



# Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*Participant*

*Palm Sunday  
and  
Sunday of  
the Passion*

*March 28, 2021  
9:30 AM*



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YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

# Gathering

## WELCOME

Welcome in the name of God from whom and with whom and to whom we journey!

Thank you for joining us today!

Thank you, those of you who are gathered with us here in the zoom room!

And thank you, to those of you who are watching on Facebook or YouTube wherever – and whenever! – you are!

For those of you who don't know me,

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

While our offices are closed at present, you can always find us at our website:

[SalemBridgeport.org](http://SalemBridgeport.org),

on our Facebook page, SalemBridgeport,

and on our YouTube channel, Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT.

Links to our donate page and worship bulletin

which has both the order of worship and announcements, as well as other resources are included on our website at [SalemBridgeport.org/Live](http://SalemBridgeport.org/Live).

We begin Holy Week with today's Palm/Passion Sunday

which features the Cantata, "Upon This Rock" by Pepper Choplin, performed by our Salem choir in 2013.

It also includes a virtual choir piece, "Neither Death, Nor Life" by Marty Haugen, performed by the Calvin 2021 Worship Symposium Virtual Choir, featuring the composer himself at the keyboard and a choir member Salem folk know well.

On Maundy Thursday we will be joining Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Fairfield at 7:30 pm for a drive-in service that includes

confession and communion and a sermon and the stripping of the altar.

On Good Friday we will be joining Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Waterbury at 12:00 noon for a special zoom worship that includes

the reading of the passion against the backdrop of stations of the cross.

Details and zoom links will be listed at [SalemBridgeport.org/Live](http://SalemBridgeport.org/Live).

On Easter Sunday we will gather for in-person worship which we will stream to Facebook Live.

Great and gracious, God,

You come where you are invited, stay where you are welcomed, & answer when you are called.

We invite you into this worship space and into our lives.

We welcome your presence among us, and within us.

Open our spirits, hearts, minds, and bodies to receive all that you are waiting to give.

We pray this in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Spirit.

**Amen**

## GREETING

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

### **Processional Gospel:** Mark 11:1-11

<sup>1</sup>As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples <sup>2</sup>with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’ ”

<sup>4</sup>So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it. <sup>5</sup>Some of the bystanders said to them, “What do you mean by untying that colt?” <sup>6</sup>They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

<sup>7</sup>They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup>And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out, “Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!”

<sup>11</sup>Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.”

The Gospel of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

## BLESSING OF PALMS

God be with you! **And also with you!**

Let us pray,,,

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

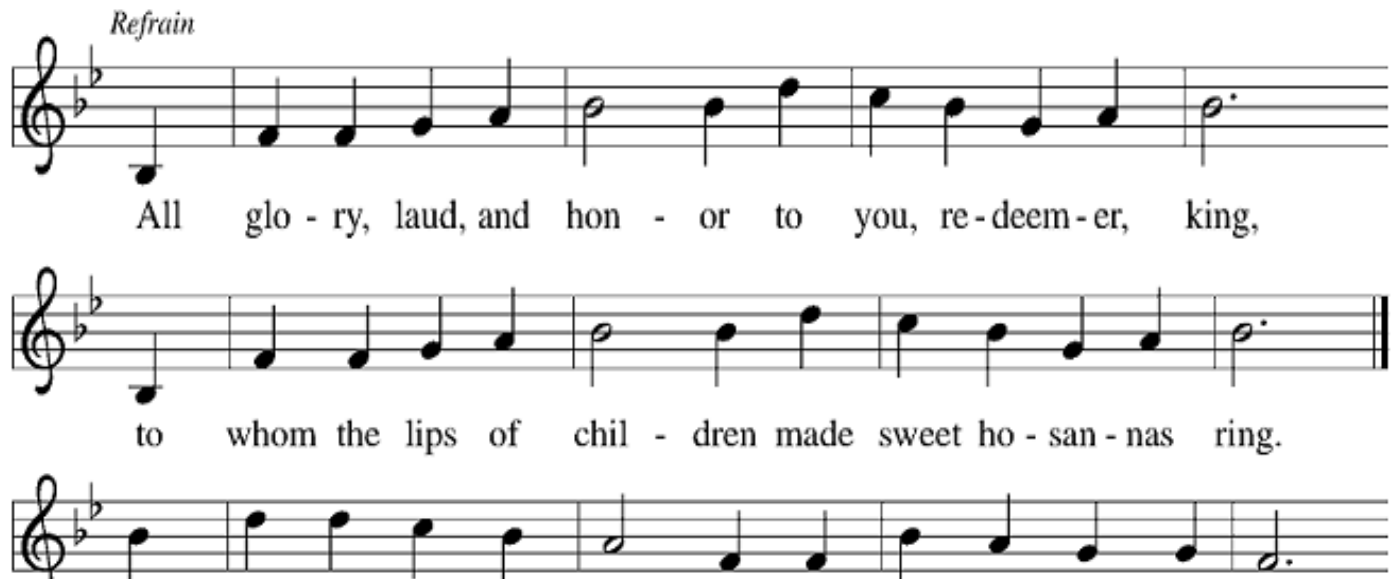
Bless these branches and those who carry them.

Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

let us celebrate the presence of our Sovereign Lord! **Amen! Amen! Hosanna!**

*You are invited to wave your palms and process through your house if you so desire, as we join in the hymn, “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”.*


*Refrain*



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,  
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;  
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;  
4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.  
5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Refrain*



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.  
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

*Text: based on Psalm 8:2, 24:7-10, 118:2, Matthew 21:1-16, Mark 11:1-10, Luke 19:29-38, John 12:12-15 by Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Meter 7 6 7 6 D*

*Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, ST. THEODULPH, by Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635*

*This hymn is in the Public Domain.*

*Performance by The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Salem Lutheran, Bridgeport, CT, 04/05/20*

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Hosanna in the highest!**

The immeasurable grace of Christ Jesus, the rich mercy of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you!**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# Thanksgiving

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*You are invited to offer a petition as the Spirit so moves you.*

In Jesus you came among us as a suffering servant. Give your church humility.  
Redeem your people from pride and the certainty that we always know your will.  
Heal us and empower us to confess Christ crucified.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Seafarers and International House,  
the Lions Club and 12-step groups;

and for Salem members & families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:

John Bryk, Dave Albers, and Bob Reichelt.

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

In creation, life springs from death.

Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection: restore lost habitats and endangered species.

Create new possibilities for areas affected by climate change, grant relief from natural disasters,  
and nurture new growth.

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

Jesus was handed over to the powers of this world.

In all nations, instruct the powerful, that they would not exploit their power but maintain justice.

Sustain soldiers, and guide those who command them, that they serve those in greatest need.

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

On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who are condemned to death.

Defend those who are falsely accused. Console & strengthen those who are mocked or bullied.

Accompany all who suffer 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.**

You called followers to tend Jesus' body in death. Sustain hospice workers & funeral directors.

Bless this congregation's ministries at times of death:

those who plan and lead funerals, those who prepare meals, all who offer support in grief.

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

You inspired the centurion to confess Jesus as your Son.

We praise you for the faith you have given to people of all places and times.

Give us also such faith to trust the promises of baptism

and, with them, to look for the resurrection of the dead.

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**

## 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**

## 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

We encourage you at this time to give of your treasure,  
the fruit of your time and talent.

We encourage you to give to your own church first,  
and also invite you to support our worship and mission here,  
simply by going to [SalemBridgeport.org](http://SalemBridgeport.org) and clicking "donate".  
We also invite you to offer your whole self to God –  
body, mind, heart and soul.



# Word

## Upon This Rock

The Passion, the Question, the Call



*Words and Music by Pepper Choplin*

*The rock has been a symbol of many things in the history of faith.*

*The Lord gave his people water from a rock in Exodus.*

*In Psalm 18, God is called a rock and fortress.*

*Jesus uses the rock as a symbol of strength in the parable comparing people who built homes upon sand or rock.*

*Jesus himself is referred to as the rock or cornerstone frequently, in the gospels and in the letters of Paul.*

*In Matthew 16, the disciple Peter makes an impassioned declaration springing from a moment of insight, "You are the Christ".*

*Jesus responds by saying "on this rock I will build my church".*

*What is the rock of which we sing today?*

*It is faith and knowledge of God, the foundation of all we are and hope to be.*

## **What Is Your Passion?**

What is your passion? What is your call?  
Who do you live for? Who do you offer all?  
How you will answer is the answer to life on this earth and beyond.

What is the reason we live our days,  
Spending our lives in this time and place?  
How we answer will surely answer who we shall be. Who shall we be?  
While Jesus is calling, "Come, follow me".

