



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*10th Sunday
After
Pentecost*

*August 1, 2021
9:30 AM*



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YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

GATHERING READINGS

As you prepare for worship, we encourage you to read and reflect on these lessons.

2 Kings 4:42-44

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left.'" He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

Psalm 145:10-18

All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.
They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,
that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.
The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.
The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season.
You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.
You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works.
You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you faithfully.

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

GATHERING SONG

The Heart of Worship

When the music fades all is stripped away And I simply come
Longing just to bring something that's of worth That will bless Your heart
I'll bring You more than a song For a song in itself is not what You have required
You search much deeper within Through the way things appear You're looking into my heart
I'm coming back to the heart of worship And it's all about You all about You Jesus
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it When it's all about You all about You Jesus
King of endless worth no one could express How much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor all I have is Yours Ev'ry single breath

CCLI Song # 2296522; Words and Music by Matt Redman

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Performance by Marjo Anderson to background track by Karaoke By Gendusa Brain 10/14/17

as found at this link: https://youtu.be/-hC1a_ZTuJ0 [4:23]

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

Spirit Song (a.k.a., Oh, Let the Son of God Enfold You)

(as found in the ELCA worship books *Worship & Praise* # 130 and *This Far by Faith* # 105)

*When we worship indoors please meditate on the text or sing it silently in your head,
or if you would like to sing softly, PLEASE wear a mask.
While you may feel safe singing, not everyone feels safe having you sing.
They may not tell you that – they may just stop coming to worship.
When we are outdoors we can sing (softly, please, unless you are masked!)
As Christians we are to put our love for God and others before our own desires,
So please, exercise patience, understanding, and love for your neighbor. Thank you.*

Verse 1

**Oh, let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love,
let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.**

**Oh, let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove
will descend upon your life and make you whole.**

Chorus

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

Verse 2

**Oh, come and sing this song with gladness as your hearts are filled with joy,
lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.**

**Oh, give him all your tears and sadness, give him all your years of pain,
and you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.**

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

CCLI Song # 27824

*Text: based on Isaiah 40.11, Luke 10.3, John 7.38, Acts 2, Ephesians 3.17 by John Wimber (1934-1997);
Meter 9 7 11 D and refrain*

Music: SPIRIT SONG by John Wimber (1934-1997)

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Performance by St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Lexington, SC, 10/29/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWMkVuVosQs> [2:28]

The song encourages us to have a close, trusting relationship with Jesus;

if we "let him have the things" that have taken hold of us, his Spirit will descend on us and make us whole.

Performed by Bailey Slice Parker, Jason Antley, and Jack Bernard

*We give many many thanks to Jack Bernard, a high school member of our congregation,
for accompanying us on piano.*

He has talent and professionalism beyond his 15 years, and we are so proud of him!

Word

READINGS

John 6:1-21

You may stand for the reading of the Gospel if you so desire.

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

Ephesians 3:1-21

You may be seated.

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. ¹³I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen

SERMON

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

You may stand for the Prayers if you so desire.

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit,
we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

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

You call your church to be the body of Christ.

Awaken all the baptized to the gifts you provide for carrying out the work of ministry.

Where the church is divided, knit us together and restore the unity of the faith.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for New Direction Ministries,
Christ Presbyterian Church Fairfield, and Christ Home of Unity, Restoration, Charity and Hope,
and for Salem members & families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:

Josephine Anderson, and Janice Lansing.

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

You command the clouds above and cause the wind to blow in the heavens.

Watch over deserts and wilderness places.

Regenerate rainforests, defend species at risk of extinction,
and strengthen the work of conservation organizations.

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

You summon leaders to respond to the needs of your people.

Instill those who govern with patience when confronted with grievances

and perseverance in seeking what promotes the well-being of the community.

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

You draw near to those who cry out for help.

Feed those who are hungry, reassure those who are despairing,
and accompany those who are imprisoned.

Rain down the true bread from heaven that gives life to the world.

Hear the cries of those who call to you for healing, especially

Sue, Justin, Barbara, Bud, Dolores, Eron, Grace, Hazel, Steve and all we name in our hearts.

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

You receive all who come seeking a sign of grace.

Make this congregation a place of hospitality for those accustomed to rejection.

To those who have felt excluded here or elsewhere,

prepare us to welcome them in the name of Christ.

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

You provide food that endures for eternal life.

