



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Participant

*4th Sunday
in Advent*

*December 19,
2021
9:30 AM*



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor

marjoanderson@aol.com

203-982-3441 (cell)

Karl Kraft, Office Manager

salemsec123@sbcglobal.net

Jennifer Reyes and Pablo Cruz, Sextons

jen92979@optimum.net

203-455-7583

3160 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Telephone: 203-336-3300;

www.salembridgeport.org

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.

Flowers today are given by Cindy Roberts in honor of Jon Albers' birthday and Joseph Roberts' birthday.

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.

Our Wednesday evening Bible Study will resume on January 5th at 6:30, as we begin our study of the book of Acts and the early Church. It was written for a time like our own in that the Church was not supported by the general culture of the day, and yet it managed to grow in both numbers and in power. It could very well be that the secret to the future of the Church lies in this ancient story! Please join us on zoom for a fascinating discussion, followed by a brief service of Holy Communion at 7:15. The link is on the calendar on our website at SalemBridgerpot.org under the Resources Tab.

Our traditional Christmas Eve worship will be at 5:00 in –person and will also be live-streamed to FaceBook.

COOKIES, CAROLS, COMEDY AND KWANZAA!! That's our next Sunday Night Alive inter-church event! So come, join us in the Salem Lounge on Sunday, December 26th, at 4:30. And bring a friend!

Soprano Air

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd;
and He shall gather the lambs with His arm,
and carry them in His bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Come unto Him, all ye that labor, that are heavy laden, and He shall give you rest.
Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him;
for he is meek and lowly of heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

*Text from Isaiah 40:11 and Matthew 11:28–29
This song is in the Public Domain.*

*Performance # 1 by Sarah Kitts, soprano, and Hannah Glass, alto
Trinity Episcopal Church Choir, Upperville, 04/26/21
Give to support our ministry: <https://trinityupperville.org/give>
Sign Up for Emails: <https://trinityupperville.org/email-list>
Sundays at Home: <https://trinityupperville.org/sundays>*

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_wCXJxyPlw [5:55]

*Performance # 2 by Fairfield County Children's Choir, Combined Choirs, 12/09/07
13th Annual Winter Concert, Klein Memorial Auditorium, Bridgeport, CT.
Jon Noyes Music Director & Founder, Conducting.*

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaHDtdF_-3o [5:59]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

OPENING SONG

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 257)

As long as you are masked, you may sing softly.

You may stand if you so desire.

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

*Text: based on Exodus 9:9-13, 20:1-21, Isaiah 7:10-14, 11:1, 59:20, 60:1-3,
Jeremiah 23:1-6, 33:14-16, Luke 1:78-79, Revelation 3:7, 22:16,*

Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite; Meter 8 8 8 8 8 8

Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite

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ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

THE CANDLES OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE:
HOPE – PEACE – LOVE – JOY – CHRIST



THE ADVENT WREATH

The wreath is of course a circle - reminding us of the perfection and eternity of God.

Many wreaths are decorated with evergreen branches.

The evergreen, like the circle, is a symbol of eternity - but also of life.

Holly is sometimes used instead of - or with - the evergreen.

The sharp points of the leaves of the Holly remind us of Christ's crown of thorns.

The red berries remind us of his blood.

*There is a story that holly berries were white until Christ's blood fell on them –
causing them to be red ever since.*

Christ is, of course, the light of the world – hence the candles.

Our candle lighting ceremony today copyright is by the Rev. Richard J. Fairchild 2003

The following contains a litany for each Sunday of Advent and for Christmas Eve.

"A Candle Is Burning" is a new song by Sandra Dean (1986)

and is found in VOICES UNITED, the new hymn book of the United Church of Canada.

The tune is "Away in A Manger".

If you use this song in worship, please acknowledge authorship and date.

The words are reproduced here with permission.

Sandra lives in Ottawa, Canada and is Director of Music at Southminster United Church.

She is delighted to share the song with you.

YEAR C – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – LOVE

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

Leader 1:

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent.

Last Sunday we lit the third candle in our Advent Wreath, the Candle of Joy.

We light it and the Candles of Hope and Peace again

as we remember that Christ, who was born in Bethlehem,

will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us, and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

(Light the 1st, 2nd & 3rd candles.)



Leader 2:

The fourth candle of Advent is the Candle of Love

God's love is a perfect love. It holds nothing back.

God, in love, gives us everything we need to live a life of hope and peace.

Leader 1:

The bible says that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Jesus shows us God's perfect love. This is what love is like:

Love is patient; love is kind and envies no one.

Love is never boastful or conceited, rude or selfish.

Love is not quick to take offense; it keeps no records of wrongs,

it does not gloat over other people's troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good, and the true.

