



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*1st Sunday in
Advent*

*November 28,
2021
9:30 AM*



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor

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www.facebook.com/salembridgeport

YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

Welcome!

Council has decided to move worship back indoors as the weather is growing cooler. It was also decided that if you are fully vaccinated, a mask is recommended but not mandatory inside. If you are immune-compromised and fully vaccinated, a mask is strongly recommended inside. If you are not fully vaccinated, a mask must be worn inside. **Although Council voted to not require masks, Pastor Marjo asks that you please wear one.** **Despite the fact that she was vaccinated just 6 months ago, is younger than most of the congregation, in excellent health, and is pretty cautious about wearing her mask, she ended up with a breakthrough infection and was sick for 12 days. Although the vaccine kept her from being seriously ill, she could have easily transmitted the virus to someone who was not vaccinated and that person could have ended up being hospitalized or even dying. Thank God that did not happen. Soft singing of hymns will be permitted BUT PLEASE SING ONLY IF YOU ARE WEARING A MASK.** While we know not everyone will be happy with this decision, please understand that whether it's about indoors vs. outdoors, masks vs. no masks, singing vs. no singing, there is simply no way we can please everyone. As Christians, however, it is our call to put aside our own preferences and focus not on our own desires, but on what God asks of us – which is to provide a place where even the most vulnerable in our midst feel safe. We have too many attendees with comorbidities and too many who are in contact with unvaccinated grandchildren to be less than cautious. Thank you for your understanding and your support.

Give thanks with a grateful heart – This past year has been full of challenges for each of us personally and for Salem as a congregation. But God has been with us through all of it. Over the next several weeks, let's reflect on the things for which we are thankful. In your bulletin is a slip of paper; please fill that out and deposit it in the offering box. We will collect these thoughts, post them on a board, and include them in the next week's prayers. (Those who are not worshipping in person can participate by emailing your thankful thoughts to salemsec123@sbcglobal.net so we can include them.)

There will be a special congregational meeting on Sunday, December 12, 2021, immediately following the 9:30 service. Accommodations will be made for ZOOM attendance. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and vote on the sale of the church building and property. Details to follow.

WELCOME

Bishop Jim Hazelwood

OPENING LITANY

Kim Bergstrand, Associate to the Bishop

God of the Ages,

The days turn over, one to another, Sometimes in joy, sometimes in sorrow. Sometimes passing more quickly than we desire, Sometimes lasting longer than we can stand.

In it all,

You walk beside us.

God of Sorrow,

We carry heavy burdens,

We live in divided communities,

We mourn the loss of so much, Our hearts break with weariness.

In it all,

You walk beside us.

God of Abundance,

We woke this morning to draw breath in a new day, You have gifted us and called us to serve. Sometimes we are aware of the bounty, Sometimes it feels hidden from us.

In it all,

You walk beside us.

God of Love and Grace,

From near and far, from sorrow and joy, from hope and despair, We gather now knowing that in this time now, **You walk beside us. Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

All My Hope on God is Founded

ELW #757

Raphaela Mueller, Zion Lutheran Church, Plymouth, MA

- 1 All my hope on God is founded
who will all my trust renew,
who through change and chance will guide me,
only good and only true.
God unknown, God alone,
call my heart to be thine own.

- 2 Mortal pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray our trust;
what with care and toil we fashion,
tow'r and temple, fall to dust.
But thy pow'r, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tow'r.

3 Great thy goodness, e'er enduring;
deep thy wisdom, passing thought;
splendor, light, and life attend thee,
beauty springing out of naught.
Evermore from thy store
newborn worlds rise and adore.

4 Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of God's own Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.

Greeting and Prayer of the Day Pastor Joel Bergeland, Zion Lutheran, Pittsfield, MA
Prayer of the Day from Vanderbilt Lectionary Resources

Word

Joel 2:21-27

Pastor Sara Anderson, Associate to the Bishop

Do not fear, O soil;
be glad and rejoice,
for the LORD has done great things!
Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit,
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.
O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the LORD your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
The threshing floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.
You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

²⁷You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126, adapted

Pastor Steven Wilco, Associate to the Bishop

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

Acclamation: Palestinian Hallelujah

Firmly

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: 'Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu.' The first staff has a repeat sign at the end. The second staff begins with a measure rest of 7 and contains the lyrics: 'Hal - le lu - jah, hal - le - lu. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu.' The third staff contains the lyrics: 'Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu.' The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllable placement.