Sustain us each day with the bread of life

until we are gathered with all the saints and feast together at your heavenly banquet.

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 lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Thanksgiving

LORD'S PRAYER *You may stand for the Lord's Prayer if you so desire.*

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 *You may stand for the Offering Prayer if you so desire.*

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 *Please be seated.*

In response to God's grace,
it is our joy to return to God our tithes and offerings.
We are grateful for your generosity,
which not only is an exercise of and witness to your faith,
but which funds our ministry together here at Salem.

If you are worshipping with us,
we encourage you to give to your home congregation first,
but invite you to contribute to our ministry also
so that we can continue to take our worship online
as a witness to the power and love of the amazing God we serve.



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

Change My Heart, Oh God

*(as found in the ELCA worship books
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 801 and Worship & Praise # 28;
also found in Group Praise & Worship Songbook)*

*When we worship indoors please meditate on the text or sing it silently in your head,
or if you would like to sing softly, PLEASE wear a mask.
While you may feel safe singing, not everyone feels safe having you sing.
They may not tell you that – they may just stop coming to worship.
When we are outdoors we can sing (softly, please, unless you are masked!)
As Christians we are to put our love for God and others before our own desires,
So please, exercise patience, understanding, and love for your neighbor. Thank you.*

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God; may I be like you.**

**You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.**

(Repeat as desired.)

CCLI Song # 1565

*Text: based on Psalm 51:10, Isaiah 64:8, Jeremiah 18:5-6, and Romans 9:21,
by Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953; Meter P M*

Music: CHANGE MY HEART by Eddie Espinosa

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Performance by Church of Christ the Saviour, 06/13/21 –

[If you'd like to donate, please do so by clicking this link:

[https://app.easytithes.com/App/Giving/...](https://app.easytithes.com/App/Giving/)

<https://ccslive.org/> #ChurchofChristtheSavior #CCSWorship] –

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQrs1qsGijY> [3:06]

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANKS, and BLESSING

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Meal & Dismissal

CREED

You may stand for the Creed if you so desire.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

COMMUNION

Please be seated.

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 during worship
or hold on to your kit until you get home.
If you take the elements inside the church,
open the kit over the pew to prevent spilling on the carpet.
After the service, please dispose of your own kit
either in a waste receptacle at church or at home.*

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

SENDING SONG

We Are Called

*(as found in the ELCA worship books
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 720 and Worship & Praise # 147)*

*When we worship indoors please meditate on the text or sing it silently in your head,
or if you would like to sing softly, PLEASE wear a mask.
While you may feel safe singing, not everyone feels safe having you sing.
They may not tell you that – they may just stop coming to worship.
When we are outdoors we can sing (softly, please, unless you are masked!)
As Christians we are to put our love for God and others before our own desires,
So please, exercise patience, understanding, and love for your neighbor. Thank you.*

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and blindness will be no more.

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love.

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Text: David Haas, b. 1957; Meter irregular

Music: WE ARE CALLED; David Haas, b. 1957

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Performance by Saint Kateri's Music Ministry's Virtual Choir, 05/02/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eancn5COZ8k> [3:31]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.

And may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, so you may be rooted & grounded in love

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

We Are Called [see above for text & copyright details]

Arrangement: Garrett Taylor

Performance by The St. Paul In Spirit Young Adult Choir & Ensemble,

under the musical direction of Joey Chancey & produced at the Paulist House of Mission & Studies, 05/25/20,

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsQ_kANdM6U [3:30]

Announcements

Pastor Marjo will be at a continuing education event Thursday and Friday this week. In case of pastoral emergency you may call Pastor Chris Files at 203-767-4189.

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 healthier those around us will be. 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 all at Salem as safe as possible!

During communion, you may take your communion elements during worship or hold on to your kit until you get home. If you take the elements inside the church, open the kit over the pew to prevent spilling on the carpet. After the service, please dispose of your own kit either in a waste receptacle at church or at home.

Sunday Worship Services – We are now doing in-person worship with live-streaming to Facebook. Although we will be indoors this Sunday due to the semi-annual meeting, *weather permitting, we will be worshipping outdoors as much as possible this summer, so please bring a lawn chair if you can, or you are welcome to sit at the picnic tables.*

It's not too late to make your steps count! If you walk, or run, or bike, **please join Calumet's Walk the Walk 2021. Here's how:**

1. "Walk the Walk 2021" began on July 1 - BUT....YOU CAN STILL JOIN AND REPORT THE MILES YOU ALREADY DID! It ends on August 31. Each registrant is \$25 (which is actually a donation from you to Calumet!).