There is nothing that love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, to its hope, to its endurance.

Love never ends.

Leader 2:

We light the Candle of Love to remind us that Jesus brings us God's love

and shows us how to love others.

(Light the 4th candle.)



Leader 2:

Love is like a light shining in a dark place.

As we look at this candle we celebrate the love we find in Jesus Christ.

Leader 1:

Let us pray. *(a brief silence)* Thank you God for the love you give us.

We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true,

and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us.

Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word,

and to do your will by sharing your love with each other.

We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. **Amen**

ADVENT SONG

“A Candle Is Burning”

Sandra Dean (1986)

(Tune: “Away in a Manger” by James Murray, 1887)

A candle is burning, a candle of love, a candle to point us to heaven above,

A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth, for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

Word

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Psalm 80:1-7

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said,

(song)

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you.

You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.

Great and mighty are you, O Holy One. Strong is your kindness evermore.

How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud in heart.

You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and uplifted the humble of heart.

You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part.

Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One. Strong is your justice, strong your love, as you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you.

You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.

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SERMON

Please be seated.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *You may stand if you so desire.*

Let us affirm our faith together.

**We believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,
of Sarah, Rebekkah and Rachel,
We believe in the God of Miriam and Ruth, of Deborah and Esther.
of Moses and David, of Elijah and Isaiah.**

**We believe in Jesus, the incarnate God,
who visited us at Bethlehem, who lived with us in Galilee, who died for us at Calvary,
and who exploded the power of death on Easter morning.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who is the Spirit of God among us,
and is the Spirit of Christ within us.**

PURPOSE STATEMENT

As members and friends of Salem Church, let us remind ourselves who we are:

**We are a community of Christian disciples called by the Holy Spirit.
In response to God's transforming love, we share our joy through praise and service.**

May it be so!

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting,
let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

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

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need.
Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service,
bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace.
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Lutheran World Relief,
Lutheran Disaster Response & the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's World Hunger Appeal,
and for Salem members and families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Nancy Headford, Joseph Roberts, Katherine Pytleski, and Jim McWain.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made.
Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps.
Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly.
Strengthen those who seek justice.
Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists,
and all who call our attention to imbalances of power.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy.
Show your loving-kindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant.
Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results,
are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need,
especially Barbara, Dolores, Eron, Frank, Grace, Steve, Sue, and all we name in our hearts.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things.
Bless the ministries of this community that feed the poor and work to eliminate poverty.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you.
We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness.
Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You are invited to offer your own prayer petition at this time, either silently or aloud.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect.
Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen**

Thanksgiving

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

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 a member of another congregation,
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.



SONG

Canticle of the Turning

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Worship & Praise # 26 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 723)*

As long as you are masked, you may sing softly.

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

*Text: based on the Magnificat in Luke 1:46-55, and also Revelation 21:4,
by Rory Cooney, b. 1952; Meter Irregular*

Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional

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Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU and BLESSING

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

SENDING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(as found in the ELCA worship book *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* # 257)

As long as you are masked, you may sing softly.

You may stand if you so desire.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

*Text: based on Exodus 9:9-13, 20:1-21, Isaiah 7:10-14, 11:1, 59:20, 60:1-3,
Jeremiah 23:1-6, 33:14-16, Luke 1:78-79, Revelation 3:7, 22:16,
Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite; Meter 8 8 8 8 8 8*

Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
trusting that God will fulfill every promise, and proclaiming that good news to all the world!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

My Soul Sings (A Modern Day Magnificat)

by Sarah Johnson, recorded 12/18/19

"I wrote 'My Soul Sings' from Mary's perspective as she celebrates becoming Jesus' mother (also closely following Scripture's account in Luke 1:35-38, 46-49).

Just like Mary, I pray that your 'soul sings'

as you reflect on God's greatest gift, Jesus Christ."

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sarahvjohnson/>

Email: sarahjohnsonmusicofficial@gmail.com

Available on Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/album/3kXCKA...>

iTunes: <http://itunes.apple.com/album/id14894...>

Apple Music: <http://itunes.apple.com/album/id/1489...>

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ky-egt2z46Q> [4:00]