Matthew 6:25-33

Pastor Gracious Moyo, Concordia Lutheran, Worcester, MA

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' or it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Pastor Samantha Perrett, Cross of Christ Lutheran, Waterbury, CT

Sermon

Bishop James Hazelwood

Song

Ten Thousand Reasons

International Choir by Sue Bastian, Zion Lutheran & The Church of the Reconciliation
Episcopal, Oxford, MA All Creation Sings Hymn 1097

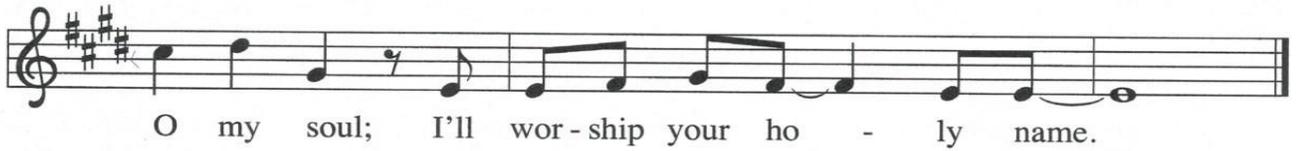
Refrain



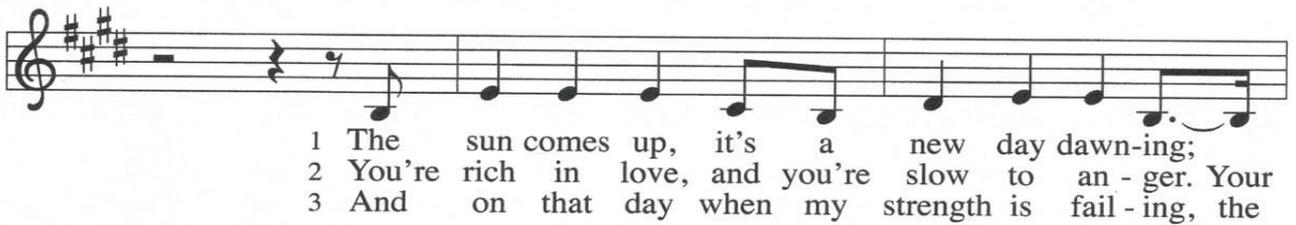
Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;



wor-ship his ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore,



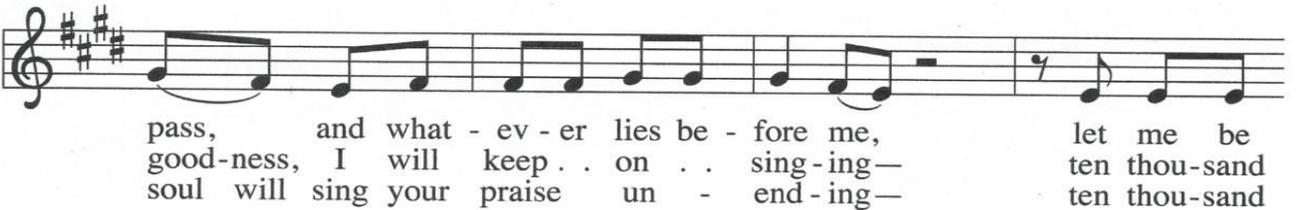
O my soul; I'll wor-ship your ho - ly name.



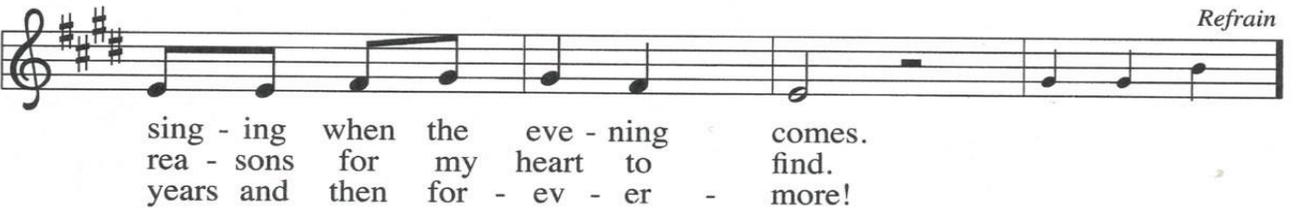
1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn-ing;
2 You're rich in love, and you're slow to an - ger. Your
3 And on that day when my strength is fail - ing, the



. . . it's time to sing your song a - gain. What - ev - er may
name . . is . . . great, and your heart is kind. For all . . your
end . . draws near, and my time has come; . . . still, my



pass, and what - ev - er lies be - fore me, let me be
good-ness, I will keep . . on . . sing-ing— ten thou-sand
soul will sing your praise un - end-ing— ten thou-sand



Refrain

sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.
rea - sons for my heart to find.
years and then for - ev - er - more!

Text: Matt Redman, b. 1974, and Jonas Myrin, b. 1982

Music: Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin

Text and music © 2011 Thankyou Music / Atlas Mountain Songs / worshiptogether.com Songs / sixsteps Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com

TEN THOUSAND REASONS

Irregular

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Pastor Steven Wilco, Associate to the Bishop & Pastor Hayley Bang, St. Paul Bethany Lutheran, Warwick, RI

Thanksgivings conclude:

We pray,

Thanks be to God!

Intercessions conclude:

We pray,

Hear us, O God!

Sharing the Peace

Pastor Bill Barter, Associate to the Bishop

Thanksgiving

Offering

Pastor Bill Barter, Associate to the Bishop

We encourage you to pause and share your financial gifts with your local congregation whether going online or writing out a check. We encourage you to consider as you are able a gift of individual mission support to support the work the New England Synod by going to nelutherans.org/donate or mail a check to the New England Synod at PO Box 13, Worcester, MA 01614.

