



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

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[YouTube](#)
**Salem Lutheran Church,
Bridgeport CT**



**Sunday Worship
and
Monthly Saturday
Inner-View Chat & Chew**

**Jeanette Harris,
Lay Licensed Minister**
jharris524@yahoo.com
203.336.6778 (cell)

Parish Hall
1475 Noble Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06610



8th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM 26 July 2020

in the Salem Picnic Grove

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

You Are My All in All

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zC617kE1maU>

YouTube Channel: WorshipVideos

(The verses and the refrain can be sung simultaneously as a round.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. You are my strength when I am weak,
You are the treasure that I see;
You are my all in all.
Seeking You as a precious jewel,
Lord, to give up, I'd be a fool;
You are my all in all. | <i>Refrain:</i> Jesus, Lamb of God,
Worthy is Your name!
Jesus, Lamb of God,
Jesus, Lamb of God, |
| 2. Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,
Rising again I bless Your name;
You are my all in all.
When I fall down You pick me up,
When I am dry, You fill my cup;
You are my all in all. | <i>Refrain:</i> Jesus, Lamb of God,
Worthy is Your name!
Jesus, Lamb of God,
Worthy is Your name! |

CCLI Song # 825356

Dennis Jernigan

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WELCOME

In the name of Jesus, welcome to worship!

We are glad to have those of you worshipping with us right here in the picnic grove, those from Salem, those from Genesis Gospel Café, those on your balconies at the Inwood Apartments, and those of you out there in cyberspace worshipping with us via Facebook Live!

I'm Pastor Marjo Anderson of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT in the United States.

While our building here 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.

Jeanette Harris, Lay Licensed Minister of Genesis Gospel Café at 1475 Noble Ave here in Bridgeport, is not able to be with us here today as she is filling in at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Waterbury, but this summer Genesis and Salem will be worshipping together here in the picnic grove,. If there is light to moderate rain, we will have a drive-in service. And in case of a big storm, we will have worship via Zoom.

Links to the worship bulletin with the order of service, to our donate page, and to other resources are included on our website at SalemBridgeport.org/Live and on our Facebook page.

Today as we gather in person, please remember that while you may not feel at risk for Covid-19, the person next to you may be very much at risk or may feel that they are and yet be uncomfortable telling you, so please, wear a mask and make sure it covers your nose and mouth, and maintain a minimum of 6' from anyone with whom you do not live, both during and after worship.

Today we began worship by listening to a song.
Does anyone remember the words?

Anyone want to guess what our reading is about today?
It's from the 13th chapter of Matthew in which we read what Jesus had to say about the "kingdom of God" – in other words, where and when and how we can experience the reign of God, or heaven, here on earth, and in this case Jesus says it's like a treasure that one finds that is so absolutely precious that we're willing to give up everything else just to have it. That treasure is the abundant life we have in Christ, and it is the treasure for which we come here to give God thanks and praise!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship this day!
We are blessed by the presence of each and every one of you who is here with us physically and by the many more who are joining us online.
Thank you for coming here to give praise and thanks to God, and to witness to God's love and power!

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.

Most Amazing and Awesome God, you sent Jesus to show us the Way to abundant life.

By the power of your Spirit, pour that life into us this very morning, that we may know the peace, the hope, and the joy that is beyond whatever the world has to offer. **Amen**

Word

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-46, 51-52

³¹Jesus presented another parable to the crowds: “Heaven on earth is like the mustard seed which a farmer sowed in a field. ³²It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all — it becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come to perch in its branches.” ³³Jesus offered them still another parable: “Heaven on earth is like the yeast a baker took and mixed in with three measures of flour until it was leavened all through.”...

⁴⁴“Heaven on earth is like a buried treasure found in a field. The ones who discovered it hid it again, and, rejoicing at the discovery, went and sold all their possessions and bought that field. ⁴⁵“Or again, Heaven on earth is like a merchant’s search for fine pearls. ⁴⁶When one pearl of great value was found, the merchant went back and sold everything else and bought it.,,

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” “Yes,” they answered. ⁵²To this Jesus replied, “Every religious scholar who has become a student of heaven on earth is like the head of a household who can bring from the storeroom both the new and the old.”

Word of God, Word of life!

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

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

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

To give to Genesis, find Genesis Gospel Café on your Venmo app.

To give online to Salem,
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.



OFFERTORY SONG

More Precious Than Silver

YouTube Channel: Divine Hymns

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsVAGsG_aGA

Lord, You are more precious than silver; Lord, You are more costly than gold.
Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds, and nothing I desire compares with You.

Lord, You are more precious than silver; Lord, You are more costly than gold.
Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds, and nothing I desire compares with You.

Lord, You are more precious than silver; Lord, You are more costly than gold.
Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds, and nothing I desire compares with You.
Nothing I desire compares with You.

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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**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in common things:
a mustard shrub, a woman baking bread, a fishing net.
Help your church witness to the surprising yet common ways you encounter us in daily life.
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Camp Calumet Lutheran,
and for Salem and Genesis Café members & families,
especially those celebrating birthdays: Corey DeWalt, Josephine Anderson, and Gloriana Claus.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding.
Increase our understanding and awe of your creation; guide the work of scientists & researchers.
Treasuring the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the birds of the air nest in branches of trees,
gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign.
Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will.
Help us when we do not know how to pray.
Give comfort to the dying, refuge to the weary, justice to the oppressed, and healing to the 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.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You show steadfast love and direct us to ask of you what we need.
Help this congregation ask boldly for what is most needed.
Refresh us with new dreams of being your people in this place and time.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In you our lives are never lost.
Strengthen us by the inspiring witness of your people in all times and places.
Embolden our witness now and one day gather us with all your saints in light.
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**

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;
& lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom & the power & the glory forever and ever. Amen**

Sending

BLESSING

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

*Our sending song today is a new one to me, recommended by our Lutheran Worship Resource guide.
I encourage you to worship during this song in whatever way you find helpful – meditate, clap, dance –
just worship with all you are and all you have!*

SENDING SONG

“I Found a Treasure”

Howard, Alex/Jesse Reeves

<https://www.austinstoneworship.com/onlyjesus/i-found-a-treasure/>

<https://youtu.be/IbARUaX4frc>

Ooooooooooh!

