



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*for those with
hearing challenges*

Trinity Sunday

*May 30, 2021
9:30 AM*



THREE IN ONE

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YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

*As you prepare your heart and mind for worship,
we invite you to go deeper into God's Word through these passages from Scripture*

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Psalms 29

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;

the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”

The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

Romans 8:12-17

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

John 3:1-17

¹ A certain Pharisee named Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, ² came to Jesus at night. “Rabbi”, he said, “we know you’re a teacher come from God; for no one can perform the signs and wonders you do, unless by the power of God.”

³ Jesus gave Nicodemus this answer, “The truth of the matter is, unless one is born anew, one cannot see the dominion of God.”

⁴ Nicodemus said, “How can an adult be born a second time? I can’t go back into my mother’s womb to be born again!”

⁵ Jesus replied, “The truth of the matter is, no one can enter the dominion of God without being born of water and the Spirit.

⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is Spirit.

⁷ So don’t be surprised when I tell you that you must be born anew.

⁸ The wind blows where it will. You hear the sound it makes, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹ “How can this be possible?” asked Nicodemus.

¹⁰ Jesus replied, “You’re a teacher of Israel, and you still don’t understand these matters?”

¹¹ “The truth of the matter is, we’re talking about what we know; we’re testifying about what we’ve seen – yet you don’t accept our testimony.

¹² If you don’t believe when I tell you about earthly things, how will you believe when I tell you about heavenly things?

¹³ No one has gone up to heaven except the One who came down from heaven – the Chosen One.

¹⁴ As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Chosen One must be lifted up,

¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in the Chosen One might have eternal life.

¹⁶ Yes, God so loved the world as to give the Only Begotten One, that whoever believes may not die, but have eternal life.

¹⁷ God sent the Only Begotten into the world not to condemn the world, but that through the Only Begotten the world might be saved.

GATHERING SONG

Father, I Adore You

Worship & Praise # 37

Father, I adore you, lay my life before you. How I love you!

Jesus, I adore you, lay my life before you. How I love you!

Spirit, I adore you, lay my life before you. How I love you!

CCLI Song # 26557

Text by Terrye Coelho, Meter 6 6 4

Tune MARANTHA by Terrye Coelho,

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Performance by Plymouth First United Methodist Church, Plymouth, MI

A simple worshipful song sung first in unison and then as a 3-part round.

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXK-a-VNQQg>

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of the Triune God, three in one and one in three,
Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, and Love-Maker.

Thank you for joining us today!

Thank you, those of you who are here in person with us!

And thank you, those of you out there in cyber space, 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 find us on our website: 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.

There are lots of announcements in our bulletin, but let me briefly call your attention
to some that are happening this week.

Please know the staff is off on Memorial Day & Karl will be on vacation through June 7th.

On Wednesday, we invite all of you to join in our prayer meeting on zoom at noon.

On Sundays we will be worshipping outdoors as much as possible, weather permitting.
so please bring a lawn chair.

Our worship will also be streamed live to Facebook.

Salem's semi-annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday June 27th, following worship.

As we celebrate Trinity Sunday, let us pray to the God who is all-in-all.

God of power and love, pour out your Spirit upon us!

Revive our dry bones.

Put us back together.

Breathe life into us that we may be filled with

love & joy, peace & patience, kindness & goodness, faithfulness & gentleness & self-control

Don't allow us to be stuck in the past, but blow us forward into your promised future.

Give us vision, give us courage, give us power.

We pray in the name of Jesus and in the power of the Spirit. Amen

OPENING SONG Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! ELW # 413

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

*Text: based on Exodus 33.20, 1 Kings 4.12, Isaiah 6.1-3, 1 Timothy 6.16, Revelation 4.4-11;
by Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.; Meter Irregular*

Tune: NICAEA by John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

This hymn is in the Public Domain.

Performance by First Plymouth Church, UCC. Lincoln Nebraska, 05/13/13,

Arrangement: Julian Wachner.

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

Word

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Hebrew word rendered as ruach means “spirit,” “wind,” or “breath.”

This reading plays on the different meanings of the word.

Just as the dry bones in Ezekiel’s vision are given new life, flesh, and breath (or spirit), so God will give the exiles God’s own spirit and will bring them home to the land of Israel.

¹ The hand of YHWH came upon me, it carried me away by the spirit of YHWH and set me down in a valley – a valley full of bones. ² God made me walk up and down among them. And I saw that there was a vast number of bones lying there in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ God asked me, “Mere mortal, can these bones live?”

I answered, “Only you know that, Sovereign YHWH”.

⁴ And God said, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: ‘Dry bones, hear the word of YHWH! ⁵ Sovereign YHWH says to these bones: I am going to breathe life into you. ⁶ I will fasten sinews on you, clothe you with flesh, cover you with skin, and give you breath. And you will live; and you will know that I am Sovereign YHWH.’”