Leave your nets for I am calling, calling down a road you cannot see.  
Come, follow me and start the journey of a life time.  
What a journey it will surely be.

So let us live with a passion, live the call.  
Rise up and follow, follow the Lord of all.  
Come on a journey that will lead us to life on this earth and beyond.  
Jesus is calling, "come and follow me."

## **Walking 'Cross the Sea**

I saw Jesus walking 'cross the sea, Oh, I saw Jesus walking 'cross the sea,  
I said "Help me walk on the water, that's where I want to be,"  
He said, "Go where your faith will take you. Now come on out to me."

So I stepped out on the water, but I wasn't sinking down,  
But the winds, the waves, the waters were stirring all around,  
I said, "Help me, Lord, I'm sinking, surely I will drown."

Then I felt Jesus, he was holding onto my hand.  
He said, "Oh! What little faith you have you poor and doubtful man.  
Rise up, put your faith in me and surely you will stand.  
Now rise and stand!"

I held onto Jesus, we were walking 'cross the sea.  
Oh, I held onto Jesus, we were walking 'cross the sea.  
And when I stepped back in the boat, I fell upon my knees.  
I said, "surely you're the son of God! Have mercy on me!"

Jesus is calling. Jesus still is calling.  
"Come and walk with me.  
Wherever faith will take you, I promise I will be.  
Wherever you are walking, even when you're sinking,  
Go where faith will take you, rise up and walk with Me,!"



## **Upon This Rock**

You are the Son, the Son of the living God.  
Upon this rock, I'll build my church.  
Upon this rock I'll build my kingdom on this earth.  
I'll build my church, Upon this rock, this solid rock.

And we say  
"You are the Christ, you are the Son of the living God,  
You are the Christ, you are the first begotten son, born from the love of heaven.  
And we are the church, and we will serve and glorify.  
We are the church, to be a living sacrifice offered to You through all we are."

And so our love for Christ will be the cause,  
the reason why we live our days,  
To walk in faith, faith in the rock, the solid rock.

## **Pray With Me at Gethsemane**

Here at Gethsemane, come, friends, and pray with Me,  
the evening stars will give us light.  
Stay alert, keep watch, you don't know what is waiting for us  
On the other side of the moonless night.  
Father, you can do all things.  
Please take this cup from me,  
But whatever may come,  
Your will be done.  
I'm distressed, I am grieved.  
Father, take this cup from me,  
But whatever may come, Your will be done.

Simon Peter, are you asleep?  
The spirit is willing, the flesh is weak.  
Pray you are spared the time of trial.  
Wake up, Peter, why do you sleep?  
Couldn't you pray one hour with me?  
Soon we'll walk the final mile.

Keep alert, you don't know when trials come and troubles ascend.  
Keep alert, rise and stand,  
Look the betrayer is at hand!  
God's will be done.  
Stay awake, pray with me.

## **Didn't I Deny Him**

On a cold dark night I stood by the fire near the place they had taken my Lord.  
I saw him there with shackled hands, wondrin' what was in store.  
Then the people all around started looking my way, they were closing in on me.  
And I said anything that I could say just so that I could go free.

Didn't I deny? Didn't I deny Him? Didn't I deny my Lord?  
O how will He forgive me? I'm gone away to cry.

*Weren't you there with the man called Jesus? No! I never knew him.  
Didn't you follow this man called Jesus? No! I was never his friend.  
Aren't you one of His close disciples? Aren't you from Galilee?  
With God as my witness, I never knew him.  
Why can't you understand, I never knew this man!*

I told my Lord, "I will lay down my life and follow wherever you go"  
He said, "You'll deny me three times before the rooster crows."  
Oh, didn't I deny....

## **Were You There?**

Where you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?  
Were you there when he died?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

*As this is Passion Sunday, we end the cantata here, with Jesus dead in the tomb.  
We'll hear the concluding two songs, "Do You Love Me?" and "The Call" on Easter Sunday.*

*This cantata was performed by the Salem Choir in 2013.*

*Director of Music: Liz Frohrip  
Narrator: Rich Lansing  
Bulletin Cover Photo: Rich Lansing*

*Soloists:  
Bert Andren,  
Ron Schlegel,  
Bruce Tomasko,  
Rich Kenyon,  
Janet Swanson,  
Jean Larson,  
Denise Bukovan.*

