



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*1st Sunday after
Epiphany*

*January 10,
2021
9:30 AM*



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YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

We Three Kings of Orient Are

VIDEO with Lyrics

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

Refrain

**Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

**2 Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again;
king forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. *Refrain***

**3 Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. *Refrain***

**4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain***

**5 Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
heav'n sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain***

Text: Matthew 2:1-12; Meter 8 8 4 4 6 and refrain

Tune: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

Text & Tune are in the Public Domain.

Performance by Clamavi De Profundis as found at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDqTL49OwDA>

WELCOME

Word

OLD TESTAMENT READING from Isaiah 60.1-6 (selected verses)

- ¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.
³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn....
⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice...
because the ... wealth of the nations shall come to you.
⁶ ... the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD!

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14 (selected verses)

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
² that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice...
⁴ Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor...
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more....
¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish & of the isles pay tribute & the kings of Sheba & Seba offer gifts.
¹¹ May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.
¹² For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed,
and those who have no helper.
¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.
¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.

GOSPEL READING from Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by Christ made known to the nations,
let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

Individual worshipers are invited to offer the petitions as so moved by the Spirit.

We pray for the church throughout the world and its leaders,
that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins.
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for our Southern CT conference,
the New England Synod and Region 7;
and for Salem members & their families, especially for those celebrating their birthday this week:
Allison Bryk and Barbro Lund.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for wilderness and water, wind and wild beasts, and all living things on earth,
that God's goodness is revealed through creation and faithful stewards care for all God has made.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world and their leaders, for laborers busy both day and night,
and for peacemakers amid strife, that God inspire all people to use their strength wisely.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick and those who provide medical care,
for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy,
for the lonely and those who provide companionship, and for all who suffer, especially
Andrea, Audry, Barbara, Bud, Jerry, David, Diane, Dolores, Eron, Grace, Hazel, Jacob, Jana,
Katherine, Liz, Maria, Martha, Ron, Sarah, Steve, and all we name in our hearts,
that God shower compassion.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the congregation gathered here, for students returning to school,
for those seeking renewal in their daily work, that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving we pray for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors,
that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

The pastor concludes:

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells
among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

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 & 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 ministry continues because of 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.



OFFERTORY HYMN

Brightest and Best of the Stars

VIDEO with Lyrics

- 1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant redeemer is laid.**
- 2 Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining; low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining, maker and monarch and savior of all.**
- 3 Shall we then yield him, in costly devotion, odors of Edom, and off'rings divine,
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?**
- 4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation, vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
richer by far is the heart's adoration, dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**
- 5 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant redeemer is laid.**

Text: Matthew 2:1-12; Reginald Herber, 1783-1826, alt.; Meter 11 10 11 10

Music: MORNING STAR; James P. Harding, 1850-1911, adapt.

The Text, Music & Arrangement are in the Public Domain

Performance by Choir of Trinity Church, Swarthmore, PA, James Smith, Director of Music

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wQnHRW0nX0>

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

of cyberspace worshippers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU and BLESSING

Before we end the live-streamed portion of our worship,
I want to especially thank those of you out there in cyberspace who have joined us.
Know that God drew you to this worship for a reason.
Know that no matter what challenges you face,
God not only has the power to help you, God loves you enough to use that power in your life.
I hope you will join us again.
And in the meantime,
may the light of God's presence shine on you, light your way, and lead you
to the One who is our Light and Life.
Amen

Meal

COMMUNION

God be with you!
And also with you!
Open your hearts!
We open them to God and one another!
Let us give thanks to the God of all!
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 and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in divine grace!
Amen!