2. To register go to: <https://www.calumet.org/giving/walkthewalk> When you register sign up for "TEAM God at the Center". Everyone gets an official Walk the Walk 2021 T Shirt. Dogs get an official Walk the Walk 2021 bandana!

3. Pastor Marjo is your Team Captain. Four times during the 62-Day walk, she will gather mileage from every TEAM member and report the total miles to Calumet. As you as you register email her your miles from July 1-15 at marjoanderson@aol.com.

4. As of July 16th, over 50,000 miles have been walked. All together, Calumet hopes to reach 200,000 miles in the 62-Day period - July & August! If they reach 200,000 miles walked, another hunk of dollars (amount not yet known) will come to Calumet by a group of Angel Donors. During early August, each participant will have the chance - if they wish - to invite friends & family to support them with one-time gifts to Calumet in support of their "Walk the Walk 2021". If everything works perfectly, Calumet will raise at least \$106,250 from "Walk the Walk 2021." How cool is that!

Wednesday at 12:00 noon we meet on zoom for prayer. You can pray out loud if you want, or you can simply ask others to pray for you or for the concerns on your mind or heart.

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

Meeting ID: 828 8277 7326 Passcode: 688740

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

The link is also on the calendar on our website at Salembridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

Wednesday at 6:30 we meet on zoom to learn how God's Word deepens our life of faith.

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

The link is also on the calendar on our website at Salembridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

Salem and Friends Breakfast & Faith Discussion, sponsored by the Salem Men, is usually held on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:00 am, but instead will be **THIS SATURDAY** due to vacation schedules. Please join us...and invite a friend!

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. Each session is from 7:30-9:00 pm. **The remaining dates are: 8/12 & 26. 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. 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

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.

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.

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport Names The Reverend A. Iona Smith Nze as its Next President & CEO

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport is pleased to announce that after a nation-wide search, its Board of Directors has selected the Reverend A. Iona Smith Nze (of Bridgeport!) to serve as its the next President & CEO following the upcoming retirement of its current President & CEO, the Reverend Cass Shaw on June 30, 2021.

The Rev. Smith Nze has been the Senior Pastor of Bethel AME Church in Bridgeport since 2017 and will continue to perform certain pastoral duties at Bethel AME Church through spring of 2022. She has extensive leadership experience in public, non-profit and religious settings. Prior to her first pastoral assignment in 2007, the Rev. Nze managed a variety of outreach programs addressing crisis prevention, food insecurity and immigrant support. Throughout her sacred and secular careers, she has been a visionary thinker, gaining valuable experience in both managing budgets and raising funds. Having served on the Board of Directors of the Council for the past two years, she has a keen understanding of the Council's programs and the strategic partnerships and alliances that provide critical support. She is a gifted orator who holds the distinction in the First Episcopal District for preaching Annual Sermons in three Annual Conferences in under five years. She will be an exceptional spokesperson for the Council throughout the greater Bridgeport community where she is already an advocate through Congregations for a New Connecticut (CONNECT), the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport (IMA) – the predominantly black organization of congregations, of which Pastor Marjo is a part, that predates our predominantly white Council of Churches) – and FaithActs for Education.



With experience as pastor of a member congregation of the Council, The Rev. Smith Nze is deeply committed to strengthening ties with current members and connecting with new congregations. “The Board of Directors is confident that the Council will continue to thrive under the spirited leadership and direction of the Reverend Smith Nze, and is grateful to the Reverend Shaw for her outstanding service to the community over the past eight years,” said Board Chair Doug Varga.

The Council formally introduced the Rev. Smith Nze at its Annual Meeting held virtually on Thursday, June 17th.

New Directors elected are: Beswick Channer, Assistant Principal, Bassick High School; Father Reggie Norman, Priest, Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic Church; the Rev. Rhonda Taylor, Pastor, Golden Hill United Methodist Church, Bridgeport; and Carolyn Vermont, Community Liaison for Mayor of Bridgeport

Directors nominated for new term or office are: Aileen Brill, Esq., Christ and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Westport; the Rev. Curtis Farr, Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fairfield; **and our own Bonnie McWain, of Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport**