



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

Participant copy

Y PRAY?

*The Fifth
Sunday in Lent*

*March 21, 2021
9:30 AM*



(A is for ASK)

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YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

Sweet Hour of Prayer

by Alan Jackson

Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer That calls me from a world of care
And bids me at my Father's throne, Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief My soul has often found relief
And oft escaped the tempter's snare By Thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer, The joys I feel, the bliss I share
Of those whose anxious spirits burn With strong desires for Thy return.
With such I hasten to the place Where God my Savior shows His face
And gladly take my station there And wait for Thee, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness Engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face, Believe His Word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care, And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! May I thy consolation share,
Till, from Mount Pisgah's lofty height, I view my home and take my flight.
This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise To seize the everlasting prize,
And shout, while passing through the air, "Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!"

This hymn is in the public domain.

Performances (which we do not have permission to stream) are found at the following links:

Celtic Instrumental Hymn - Sweet Hour of Prayer, Jun 14, 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5L-DKyW4pE> (4:01)

Music arranged by Christian Music World

Tennessee Ernie Ford - "Sweet Hour of Prayer", Sep 24, 2014

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NcdxnPZyLE> (2:53)

The Vine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMsPHY5MPiE> (3:38)

The Protégé Group

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRrIF30Jn8Q> (2:24)

*Jazz a cappella vocal arrangement of a classic hymn. "Sweet Hour of Prayer"
written by W. W. Walford*

Arranged and produced by Jon Waller Vocals: Asia Green and Jon Waller

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ.
Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Fountain of living water,
pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.
Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn.
Wash us in your cleansing flood.
Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus,
as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace:
by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are ☩ forgiven, and God remembers them no more.
Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen**

Word

READINGS

1 Peter 5.7 (TIB)

Cast all your cares on God, who cares for you.

John 14.10-14 (TIB)

Jesus replied, "...Don't you believe that I am in Abba God and God is in me? The words I speak are not spoken of myself; it is Abba God, living in me, who is accomplishing the works of God. Believe me that I am in God and God is in me, or else believe because of the works I do. The truth of the matter is, anyone who has faith in me will do the works I do – and greater works besides. Why? Because I go to Abba God, and whatever you ask in my name I will do, so that God may be glorified in me. Anything you ask in my name I will do."

Psalms 37.4 (TIB)

Delight in YHWH, and you'll be given the desires of your heart.

James 4.2c (TIB)

The reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask for it in prayer.

Matthew 7.7 (NLT)

Jesus said, "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you."

Mark 11.22-24 (TIB)

...Jesus said, "Put your trust in God. The truth is, if any of you say to this mountain, 'Get up and throw yourself into the sea', and you don't doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will happen, it will happen. That's why I tell you that whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have already received it, and it will be done for you. ..."

SERMON

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more.

Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world.

Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities.

Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief & the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's World Hunger Appeal; and for Salem members & families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week & last: Todd DeWalt, David Lazarini, Noah Lansing, Laila Hietala, Jonathon Rosa, Joe Bales, & Stephan Dow
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You fill the earth — from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder —
with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation.

Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds;

and protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You promise to write your law on our hearts.

Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect mercy, justice, & peace,
and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence:

those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who are dying, those who grieve,
and those who need healing of mind or body, especially Andrea, Audry, Barbara, Bud, Jerry,
Diane, Dolores, Eron, Grace, Hazel, Jacob, Katherine, Liz, Maria, Martha, Ron, Sarah, Steve,
and all we name in our hearts....

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship.

Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries.

Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified.

We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you.

With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

The pastor concludes:

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus 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 offices at 3160 Park Avenue in Bridgeport, CT

are 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 SONG **It’s Me, O Lord / Standing in the Need of Prayer**

Refrain: It’s me, it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer; *(repeat)*

Not my brother, not my sister, but it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer,

not my brother, not my sister, but it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer. *(refrain)*

Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer....

Not my father, not my mother, but it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer....

Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer....

Text: African American spiritual; Music: STANDING IN THE NEED, African American spiritual

This song is in the public domain.

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

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 worshipped with us.
I hope you will join us again.

And in the meantime, no matter what challenges you are facing,
know that you can ask God ANYTHING in prayer.

Ask and believe, and you will receive.

Maybe not immediately, but according to God's impeccable timing.

And if you'd like to know more or you'd like prayer, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Just reach out on Facebook or through our website.