Sending

of physically or zoom gathered worshippers

BLESSING

Light of God to give us hope,
Power of God to protect us,
Light of God to give us joy,
Peace of God to calm us,
Light of God to give us faith,
Grace of God to save us,
This day and forevermore.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and may God reveal God's self to you in new and surprising ways!
Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

VIDEO with Score

- 1 Bright and glorious is the sky, radiant are the heavens high
where the golden stars are shining. All their rays to earth inclining
beckon us to heav'n above, beckon us to heav'n above.**
- 2 On that holy Christmas night through the darkness beamed a light;
all the stars above were paling, all their luster slowly failing,
as the wondrous star drew nigh, as the wondrous star drew nigh.**
- 3 Sages from the East afar, when they saw this wondrous star,
went to find the king of nations and to offer their oblations
to the child, the newborn king, to the child, the newborn king.**
- 4 Him they found in Bethlehem, yet he wore no diadem;
there they saw a maiden lowly with an infant pure and holy
resting in her loving arms, resting in her loving arms.**
- 5 Guided by the star, they found him whose praise the ages sound.
We too have a star to guide us, which forever will provide us
with the light to find our Lord, with the light to find our Lord.**
- 6 And this star, as bright as day, that will never lead astray
with its message so appealing, is the word of God, revealing
Christ, the way, the truth, the life, Christ, the way, the truth, the life.**

Text: Psalm 119:105, Matthew 2:1-12; Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877-1970, alt; © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Meter 7 7 8 8 7 7

Music: DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMEL BLÅ, CELESTIA; Danish, 19th cent.

Music is in the Public Domain; Text is reprinted/streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-727372

Performance by 2019 Pastors Conference at Church of the Redeemer in West Monroe, LA.

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Miq5NnZQ2u0>

Announcements

Don't forget to join us for our virtual coffee hour on zoom at 10:30! Coffee hour continues at 10:30 on Sundays via Zoom. To join, just click on this link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86881604946?pwd=WE11ZkNGd3ZwaU5WS1JTMnLLZlYwZ09> - (Meeting ID: 868 8160 4946) (Passcode: 069124) or go to our website: www.salembridgeport.org, click on the Resource Tab, then on calendar, & then on the date & event, and a zoom invitation with link as well as call in information will appear. Remember that even if you don't have a laptop or a tablet or a smart phone, you can join by calling - even from your landline - one of these numbers - One tap mobile: +13017158592,,86881604946# US (Germantown) Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) and entering the ID and passcode.

Upcoming Important Events: On January 31st, instead of Coffee Hour, we will have an **Adult Forum on the 2021 budget**. On February 7th we will have the **Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting with Opening Devotions and Closing Prayer** in place of worship at 9:30.

Online Worship will be the norm until it is deemed safe to once again gather in-person indoors. *Salem members, if you are not able to join us online from your home, please contact either me or our parish nurse so we might facilitate your participation.* Perhaps we can loan you a digital tablet and teach you to use it, or provide a place for you to safely watch our service outside your home. No matter how we worship, we'll stream to FacebookLive and post to our YouTube channel.

There are many ways to find the zoom link for worship and all other Salem events. The most reliable way is to go to our website - www.salembridgeport.org, choose the Resource tab, and click on Calendar. Then on the calendar, go to the day, the event, and when you click on it, it will open up the zoom invitation. You can click on the link, or copy and paste it into your browser. **To see how to do this, [click here](#):**

We also include the zoom links in our weekly email blasts, and in this announcement section of our Sunday bulletin. You can find links to Sunday worship materials like the bulletin, sermon, and donate page at www.salembridgeport.org/live. Or to see how to get there, **[click here](#)**:

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Raising the BAR: Becoming Anti-Racist series continues on the 3rd Thursday each month from 7:30 to 8:15 pm. You can register on their [website](#) - <https://default.salsalabs.org/T4ca0bc4e-b5a6-457f-9432-5f3e459aaaa6/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab> - and join these conversations to learn more, talk in small groups, and continue to engage in anti-racist work.

Inner-View Chat'n'Chew meets the 3rd Saturday of the month at 11:00 on Zoom. It's a time of fun and fellowship that gives us a chance to celebrate the gift that God has given us in one another. Evites are sent out to those on the Genesis mailing list but you can also find the Zoom link on Salem's calendar.