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and all the bones came together, bone to matching bone. ⁸ As I watched, sinews appeared on them, flesh clothed them, and skin covered them. But there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then God said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mere mortal, and say to it: Thus says Sovereign YHWH: Approach from the four winds, Breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.”

¹⁰ I prophesied as I was commanded, and breath came into them; they came alive, and stood up on their feet – a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then God said to me, “Mere mortal, these bones are the whole House of Israel. The people keep saying, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is gone, and we are doomed.’ ¹² Prophecy, therefore, and say to them, ‘Thus says Sovereign YHWH: I am going to open your graves and raise you up from the dead, my people. I will return you to the land of Israel. ¹³ When I open your graves and raise you up, you, my people, will know that I am YHWH. ¹⁴ Then I will put my spirit into you, and you will return to life, and I will settle you back on your own land. Then you will know that I, YHWH, have spoken and made all this happen, says Sovereign YHWH.’”

John 3:1-8

¹ A certain Pharisee named Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, ² came to Jesus at night. “Rabbi”, he said, “we know you’re a teacher come from God; for no one can perform the signs and wonders you do, unless by the power of God.”

³ Jesus gave Nicodemus this answer, “The truth of the matter is, unless one is born anew, one cannot see the dominion of God.”

⁴ Nicodemus said, “How can an adult be born a second time? I can’t go back into my mother’s womb to be born again!”

⁵ Jesus replied, “The truth of the matter is, no one can enter the dominion of God without being born of water and the Spirit.

⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is Spirit.

⁷ So don’t be surprised when I tell you that you must be born anew.

⁸ The wind blows where it will. You hear the sound it makes, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

SERMON

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

So they can be heard online, these petitions will be offered by the leaders at the microphones.

We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world.

Revitalize and renew us, that we may be born anew

through the waters of baptism and the blowing wind of your Spirit.

We pray for our mission partners,

especially today for the Council of Churches' Janus Center for Youth in Crisis,

and its ecumenical and interfaith Bridge Building program

and for Salem members & families.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for your power revealed to us in creation;

for cedar and oak trees, for rushing waters, for the echoes of thunder.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations and our leaders,

that led by your Spirit, they work towards a world where all of your children enjoy peace.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for healing for all those who suffer,

especially victims and survivors of trauma or violence.

Give respite to those living with PTSD or any other mental health concerns.

Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day,

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.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this worshiping community,

that the splendor of your majesty and the holiness of your mystery

may be glorified through our worship and our relationships with one another.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks, O God, for those who have died in the faith.

We remember also those whose lives have been lost due to the horrors of war.

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:

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen**

Thanksgiving

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 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 INVITATION

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

Be Still and Know that I Am God

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God.
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Be still and know that I am God.

God gave the Son for us in love. God gave the Son for us in love.
Dying upon the tree, Christ rose to set us free. God gave the Son for us in love.

Make me a channel of your grace. Make me a channel of your grace.
Pour your love into me and let it flow through me. Make me a channel of your grace.

Text: based on Psalm 46.1 and John 14.27 by Marjo Anderson

Music: BE STILL by Marjo Anderson

Text & Music © 1982 by Marjo Anderson.

*Performance by Marjo Anderson, 02/27/21, Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, CT
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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.
If you'd like to know more, or if you'd like to talk or pray together,
you can reach me through our website or Facebook.
In the meantime let me offer all who are worshipping with us this blessing
May you find life in God the Creator, love in the Savior, and power in the Spirit. Amen

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Meal & Dismissal

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.

*During communion, you may take your communion elements in church
or hold on to your kit until you get home. If you take the elements in the church,
open the kit over the pew to prevent spilling on the carpet. Grape juice stains!
Take each element by lowering your mask, consuming,
and raising your mask back up.
After the service, take the empty kit to the wastebasket in the back of the church.*

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

*After our Sending Song and the Dismissal, please wait as the ushers will dismiss you by pew
in order to comply with pandemic protocols.
Please move quickly through the narthex to where you can safely visit outdoors.*

Come, join the dance of Trinity, before all worlds begun –
the interweaving of the Three, the Father, Spirit, Son.
The universe of space and time did not arise by chance,
But as the Three, in love and hope, made room within their dance.

Come, see the face of Trinity, newborn in Bethlehem;
then bloodied by a crown of thorns outside Jerusalem.
The dance of Trinity is meant for human flesh and bone;
When fear confines the dance in death, God rolls away the stone.

Come, speak aloud of Trinity, as wind and tongues of flame
set people free at Pentecost to tell the Savior's name.
We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;
Go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!

Within the dance of Trinity, before all worlds begun,
we sing the praises of the Three, the Father, Spirit, Son.
Let voices rise and interweave, by love and hope set free,
To shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trinity.

Text: Richard Leach, b.1953, © 2001 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.;

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

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Performance by Halifax Lutheran Church, 06/07/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSgHK9yhw>

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, filled with the Spirit,
and witness to the awesome things our God has done!

Thanks be to God!

Eternal Father, strong to save
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

O Saviour, whose almighty word
The winds and waves submissive heard
Who walkedst on the foaming deep,
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

O sacred Spirit, who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
Who bad'st its angry tumult cease,
And gavest light and life and peace;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

O Trinity of love and power!
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
And ever let there rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Text: based on Genesis 1:2, Job 38:8-11, Psalm 63:5-8, Matthew 8:23-27, 14:22-33, Mark 6:47-51, Acts 27; by William Whiting, 1825-1878, alt; Meter 8/8/8/8/8/8.

Music: MELITA by John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

This hymn is in the Public Domain.

Performance by Saint Thomas' Cathedral, Portsmouth, 08/10/15

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

Announcements

You may have been vaccinated, but please bear in mind that not everyone is able to receive the vaccine due to their health condition. The more cautious we are, the faster we can reach herd immunity and get back to normal. As Christians Jesus calls us to love our neighbor, so, please, let's all do our part to end this pandemic. It's not about how safe WE feel, but about how safe we make OTHERS around us feel. Thank you for doing your part to help keep everyone at Salem as safe as possible!

During communion, you may take your communion elements in church or hold on to your kit until you get home. If you take the elements in the church, open the kit over the pew to prevent spilling on the carpet. Take each element by lowering your mask, consuming, and raising your mask back up. After the service, take the empty kit to the wastebasket in the back of the church.

Sunday Worship Services – We are now doing in-person worship with live-streaming to Facebook. *Weather permitting we will be worshipping outdoors as much as possible this summer, so please bring a lawn chair.* 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 who is doing this well. If you cannot worship in person and would like communion, please contact Pastor Marjo so that that can be arranged.

Salem's semi-annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday June 27th, following worship. It will be an in-person meeting and with zoom access as well. If you would like to participate via zoom while in the church building, please bring your phone, tablet or laptop, and we will find you an available room.

Please know the staff is off on Memorial Day & Karl will be on vacation through June 7th.

Wednesday at 12:00 noon Prayer Gathering at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3elllZmtiZEpadz09>

Meeting ID: 828 8277 7326 Passcode: 688740

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

Our prayer gathering has grown from two to three to four to five to seven this last week, which is fabulous, because if ever we needed prayer, it's now! While we can (and should!) pray on our own, scripture teaches us that there is power in group prayer, and so we invite you to join us. 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. The zoom link is 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, so mark your calendars for June 12th.** 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.

Inner-View Chat'n'Chew meets the **3rd Saturday of the month at 11:00**, so **mark your calendars for June 19th**. 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.

Sunday Night Alive will meet Sunday evening 6/27 either in person or on zoom – Stay tuned for details! You won't want to miss this chance to gather together with old friends and new, people like you and people unlike you - who LIKE you, even LOVE you, as the beloved child of God you are! So PLEASE, join in our faith-filled fun and fellowship -- and invite someone else to come with you! If we end up meeting on zoom, the link is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82224426828?pwd=aTNKcUE4eEdINELiYlFVd1RnYlXQT09>

Meeting ID: 822 2442 6828 Passcode: 209780;

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

+13126266799,,82224426828# US (Chicago)

Our next “Forward on the FIRST” adult forum is currently scheduled for Sunday June 6th on zoom but is subject to change.

THANK YOU!!! – Even though our staff works primarily from their homes, 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 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](#)**:

Let's stay connected! 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. If we can help in any way, please know that you can 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

Visit of Mary to Elizabeth

Monday, May 31, 2021

This festival marks the occasion when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visited her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant with John. Elizabeth pronounced Mary "blessed among women", and Mary responded with the song called the Magnificat.

Justin, martyr at Rome, died around 165

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

Born of pagan parents, Justin was influenced by an elderly Christian in Ephesus. He became a teacher of philosophy and the Christian faith. Jailed for practicing an unauthorized religion, he refused to renounce his faith and was beheaded.

The Martyrs of Uganda, died 1886

Thursday, June 3, 2021

On June 3, 1886, 32 young men were burned to death for refusing to renounce Christianity. The confident manner in which these Christians went to their deaths contributed to a much stronger Christian presence in Uganda.

John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, died 1963

Thursday, June 3, 2021

When elected pope, the former Angelo Roncalli was expected to be a short-term caretaker. He showed great spirit, though, and convened the Second Vatican Council which helped bring great changes to Roman Catholic and other churches.

Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, missionary to Germany, martyr, died 754

Saturday, June 5, 2021

Boniface was a native of England who became a Benedictine monk and was called to missionary work among the Vandal tribes of Germany. With fellow workers, he established churches and schools, and he also worked to reform the church.

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. *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.*