Offering of Gratitude for Essential and Frontline Workers

Produced by Pastor Joshua Sullivan, Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran, Hamden, CT Original music by Caroline Henry

Thanksgiving for the Word

Pastor Jessica Chicka, University Chaplain, Boston University

Holy God, our Sovereign, our Wisdom, our Judge, as nature in the north cycles towards dormancy and death, we thank you for the sustenance of your Word.

For your Word of life, we give thanks.

For your Word of life, we give thanks.

We praise you for speaking through Christ your Word, in whom is your authority, your truth, and the justice of your ways. When we are threatened by dangers and surrounded by evil, you speak to us of life that comes through Christ's death.

For your Word of promise, we praise you.

For your Word of promise, we praise you.

Grant us the endurance of the Spirit of your Son. Upheld by the voice of your Word, may we persevere with courage, energy, and joy, serving our neighbors faithfully until the end of our days.

For your Word of power, we plead.
For your Word of power, we plead.

Abide with us in your Word, O God, that we may speak your blessing to others, today and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Pastor Abby Johnson, St. James Lutheran, Southbury, CT

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sending

Blessing

Mark Winzler, Associate to the Bishop

Blessing from Liturgies from Below, edited by Claudio Carvalhaes

May the One who
Freed the people from slavery,
Led them dry-shod through the sea,
Suffered Empire's torture and execution and
Defeated the powers – even the power of death!

Free you,
Lead you,
Suffer with you,
And raise you;

That you may use:
Your weakness to be a blessing,
Your hope to be a force of change,
And your audacious determination to usher in a new age,

And the blessing of Almighty God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
Be with you,
And all whom you love, Now
and always, **Amen.**

Song Sent Forth by God's Blessing
Pastor Martha Sipe, Christ the King Epiphany Lutheran/Episcopal, Wilbraham, MA



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



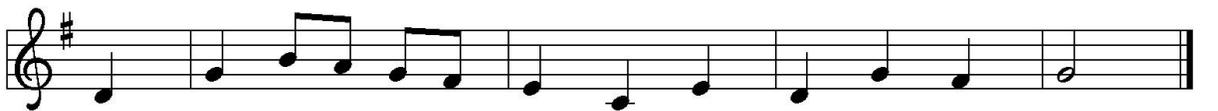
The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Go in peace! Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Announcements

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.

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

Wednesday evenings we gather on zoom from 6:30-7:15 for Bible study, followed by a brief service of Holy Communion. The upcoming schedule is as follows:

December 1 & 8 – we'll spend one week reviewing each of the gospels.

December 15 – we'll spend a week looking at the Christmas story in the gospels.

(No class 12/22 & 29 – Christmas break)

January – we'll begin our study of the book of Acts, a time when the church and the world were in some ways quite similar to the church and the world today.

Link will be on the calendar on our website at Salembridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

The next Salem and Friends Breakfast & Faith Discussion, sponsored by the Salem Men but open to ALL, will be held Saturday **December 11th** at 8:00 am. Please join us...and invite a friend! Volunteers to help prepare breakfast welcome to come at 7:00 am. Thx!

Salem's Annual Seafarers Collection. Our annual collection will begin starting on Nov. 1 and run until Dec. 5. We are collecting Woolen Caps, Sweatshirts (L-XL), Thermal or White Socks, T-Shirts (L), Chocolate, Canned Nuts, and Hard Candy. Please place your contribution in the marked box in the Narthex. Also, Cash contributions can be sent to **Ruth Setaro, 33 Valley Brook Lane, North Haven, CT 06473** with a note specifying that it is for the Seafarers and include your name and address. Pastor Ruth Setaro will send you a thank you card for your records.

UniteCT - Emergency Rental Assistance for Connecticut's Economy - The UniteCT Program is administered by the Department of Housing on behalf of the US Treasury. UniteCT provides up to \$15,000 rental and electricity payment assistance on behalf of Connecticut households financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. UniteCT is stabilizing CT's rental housing market by financially supporting those households up to 80% of HUD's Area Median Income (AMI) - Select [here](#) for an interactive AMI map. Tenants and landlords use the UniteCT Rent Relief software to submit their own sections of the application creating a unique case file for decision making evaluation. UniteCT will provide continued rental and electric utility assistance to eligible households until all funding has been committed. There is no current end date of the program. *For more info, go to: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOH/DOH/Programs/UniteCT> You must first register to get an email*

invitation to start your application. Paper applications will not be accepted. Do you qualify for UniteCT funding? If you need to share your eligibility status with a new landlord or court, check your eligibility by taking this survey at <https://portal.ct.gov/DOH/DOH/Programs/UniteCT---Survey> and print the results for your records.

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. She would be MORE THAN HAPPY to hear from you!**

If you would like to call, or send a card or note to one of our shut-ins, please contact our Parish Nurse, Carol Lansing. She 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 her know.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Andrew, Apostle

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552

Friday, December 3, 2021

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749

Saturday, December 4, 2021

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.