In the meantime, may you pray with intention, perseverance and faith,
trusting in the all-powerful and all-loving God of all. **Amen**

SENDING SONG

I Need Thee Every Hour

1. **I need thee ev'ry hour, most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine can peace afford.**

Refrain: **I need thee, oh I need thee, ev'ry hour I need thee;
oh, bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.**

2. **I need thee ev'ry hour, stay thou near by;
temptations lose their pow'r when thou art nigh. Refrain**

3. **I need thee ev'ry hour, in joy or pain;
come quickly and abide, or life is vain. Refrain**

4. **I need thee ev'ry hour, teach me thy will;
and thy rich promises in me fulfill. Refrain**

5. **I need thee ev'ry hour, most Holy One,
oh, make me thine indeed, thou blessed Son. Refrain**

Text: Annie Sherwood Hawks, 1835-1918, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826-1899, refrain; Meter 6 4 6 4 & refrain

Music: LOWRY, Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

This hymn is in the Public Domain.

"I Need Thee Every Hour" arr. Sam Robson, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3wSbLa2uGg> (3:41)
Performance by Sam Robson (all parts), 05/04/13

"I Need Thee Every Hour" arr. Sam Robson, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eT2T45f74Tw> (4:43)
Performance by the Doane Choir conducted by Kurt Runestad at First Plymouth Church, Lincoln NE, 04/10/16

"I Need Thee Every Hour", video ©2020 BEKOFI Creative Hub.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woFUzI7vJM> (7:17)

BEKOFI Creative Hub, #Lor sings a live rendition of 'I Need Thee Every Hour'

as part of the #HymnsAndWorshipFestival Vol. 1 (Renditions & Intimate Revival Sessions), 12/24/20

Meal & Dismissal

for zoom gathered worshippers

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 whatever it is that you need, no matter how big or how small,
keep on asking with intention, with persistence, and with faith.

Thanks be to God!

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556

Sunday, March 21, 2021

Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing
the creation of the Book of Common Prayer,

which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion.

He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

**Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians,
died 1758**

Monday, March 22, 2021

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher.

Though his most famous sermon is about hell, he was more concerned with God's love.

He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts,
and as president of the future Princeton University.

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980 **Wednesday, March 24, 2021**

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices toward the poor & powerless in El Salvador,
and worked forthrightly against political repression.

He was assassinated while presiding at eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation,

in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God.

The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on
the cross.



Midweek Lenten Adventures in Prayer

TWO DAYS/TIMES
WED 7:30 PM
THU 10:30 AM

Week 1 (Feb 24/25) - The **Y** is for WHY Pray?

