



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*"...We declare to you
what we have seen and heard..."*

*3rd Sunday
After
Pentecost*

*June 13, 2021
9:30 AM*



...that our joy may be complete!"

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YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

ELW # 597

*Please meditate on these words in your mind and pray them in your heart,
remembering that it has not yet been proven safe to sing together.*

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

- 2 When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. (*Refrain*)
- 3 His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay. (*Refrain*)
- 4 When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne! (*Refrain*)

*Text: based on Matthew 7.24-27, 24.31, Mark 13.24-27, Luke 6.46-49, 1 Corinthians 15.52,
Philippians 3.9, 1 Thessalonians 4.16, 1 Timothy 1.1, Hebrews 6.13-19, 1 John 1.7;
by Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.; Meter 8 8 8 8 8 8*

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

This Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

Performance by Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 06/16/20,

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-8yjRzd3dQ>

Word

John 1:1-18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

I John 1:1-2:2

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — ²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us — ³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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.

Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith the hearts of your people.

Enliven your church beginning with us

that we may come to know not things about you, but to know you, yourself.

Fill our hearts with love for you so vast that we can no longer keep it a secret
but shout it from the mountains so all the world might hear.

We pray for our mission partners,

especially today for CROP and World Vision and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts,
and for Salem members & families.

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

Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness.

From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants.

Restore growth to places suffering drought.

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

Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power,

that they might love justice, do kindness, and walk humbly with you.

Transform their hearts of all elected officials,

so that they are not motivated by power or greed, but by empathy for those they serve.

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

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need

and provide relief to those who call on you, 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....

Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness,
and guide us to do more than simply offer our prayers.

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

Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you.

Teach us to not cling to the familiarity and comfort of past routines,

but follow your Spirit's promptings

into a future about which we know nothing, except that it is in your hands.

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.

*Please meditate on these words in your mind and pray them in your heart,
remembering that it has not yet been proven safe to sing together.*

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God gave the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path and show me the way to the Father.

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

*Text: based on John 12.46, Ephesians 5.8-14, 1 John 1, 5, Revelation 21.23;
by Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934; Meter 10 7 10 8 and refrain*

Tune: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934;

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*Performance by First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska on 08/19/18,
sung by the congregation and men of the Plymouth Choir,*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZ78sCBWIrQ>

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU

BLESSING

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Meal & Dismissal

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.

*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.

Please meditate on these words in your mind and pray them in your heart, remembering that it has not yet been proven safe to sing together.

1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

2 I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy word. (*Refrain*)

3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

*Text: based on Matthew 10:26-27, Acts 4:20, 2 Corinthians 4:17, Revelation 5:9
by Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911; Meter 7 6 7 6 D and refrain*

Music: HANKEY by William G. Fischer, 1835-1912

The Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance by First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska, 10/11/15,
sung by the Congregation and Plymouth Choir and assisted by the Youth Orchestra of
First Plymouth Church, Lincoln Nebraska,
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onJLwQS8dR0>*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, be filled with the Spirit, and testify to the great things God has done!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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.

Wednesday at 12:00 noon Prayer Gathering at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3ell2ZmtiZEpadz09>

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.

Join Pastor Marjo and Jeanette "Momma J" Harris for Bible Study on zoom Wednesday evenings 6:30-7:15 pm. The link is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85048710511?pwd=NWIxeTFwRkRUbXRmN3k1N2hvQWl6Zz09>

Salem and Friends Prayer Gathering & Breakfast, sponsored by the Salem Men, is held on the THIRD Saturday THIS month – which is THIS SATURDAY June 19th – 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.

Inner-View Chat'n'Chew meets the 3rd Saturday of the month at 11:00, which is THIS Saturday, 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.

Our next Forward (Finally!) Adult Forum is scheduled for NEXT Sunday June 20th, at 10:30. This discussion will focus on the upcoming semi-annual meeting on June 27th. We encourage those of you who can do so to please bring your laptop, tablet, or phone to church with you and zoom from someone inside the building or outside. If you do not have your own device, you may sit in the Zoom Room of our Sanctuary where the zoom screen will be the large screen TV.

Salem's semi-annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday June 27th, at 10:30. 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.

NO Sunday Night Alive this month. We are planning an in-person Caribbean night later this summer, so 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! In September we will probably meet at 6 pm on the last Sunday evening of the month on zoom, in which case the link is here.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82224426828?pwd=aTNKcUE4eEdINeliYlFVd1RnYlXOT09>

Meeting ID: 822 2442 6828 Passcode: 209780;

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

+13126266799,,82224426828# US (Chicago)

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport ENCOURAGES ALL MEMBERS of our congregations to join in their Raising the BAR (Becoming Anti-Racist) 2021 Summer Series via ZOOM. This summer we will join in facilitated conversations on Jemar Tisby's new book, How to Fight Racism. **You are welcome to attend any or all of the 5-part series. every other Thursday beginning July 1.**

Each session is from 7:30-9:00 pm. The dates are: 7/1, 15, 29, 8/12 & 26.

Check out the reviews for Tisby's book here:

https://www.google.com/books/edition/How_to_Fight_Racism/G7bWDwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover

Register here: <https://ccgb.salsalabs.org/summerserie2021/index.html>

You will receive the Zoom link a week before the first session.

The Zoom link will remain the same for all sessions.

THANK YOU!!! – 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

Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, died 379;

Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, died around 385;

Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople, died around 389;

Macrina, teacher, died around 379

Monday, June 14, 2021

The Cappadocian fathers, as the three men in this group are known, explored the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

Basil's monastic rule forms the basis for Eastern monastic life.

Gregory of Nazianzus defended orthodox Christianity in Constantinople. Gregory of Nyssa, Basil's younger brother, wrote on the spiritual life.

Macrina, older sister of Basil and Gregory of Nyssa,

was the leader of a community dedicated to asceticism, meditation, and prayer.

Emanuel Nine, martyrs, died 2015

Thursday, June 17, 2021

On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson

were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer

at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina.

Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

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](#)