I found a treasure. There’s nothing like it in this world. There’s nothing greater. It’s all I’ll ever need & more.
I found a treasure, endless joy and perfect peace sent down from heaven, now made alive inside of me

Ooooooooooh! Ooooooooooh!

God is good, and He’s good to me! He’s all I want and He’s all I need so I will follow where He leads!

Ooooooooooh! Ooooooooooh! I will follow where He leads!

There’s no one higher. There’s nothing better in this life. Our one true desire, only Jesus satisfies.

Ooooooooooh! Ooooooooooh!

God is good, and He’s good to me! He’s all I want and He’s all I need so I will follow where He leads!

God is good, and He’s good to me! He’s all I want and He’s all I need so I will follow where He leads!

Ooooooooooh! Ooooooooooh! Ooooooooooh! Ooooooooooh! I will follow where He leads!

God is good, and He’s good to me! He’s all I want and He’s all I need!

Ooooooooooh! Ooooooooooh! Ooooooooooh! Ooooooooooh! I will follow where He leads!

CCLI#7074426

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Meal

COMMUNION

God be with you!

Open your hearts!

Let us give thanks to the God of all!

And also with you!

We open them to God and one another!

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed.

Blessed be God, who is our Bread; may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen

The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in divine grace! **Amen!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace – and may you find treasure far greater than you ever thought possible!

Thanks be to God!

CREDITS

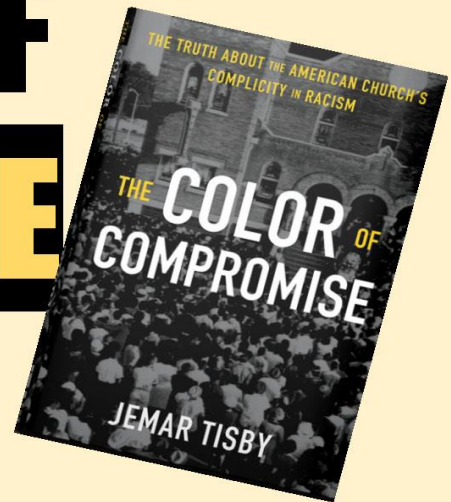
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CCGB's Raise the BAR: Becoming Anti-Racist Summer Study and Discussion Series

THE COLOR OF COMPROMISE

BY Jemar Tisby



What:

Video Presentation and Guided Discussion

Through five facilitated sessions of video clips and discussion we will be introduced to the "history of how the American church has helped create and maintain racist ideas and practices." In the videos Jemar Tisby "outlines the kind of bold action needed to forge a future of equality and justice" requiring us to think through "concrete solutions for improved race relations and a racially inclusive church." (Amazon and TCOC Video Series descriptions)

When:

Thursday evenings – 7:30 – 9:00 pm

July 2, July 16, July 30, August 13, August 27

Registration:

Complete and submit the form below.

The Zoom link and email reminders will be sent prior to each session.

For More Information about The Color of Compromise Video Series:

Watch this video introduction by Jemar Tisby

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNmm9cvmxmY>

* Please know that reading the book is not required for participation in this series.



Hello, Friends of Scouting! Here is the shirt that is for sale for our Boy Scout Troop fundraiser. The shirts are \$25 each, made of wick material which is cool and quick drying. Special design and color (School bus yellow) commemorates this year of school closings due to the pandemic. Available in men's sizes XS to 4XL. Please make checks out to Boy Scout Troop 103 and give to Bruce Tomasko or Wes Murphy or leave in the Boy Scout mailbox outside the church office, or mail to Troop 103, c/o Salem. Make sure you include the desired size(s) in the memo section on your check. Orders due by 7/28. A minimum of 12 is needed by the congregation for this project proceed.



COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672; George Frederick Handel, died 1759; musicians

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church. Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts. Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces, and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music. Handel's great work, Messiah, is a setting of scriptural texts.

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him—Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him. Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.

Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, died 1030

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Considered the patron saint of Norway, Olaf went from a life of piracy to becoming Christian and declaring himself king of Norway. He revised the laws and tried to administer them fairly. Driven from Norway in a rebellion, he was killed in battle trying to regain his kingdom.

Announcements

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic,
our buildings have been closed until further notice
and indoor in-person worship and meetings cancelled.*

*Even though our church buildings are closed, if we can help in any way,
please know that you can still call the church office at 203-330-3300
& leave a message & your message will be picked up remotely & your call returned.
Please also do not hesitate to call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441
or Jeanette at 203.336.6778.*

*Pastor Marjo and Salem's Office Manager, Karl,
will be working primarily from their homes but generally come in once a week
to take care of tasks that cannot be accomplished remotely.*

SUMMER WORSHIP FOR SALEM AND GENESIS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

*9:30 Worship in the Picnic Grove, weather permitting.
If light or moderate rain, we'll have a drive-in service.
If a serious storm, we'll meet online via Zoom*

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

*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
& 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*