attuned to where the earth is crying out.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, your grace is poured out for all.
Inspire authorities, judges, and politicians to act with compassion.
Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love,
and welcome one another as we would welcome you.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of care, accompany all who are in deepest need.
Comfort those who are lonely, abandoned, or sick, 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.
Strengthen those who are in prison or awaiting trial. Renew the spirits of all who call upon you.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of community, we give thanks for this congregation.
Give us passion to embrace your mission and the vision to recognize where you are leading us.
Teach us how to live more faithfully with each other.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, you gather in your embrace all who have died.
Keep us steadfast in our faith and renew our trust in your promise.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You are invited to offer your own prayer petitions at this time, either silently or aloud.

The pastor concludes:

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Thanksgiving

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you said,
“Give & 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 and offerings
of time, talent and 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 Ave 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 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.

*As you leave the parking lot today,
ushers will be available to collect envelopes with cash or checks.*

OFFERTORY SONG

One Thing Remains

**Higher than the mountains that I face, stronger than the power of the grave,
constant in the trial and the change, this one thing remains, this one thing remains:**

Your love never fails, it never gives up, it never runs out on me.

Your love never fails, it never gives up, it never runs out on me.

Your love never fails, it never gives up, it never runs out on me. Your love.

And on and on and on and on it goes. Yes it overwhelms and satisfies my soul.

And I'll never ever have to be afraid 'cause this one thing remains:

Your love never fails, it never gives up, it never runs out on me.

Your love never fails, it never gives up, it never runs out on me.

Your love never fails, it never gives up, it never runs out on me. Your love.

In death, in life, I'm confident and covered by the pow'r of your great love.

My debt is paid; there's nothing that can separate my heart from Your great love.

Your love never fails, it never gives up, it never runs out on me.

Your love never fails, it never gives up, it never runs out on me.

Your love never fails, it never gives up, it never runs out on me. Your love.

And on and on and on and on it goes. Yes it overwhelms and satisfies my soul.

And I'll never ever have to be afraid 'cause this one thing remains:

Your love never fails, it never gives up, it never runs out on me.

Your love never fails, it never gives up, it never runs out on me.

Your love never fails, it never gives up, it never runs out on me.

Your love. Your love. Your love.

*Words and Music by Jeremy Riddle, Brian Johnson, and Christa Black, 2010 Bethel Music Publishing
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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 you love God above all things, trusting that all things work together for those that love God and are called according to God's purpose. **Amen**

SENDING SONG

"This Is Amazing Grace" *as recorded by Shane & Shane
by Josh Farro, Jeremy Riddle and Phil Wickham*

Verse 1:

**Who breaks the power of sin and darkness? Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of Glory! The King above all kings!**

**Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder & leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of Glory! The King above all kings!**

Refrain:

**This is amazing grace! This is unfailing love
That You would take my place, That You would bear my cross
You lay down Your life That I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for All that You've done for me**

Verse 2:

**Who brings our chaos back into order? Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of Glory! The King of Glory!**

**Who rules the nations with truth and justice, shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory! The King above all kings!**

Refrain:

**This is amazing grace! This is unfailing love
That You would take my place, That You would bear my cross
You lay down Your life That I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for All that You've done for me**

Bridge:

**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy! Worthy! Worthy! Oh...**

Refrain:

**This is amazing grace! This is unfailing love
That You would take my place, That You would bear my cross
You lay down Your life That I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for All that You've done for me**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trust in God, and follow wherever God leads!
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.*

*Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport announces
“Raising the BAR – that is, Becoming Anti-Racist – a summer study & discussion forum on 5
Thursday evenings in July and August.
See end of these announcements for details.*

TENTATIVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

*7/5 – 9:30 Worship in the Picnic Grove
with Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Cafe,
weather permitting.*

*July and August –
9:30 Drive-In Worship or Worship in the Picnic Grove, weather permitting.
When weather prohibits our gathering in person we can meet online via Zoom.*

*No matter what the format, we plan to worship at 9:30 on Sunday mornings,
and to stream via Facebook Life.*

*On Sundays where the service is pre-recorded in the sanctuary
it will also be streamed on YouTube.
Please join us!*

*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.*

*Closed Captioning will be provided as available.
For help turning on Captioning contact Karl or Pastor Marjo.*

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

*Just go to our website at 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
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
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, 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.*

COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202

Sunday, June 28, 2020

This important early church leader tried very hard to hold to the faith handed down by the apostles. An opponent of the movement known as gnosticism, Irenaeus was one of the first to speak of the church as catholic, or linked together.

Peter and Paul, Apostles

Monday, June 29, 2020

These two strong-willed apostles are the pillars of the church in the first generation after Christ. Peter was one of the Twelve, one who both offered a glorious confession of faith and later denied knowing Jesus. Paul once led the persecution of Christians, then was converted and helped bring the faith to non-Jewish people.

Catherine Winkworth, died 1878; John Mason Neale, died 1866; hymn translators

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Neale was an English priest who specialized in the translation of Latin and Greek hymns into English. Winkworth lived in Manchester, England, and devoted herself to translating German hymns. Almost all English-speaking hymnals include many of their translations.

Thomas, Apostle

Friday, July 3, 2020

Though frequently remembered as "doubting Thomas," this apostle also demonstrated a willingness to suffer and die with Jesus (John 11:16), and finally claimed the risen Christ as "my Lord and my God!" By tradition, he later worked as a missionary in India. Long commemorated on December 21, Thomas's celebration is moved to July 3 in agreement with ecumenical calendars.

CREDITS

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