# Sending

## 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.  
As we begin this most holy of weeks, I hope you will join us again.  
If I can assist you in your journey, please don't hesitate to contact me.  
Just reach out on Facebook or through our website.  
In the meantime,  
may you feel God's love this week as, sustained by the Spirit, you journey with Jesus **Amen**

## SENDING SONG

## Neither Death nor Life

(ELW # 622)

*Refrain* **Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come,  
neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation  
can ever separate us from the love of God poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.**

- 1. Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead;  
though your body shall die, in Christ you shall rise  
through the Spirit who brings you to life. (*Refrain*)**
- 2. All who are led by the Spirit shall live as children of God  
and heirs with Christ Jesus, God's adopted and chosen and loved. (*Refrain*)**
- 3. All of the suff'ring we now must endure is nothing to the glory  
so soon to be revealed when creation itself is set free. (*Refrain*)**
- 4. All of creation awaits the new birth, the fullness of redemption,  
through labor pains of love, and so we wait in patience and hope. (*Refrain*)**
- 5. Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship or distress,  
persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword? (*Refrain*)**

*Text: based on Romans 8:11-19, 22-25, 28-35, 38, by Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Meter Irregular;  
Korean tr. Chan Gyu Jang; Cantonese tr. Yvette Lau; Spanish tr. Ron Krisman & Maria Cornou ;  
Indonesian tr. Ester Widiasih*

*Music: NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, by Marty Haugen, b. 1950*

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*Performance: Calvin Symposium on Worship 2021 Virtual Choir*

*Soloists: Elizabeth Canfield, Ivan Manoraj, Luke DeVries (English); Sa El Lee (Korean); Yvette Lau (Cantonese); Carlos Lemagne (Spanish); Cindy Tuna (Indonesian)*

*Instrumentalists: Marty Haugen (piano); Glen Okonoski (percussion); Tom Good (guitar); Kevin Panepento (guitar); Jay Round (bass guitar)*

*Editing: Glen Okonoski and Jay Round*

# 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,  
knowing that nothing –  
Nothing – Nothing at all –  
can separate you from God.  
May the love of Jesus and the power of the Spirit accompany you this Holy Week!  
**Thanks be to God!**

***For in-person worship....***  
***Please wait for an usher to direct you***  
***to exit the worship space.***  
***Please do not congregate in the building,***  
***but rather move outdoors.***  
***Please keep your mask on***  
***and maintain 6' physical distancing***  
***from anyone who is not in your "covid bubble".***  
***PLEASE, BE CAREFUL and BE PRAYERFUL!***

# Announcements

**Sunday Worship Services** – Beginning on Easter we will have in-person worship each week which we will stream to Facebook. For those of you who enjoyed our zoom worship, we regret that we do not yet have the technology to offer a high quality hybrid/zoom worship. In fact, we're not aware of any congregation that has figured this out. If you cannot worship in person and would like communion, please contact Pastor Marjo so that that can be arranged.

## **Holy Week 2021**

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

**Good Friday –12:00 noon April 2<sup>nd</sup>** –zoom worship with Cross of Christ Waterbury. The zoom link will be available on the calendar and will be included in the email blast this week as well as at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.

**Easter–9:30 am April 4<sup>th</sup>**—in-person worship, streamed to FB.

**Pandemic Precautions continue** – **Since most of our state is back in the red zone, please note that all pandemic protocols will still be strictly followed.** You MUST wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose, and maintain 6' physical distancing from anyone outside of your "covid bubble". While vaccinated people are protected against serious illness, hospitalization and death, you may still be able to contract a mild or asymptomatic case of covid-19 and transmit it to others, some of whom have not and cannot be vaccinated. While this possibility is currently being studied, it will take another 5 months for the results to be in.

**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=aTNKcUE4eEdINeIiYlFVd1RnYlXQT09>

*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=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3eIi2ZmtiZEpadz09>

*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 **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 **3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport invites you their Virtual Spring Fling at 7:00 pm May 25<sup>th</sup>.** Enjoy a Broadway inspired musical performance from the comfort of your own home with special musical guests, Chris Coogan and Michele Grace.

**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.

**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](http://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](http://www.salembridgeport.org/live). Or to see how to get there, **click here**:

**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!

**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!**

### **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.

## **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

**Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824**  
**Monday, March 29, 2021**

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

**John Donne, poet, died 1631**  
**Wednesday, March 31, 2021**

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

# 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](http://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](#)