Sunday Night Alive events continue the last Sunday of the month, our next one taking place on **January 31st at 6:00 pm on Zoom**. We'll be watching the second half of our hour-long video, "The Gifts of Christmas", a compilation of the readings and the gifts that were shared as part of our Video Advent Calendar. If you didn't get to see all of our daily video posts this month, this is your chance to catch up. And even if you didn't miss a day, you won't want to miss this chance to gather together on zoom to remember, to celebrate, and to share some laughter and love. You can find the link on our website, SalemBridgeport.org, by clicking on the Resources tab, then Calendar, and then going to the event. Or you can simply click on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82224426828?pwd=aTNKcUE4eEdINELiYlFVd1RnYlIXQT09>

Salem and Friends Prayer Gathering & Take-out Breakfast, sponsored by the Salem Men, is held outdoors in the picnic grove on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:00 am.

Lord, Teach Us to Pray! Want to know how to pray? Want to see how prayer can change your life? Need prayer? Then join us each **Wednesday** on zoom at **noon** for a half-hour as we delve more deeply into the Lord's Prayer, and pray for each other's needs. The zoom link will be on the calendar on Salem's website at Salembridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

Every single one of us would no doubt like to go back to the way we used to worship pre-pandemic, but sadly that is not a possibility for now. God is GOOD, however, and has provided so many other ways for us to worship. Even if we get to Phase 3, there are those in our church family who due to health concerns are not able to gather with us indoors and have requested that we have zoom services sometimes. When the weather is too cold or when the roads are too snowy, or if we are in Phase 1 or 2, or if someone worshipping tests positive for Covid and we need to self-quarantine, we'll be worshipping via zoom. When the pastor is on vacation or on other special days, there will be pre-recorded services on Facebook and YouTube. While each one of us has our preferences, remember that we are a community in Christ who loves and looks out for one another. When we're worshipping your favorite way give thanks! And when we're worshipping in someone else's favorite way, give thanks for that, too!

Technology have you stumped? If you'd like some (VERY BASIC!) technology help – like accessing zoom on your iPhone, tablet, or pc, or downloading and using the Venmo or Cash app, or anything else, please speak with Pastor Marjo or call or email Karl.

Online Worship – Online worship is here to stay. Far more people participate in our worship online than come to worship on our property or even join us on zoom. In fact, up to 8 times as many as those gathered physically watch the entire service online, and many weeks we have over a thousand people who at least watch some of it! So no matter what format we use for worship in the future, we plan to stream via Facebook Live. Where the service is pre-recorded in the sanctuary it will also be streamed on YouTube. If you can't watch at 9:30 Sundays, video worship services will be saved to Facebook and also posted on YouTube so you can watch them later. Closed Captioning will be provided when available. For help turning on Captioning contact Karl or Pastor Marjo.

Did you enjoy The Best of Lucia? We're happy to provide other special online worship experiences if you have old VHS tapes or DVDs or other video recordings of the Salem Choir to share. Or maybe you have an old reel-to-reel or 8-track or cassette audio recording. Did you ever film the choir with your phone? Or what about recordings of our children's musical productions? We'd love to build up a digital library of Salem's musical treasures. Since singing increases significantly the amount and projection of the aerosols we produce when we breathe or speak, in-person singing is a high-risk activity which we cannot in good conscience allow for the duration of the pandemic, but we would dearly love to enjoy music in other ways. If you have any such recordings, please contact our Office Manager Karl by emailing him (salemsec123@sbcglobal.net) or calling the church and leaving a message (203-336-3300). We will figure out how to convert and copy your recordings so that we can all enjoy them. **We're especially looking for recordings we could use for use in Lent, Holy Week, Easter,** or other special days.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Pastor Marjo and Salem's Office Manager, Karl, work primarily from their homes but generally come in once a week to take care of tasks that cannot be accomplished remotely. Even though we must operate differently in these times, if we can help in any way, please know that you can still call Salem's 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.