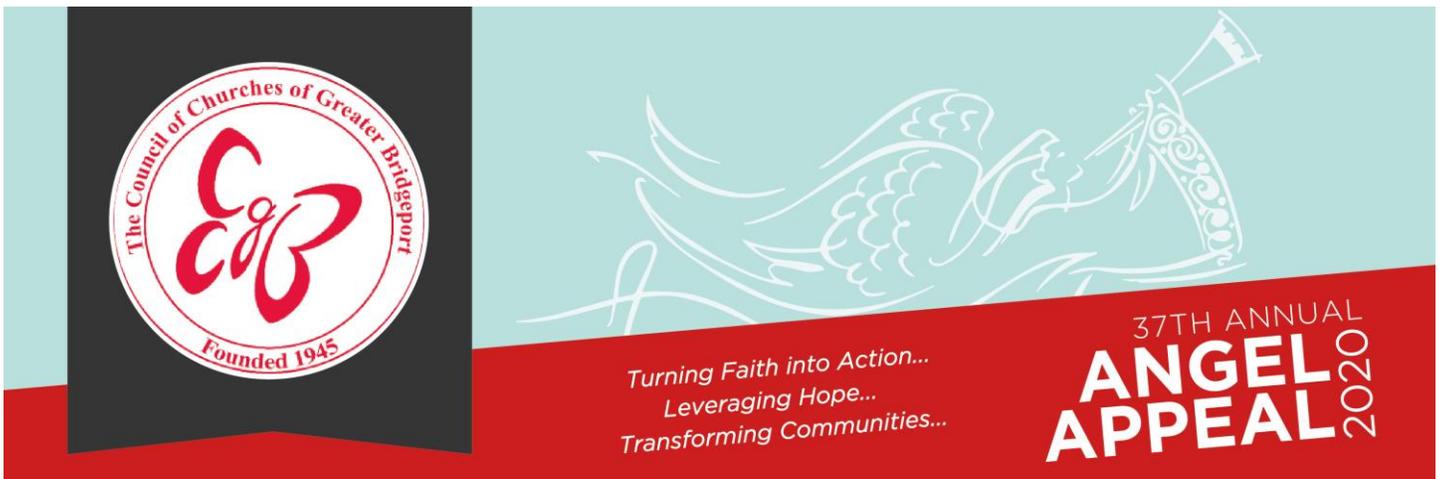
Announcements

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

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart! We have an amazing God who provides for us and our Congregation in so many ways. Just as a reminder, we are still collecting pledges for 2022. If you need a pledge card, extras are available next to the offering box at the entrance to the sanctuary. Or you can simply email your pledge to salemsec123@sbcglobal.net. Remember God is good so "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart".

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.



We invite you to participate in our annual ANGEL APPEAL by making a gift to The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport in honor or in memory of one or more of the "ANGELS" in your life who has inspired, encouraged, or partnered with you in making a difference in our community. The challenges faced by our poorest neighbors are significant, but hope abounds! We at The Council are acutely aware of the unmet needs throughout Greater Bridgeport, and with your help are making a difference. You may donate by going to: <https://ccgb.salsalabs.org/angelappeal/index.html>, or by mailing a check to The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, 1718 Capitol Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604. Or see Sandra Brown, Tom Larson, or Bonnie McWain for more info.

**In our continuing quest to fight back against the power and fear of racism,
especially in those who say they are followers of Christ,
we present these opportunities of performance and dialogue
at Fairfield University's Regina A. Quick Center:**

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 7pm (free, registration required)

Fairfield University's Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation

"The Wrong Side of the World Resolution': King's Internationalism & Lessons for Today"

by Robin D. G. Kelley, PhD, (2022 Martin Luther King, Jr. Speaker)

Thursday, February 3, 2022 – 7pm (\$30, \$15 Member)

Global Theatre: Performance Series curated by Cheryl Weisenfeld

"Shared Sentences"

by Houses on the Moon Theater Company"

A post-show discussion will follow the performance.

Saturday, February 12, 2022 – 1pm and 6pm (\$25-\$35)

The Metropolitan Opera: HD Live

"Fire Shut Up in My Bones"

by Terence Blanchard

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 – 7:30pm (\$30, \$15 Member)

Open VISIONS Forum and The Common Ground Series presented by the College of Arts & Sciences

"Race, Liberty & Justice: Diverging Perspectives with Eyes on the Prize"

by Michael Eric Dyson, PhD & John H. McWhorter, PhD

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 – 7:30pm (\$30, \$15 Member)

Open VISIONS Forum and The Common Ground Series presented by the College of Arts & Sciences

The Annual Student Forum: **"Democracy: Choices and Challenges"**

by David Brooks

Thursday, April 28, 2022 8pm (\$30, \$15 Member)

Open VISIONS Forum

"Caste: Examining Race, Culture, & Consequences"

by Isabel Wilkerson

*We will have a discussion of this presentation and of the book in general
on Sunday May 1st at 4:00 on zoom:*

Tickets and additional information is available at: <http://www.quickcenter.com>

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.*

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Katharina von Bora Luther,
renewer of the church,
died 1552
Monday, December 20, 2021**

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age 24 she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. She married Luther and they had 6 children.