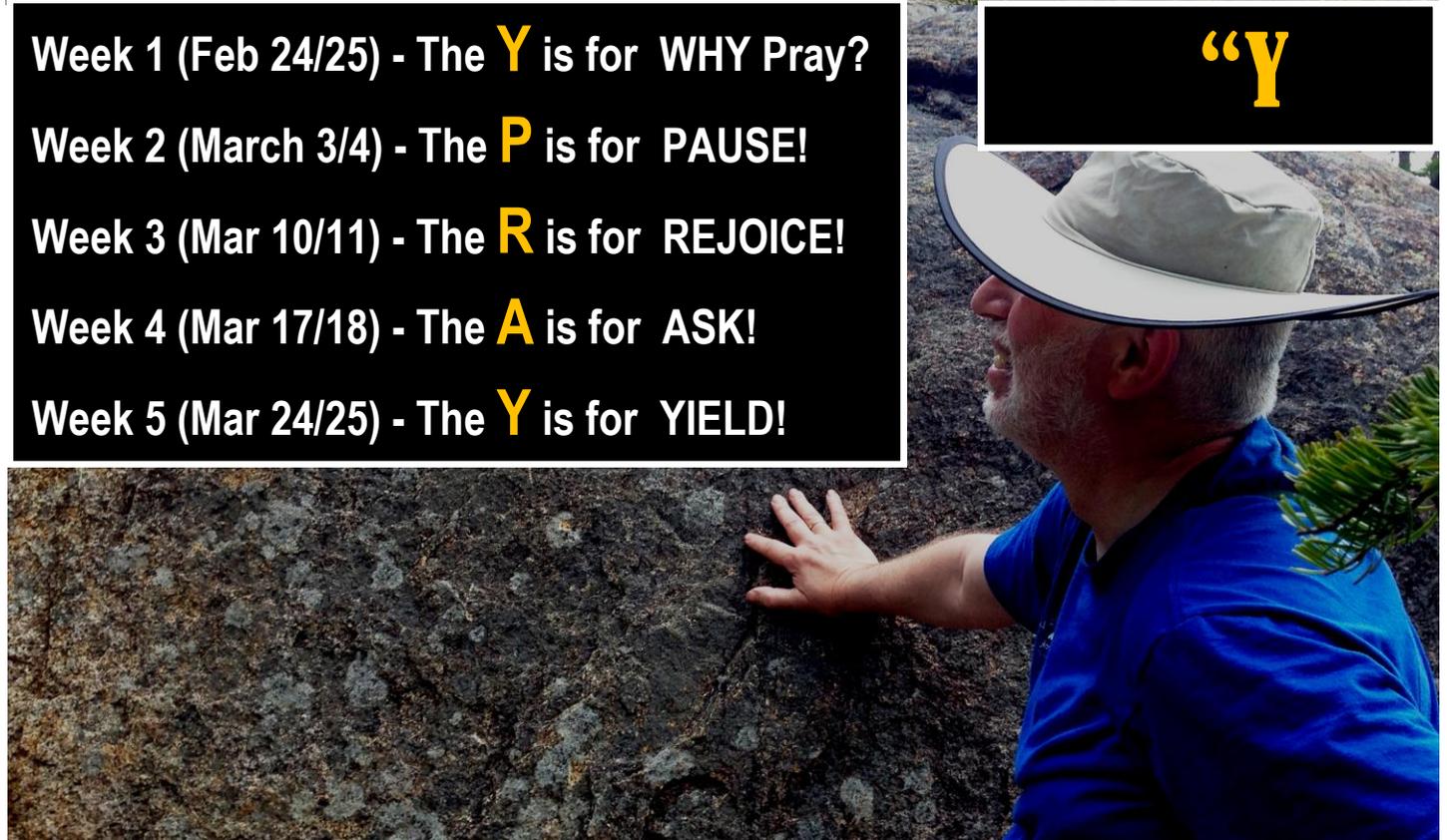
Week 2 (March 3/4) - The **P** is for PAUSE!

Week 3 (Mar 10/11) - The **R** is for REJOICE!

Week 4 (Mar 17/18) - The **A** is for ASK!

Week 5 (Mar 24/25) - The **Y** is for YIELD!

“Y



Announcements

Please join us at 7:00 pm tonight on zoom for “Light in the Darkness”, our Service of Lament & Hope, as we mark the 1 year of the pandemic lockdown in CT. You are invited to have a **piece of fabric to tear** as a symbol of our laments and a **candle to light** as a symbol of our hope in God.

For the zoom link, [click here](#) or copy and paste this address into your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84436179501?pwd=Smw0TzJXYUh2ZUNySDhIZWpNRlRqdz09>

Sunday Worship Services, Coffee Hours, and Forward on the Fourth Adult Forums:

While we are most grateful to God for the vaccines, we need to remember that the pandemic is not over - yet. Someday it will be, but in the meantime we must continue to exercise care (and prayer!). Although we cannot have in-person coffee hours or adult forums following in-person worship, we can still have these via zoom on the Sundays we worship online.

On the **2nd Sunday** of the month we will have **Coffee Hour** immediately following online worship, where the conversation is informal and free-flowing.

On the **4th Sunday** of the month we will have **Forward on the Fourth** immediately following online worship, at which we'll have a guided discussion of how we as a congregation are moving forward into God's promised future.

If worship on one of these Sundays is on **Zoom**, we will simply stay in the same zoom room.

If worship on one of these Sundays is a **Pre-recorded one**, you'll have to click on the zoom link to join at 10:30.

If you don't know what the difference is between Zoom and Pre-recorded worship, please don't hesitate to ask. Our pastor and our office manager are both happy to explain, as are many other of our congregational leaders. **Remember: the best way to get answers is to ask questions!**

Lent 2021

Midweek Series – Lenten Adventures in Prayer – on zoom for area Lutheran churches

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89939840751?pwd=amlvTnJIU1c5MWlIOFozcUtTVnJuQT09>

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm or Thursdays at 10:30 am

Week 1 (**Feb 24/25**) – The Y is for WHY Pray?

Week 2 (**March 3/4**) – The P is for PAUSE!

Week 3 (**Mar 10/11**) – The R is for REJOICE!

Week 4 (**Mar 17/18**) – The A is for ASK!

Week 5 (**Mar 24/25**) – The Y is for YIELD!