Need help finding a Salem zoom meeting or need to set one up? 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 vents 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.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968

Friday, January 15, 2021

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT

*If you're reading this online, just click on the underlined links for details.
Or go to CCGB.org*

WHY DO WE ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE?

- [Why Advocacy - A Study Guide for Congregations](#)

The Council of Churches and our member congregations have prioritized the issues listed below for our advocacy efforts. Policy changes in these areas will have an immediate, positive effect on our communities and the neighbors we serve.

Climate Change

learn about how addressing food insecurity and reducing our food waste can make a huge difference

- [Combatting Food Insecurity](#)
- [Ways to Reduce Food Waste](#)
- [Articles from Earth Day 2020](#)

Criminal Justice Reform

help us pass the Clean Slate bill and give people a real second chance

- [Clean Slate Bill - A Study Guide for Congregations](#)

Education Equity

all children in Bridgeport and beyond deserve a quality education

- [Call to Action](#)
- [CCGB's Goals and Initiatives](#)
- [Education Reform - A Study Guide for Congregations](#)

Immigration Reform

how shall we "welcome the stranger" with respect and care?

Gun Violence Prevention

"do not stand idly by while your neighbor's blood is shed" Leviticus 19:16

- [Overview of Resources](#)
- [Do Not Stand Idly By Campaign](#)
- [Congregational Toolkit \(PCUSA\)](#)

Resources on the CT Legislature

Here you can find basic guides, templates and resources for raising your voice and getting involved!

- [Guide to Written Testimony for a Public Hearing on CT Legislation.pdf](#)
- [How a CT Bill Becomes Law.pdf](#)

Ebony and Ivory? Wonder why some of your friends are saying “Black Lives Matter” when obviously all lives matter? Wonder why when we have anti-racism laws, people keep talking about “systemic” or “structural racism”? Wonder why the church is so focused on this issue? If you’re looking for answers to these and other questions, here are some great ways to learn:

1. **The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport invites its members to take the following steps to work for a more just and equitable society:**

*Starting on **September 17**, and going at least **through May 20, 2021** we will hold monthly zoom meetings, **the third Thursday of every month from 7:30 to 8:15 PM.** You can register on our website –

<https://default.salsalabs.org/T4ca0bc4e-b5a6-457f-9432-5f3e459aaaa6/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab> - & join these conversations to learn more, talk in small groups, & continue to engage in anti-racist work.

*You can take the 21 day Racial Equity Challenge - <https://default.salsalabs.org/T6ccaac28-05da-4baf-88a8-d1c2b9b86893/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab> - all by yourself, to continue to learn, reflect, and act. This is a great resource created by the Myers Park Presbyterian Church, in Charlotte, VA.

*Also, here is a link - <https://default.salsalabs.org/Tc340bebd-4d68-4800-b754-7c48a473cd23/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab> - to a document which lists these resources and our recommendations for a number of local and national organizations doing excellent anti-racism and justice work.

2. **Read the 2019 Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent**

& its accompanying Explanation at

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Slavery_Apology_Explanation.pdf?ga=2.119362624.853575714.1565027421-1958052405.1536241629 or go to ELCA.org, scroll down to “Resources”, scroll down to “Racial Justice”, and click on the Declaration to read and/or download.

3. **Listen to this video lecture** by Tom Skinner:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvKQx4ycTmA> . It gives a much more detailed history of slavery in this country than we received in our history classes at school, & explains how it was the issue of slavery that created the divide between mainline & evangelical Christians.

4. **Read the book, Dear Church: a Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US** by Lenny Duncan. There have been many explanations for the church’s decline, but Duncan sees a direct correlation between the church’s lack of diversity and its lack of vitality. Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, Dear Church offers a bold new vision for the future of the ELCA and the rest of mainline Protestant Christianity and calls everyone – leaders and laity alike – to the front lines of the church’s renewal through racial equality and justice. *Salem has a few copies of the book, so if you would like to borrow one, please speak with Pastor Marjo.*