Maundy Thursday–7:30 pm April 1st–drive-in worship, Our Saviour's 160 Hill Farm Rd, Ffd.

Sunday Night Alive meets the last Sunday of the month, so please mark this event on your calendars for 04/25 at 6 pm. WE WILL NOT MEET IN MARCH! You won't want to miss this chance to gather together with old friends and new, people like you and people unlike you - all of which...like you, even love you, as the beloved child of God you are! Stay tuned for details! The link is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82224426828?pwd=aTNKcUE4eEdINeliYlFVd1RnYlUXOT09>

Meeting ID: 822 2442 6828 Passcode: 209780

One tap mobile +13017158592,,82224426828# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,82224426828# US (Chicago)

Wednesday at 12:00 noon Prayer Gathering at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3elll2ZmtiZEpadz09>

Meeting ID: 828 8277 7326 Passcode: 688740

One tap mobile +13017158592,,82882777326# US (Washington DC)

If ever we needed prayer, it's now! Agreed? While we can (and should!) pray on our own, scripture teaches us that there is power in group prayer. Jesus says, "I tell you truly that if two of you on the earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven." Author Frank Peretti writes that it is our prayers that empower the angels to fight the spiritual battles which are where the real battles are fought and won. If there is something you or your family or congregation needs, then the more people you have praying for it, the more power that prayer wields. You don't have to pray out loud, if you don't want to, but your presence with us will mean more than you know. So please, join us on Wednesdays at noon on zoom for a half-hour as we turn our worries and cares over to the Lord in prayer. The zoom link will be on the calendar on Salem's website at Salembridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

Salem and Friends Prayer Gathering & Take-out Breakfast, sponsored by the Salem Men, is held on the **2nd Saturday of the month at 8:00 am**. Although this used to be a men's event, it's now open to everyone, and we are most grateful for the men who sponsor it. (Thank you, Bruce for ensuring that this important time for talking informally about our faith lives continues even in the midst of a pandemic!) It's been outdoors until this month when we met in the lounge. We're working on figuring out how to make the sound work so we can offer this important time on zoom as well.

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](#) by **clicking here** 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**. 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. The theme for Evites are sent out to those on the Genesis mailing list but you can also find the Zoom link on Salem's calendar.

The Center for Family Justice invites you to its 125th Jubilee Virtual Gala, 7 pm Friday 26 March, featuring a special surprise announcement, as they celebrate their growth and transformation into the state's first Family Justice Center, dedicated to serving all victims of domestic and sexual violence and child abuse in sex local communities. For tickets go to: centerforfamilyjustice.salsalabs.org/125thjubileegala/index.html.

THANK YOU!!! – Even though our building is closed, our ministries (and the expenses to fund those ministries) continue. We are grateful for everyone who continues to give their tithes and offerings to our work here at Salem. We are also grateful to those who have taken advantage of the opportunity to give online, especially to sign up for regular weekly or monthly donations. Every gift no matter how small is appreciated and will enable us to continue to do God's work in this place. If you'd like help signing up for online giving please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Marjo, Karl, Ray Anderson, Jean Larson, or Nancy Headford.

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport invites you their Virtual Spring Fling at 7:00 pm May 25th. Enjoy a Broadway inspired musical performance from the comfort of your own home with special musical guests, Chris Coogan and Michele Grace.

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](#):

A GIFT OF THE PANDEMIC: EVANGELISM MADE EASY! We used to have all kinds of reasons we couldn't bring family members or friends to church, many of the reasons involving distance or timing. But one of the GIFTS that God has given us along with the pandemic is FREEDOM to spread the gospel around the world! We are no longer limited within our church walls or bound to any geographical area! And that means that you can invite ANYONE from anywhere around the world to come to worship with you! "But they wouldn't be interested", you say? Well, the truth is more people participate in our worship online than come to worship on our property or even join us on zoom. One of our services currently has had 1.6K views, many services have had hundreds watch the entire service, and every Sunday we have far more watch online than actually gather on zoom. So what on earth are you waiting for? **INVITE A FRIEND TO WORSHIP!**

A whole buffet of worship opportunities – just for you! Every single one of us would no doubt like to go back to the way we worshipped 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. We are GRATEFUL to God for the technology that still allows us to worship via Zoom services in real-time, or 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!

Let's stay connected!

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.

Please contact your Parish Nurse Carol if you would like to call, or send a card or note to one of our shut-ins. Carol will let you know if the person would prefer a call or a note. If you have extra cards that you do not need, please let Carol know.

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](#)