



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*The Nativity of
Our Lord*

Christmas Eve

*December 24,
2021
5:00 PM*



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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 for the vaccinated 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.

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!**

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.

Gathering

PRELUDE

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME!

You may stand if you so desire.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL O Come, All Ye Faithful ELW # 283, vss. 1 & 3

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him born the king of angels!

O come, let us adore him! O come, let us adore him!

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels! Sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest!

O come, let us adore him! O come, let us adore him!

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

GREETING

Tonight we celebrate the nativity of our Lord!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all! **And also with you!**

CAROL OF PRAISE It Came upon the Midnight Clear ELW # 275, vss. 1 & 4

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *(a brief silence)*

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.

Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence

and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory;

through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Please be seated.

**YEAR C –
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING
A SERMONS & SERMON - LECTIONARY RESOURCES SUB-PAGE**
<http://spirit-net.ca/sermons/c-advn-candles.php>

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



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.

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.

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**YEAR C – CHRISTMAS EVE – CHRIST
ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING**

Leader 1: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: **Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness - on them a light has shined.**

Leader 2: You, O Lord, have multiplied the nation.
You have increased its joy.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

People: **His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Leader 1: He is also called Emmanuel, for in him God is with us.

Leader 2: God is with all of humanity of course – with every child God has created –
but Jesus came so that those who open themselves in trust and obedience
could receive the Spirit of God into their hearts in a new and powerful way.
That experience can completely transform our lives from the inside out –
growing within us a hope that never disappoints,
a peace that passes understanding,
a love that sees in every person the face of Jesus,
and a joy that springs up like a never-ending fountain.

Leader 1: As we light the candles of hope, peace, love, and joy,
let us invite Christ to be born in our hearts today.



(Light the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & Christ candles.)

ADVENT SONG

“A Candle Is Burning”

Sandra Dean (1986)

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

**We honor Messiah with Christ candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O Come all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.**

Leader 2: Let us pray. *(a brief silence)*
Eternal God,

People: **this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light.
May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds.
May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love
represented by the birth in Bethlehem this night
fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do.
May we share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ,
even as he humbled himself to share our humanity. Amen**

Word

READING - Isaiah 9:2, 6 –7

²The people walking in darkness are seeing a brilliant light –
upon those who dwell in a land of deep shadows light is shining!...

⁶For a child is born to us, an heir is given us,
upon whose shoulders authority will rest.

This One shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Creator, Prince of Peace.

⁷This dominion and this peace will grow continually
under David's throne and reign

sustained with equity and justice from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of YHWH, the One who commands angel-armies, will accomplish it!"

PSALM CAROL

From Heaven Above

ELW # 268, vss. 1-2, 14

**"From heav'n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev'ry home!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing:**

**To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this newborn child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.**

**Glory to God in highest heav'n, who unto us the Son has giv'n."
With angels sing in pious mirth a glad new year to all the earth!**

READING - Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ The grace of God has appeared, offering salvation to all, ¹² It trains us to reject godless ways and worldly desires, and to live with honesty, integrity, and self-control, working towards justice in this age ¹³ as we await our blessed hope – the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ It was Christ who went willingly to the cross for us, to show us the way to redemption and righteousness in order that we might be live as Christ's own, eager to do what is good and right and just.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

You may stand if you so desire.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION CAROL Angels We Have Heard on High ELW # 289, vs. 1

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

GOSPEL - Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger". And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Gospel of our Lord!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION CAROL Angels We Have Heard on High ELW # 289, vs.3

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Please be seated

You may stand for the following if you so desire.

CAROL OF THE DAY I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

ELW # 271

**I am so glad each Christmas Eve, the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and angels sang on earth.**

**The little child in Bethlehem, he was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above to help a world in need.**

**He dwells again in heaven's realm, the Son of God today;
and still he loves his little ones and hears them when they pray.**

**I am so glad each Christmas Eve! His praises then I sing;
he opens now for ev'ry child the palace of the king.**

**And so I love each Christmas Eve, and I love Jesus too;
and that he loves me ev'ry day I know so well is true.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR CHRISTMAS

based on John 1

Let us affirm our faith together:

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
Through the Word came creation in all its fullness and life in all its abundance,
light shining in the darkness.**

**The Word became flesh and dwells among us,
the glory of the One and Only, full of grace and truth.
From the fullness of this grace we all receive countless blessings, one after another.**

**To all who receive the Word, to those who believe in Jesus Christ,
is given the power to become children of God and on them is bestowed the Holy Spirit.**

**Because Christ lives, we know that we, too, shall live,
to the glory of God the Creator, God the Redeemer, and God the Sustainer.
Amen**

PURPOSE STATEMENT

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

**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!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

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

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us!

Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come.

Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures.

Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, move us to encourage new practices.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand.

Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others,

that they nurture and sustain health, goodness, and holiness in all the world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby.

Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night,

especially Barbara, Dolores, Eron, Frank, Grace, Steve, Sue, and all we name in our hearts.

Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially painful.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents.

Bless new & expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night.

Pour out your love upon every family you have created.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us.

We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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 OF INVITATION

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.

OFFERING CAROL

What Child Is This

ELW # 296, vss. 1 & 3

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Who angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

OFFERING PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

You may stand if you so desire.

Let us pray, (*a brief silence*)

God with us:

You came as a baby to a manger.

You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.

You come again in bread and wine.

Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others
in the strength of your holy name. **Amen**

LIVESTREAM SENDING CAROL

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW #290, vss. 1 & 4

Refrain

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

Sending of Online Participants

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU and BLESSING

Please be seated

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Meal

You may stand if you so desire.

COMMUNION CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW # 279, vss. 1, 3, 4

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above the deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

COMMUNION

Please be seated.

God be with you!
Open your hearts!

And also with you!
We open them to God and one another!
It is right to give God thanks & praise!

Let us give thanks to the God of all!

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.*

COMMUNION ANTHEM

And Love Was Born

Gregg Sewell, Arr. Larry Pugh

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

You may stand if you so desire.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. *(a brief silence)*

On this night, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us.

As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people.

Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(Please do not tip lighted candle; tip unlighted ones towards lighted ones.)

CANDLE-LIGHTING CAROL Silent Night / Night of Silence ELW # 281/ W&P # 101

CHOIR SINGS:

Cold are the people, winter of life; we tremble in shadows this cold endless night.

Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, flowers that will echo the sunrise;

fire of hope is our only warmth: weary, its flame will be dying soon.

ALL SING TOGETHER:

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

CONGREGATION & CHOIR MEN SING:

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

WHILE CHOIR WOMEN SING:

Voice in the distance, call in the night;
on wind you enfold us, you speak of the light.
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly
rumors of a dawn so embracing;
breathless love awaits darkened souls:
soon will we know of the morning.

CHOIR SINGS:

Spirit among us, shine like the star; your light that guides shepherd and kings from afar
shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely, rising in the warmth of the Son's love;
star unknowing of night and day: Spirit, we wait for the loving Son.

ALL SING TOGETHER:

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

(Please extinguish candles.)

Sending of In-Person Participants

BLESSING

May Christ, who by his incarnation
has filled us with grace and truth,
give you peace this Christmas and always.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen

SENDING CAROL

Joy to the World

ELW # 267, vss. 1-2

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing,**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reign! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

SENDING

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God's people on earth!

Go in peace, knowing that Christ has been born in your heart this day!

Thanks be to God!

SENDING MUSIC

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.

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.*



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.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Sunday, December 26, 2021

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

John, Apostle and Evangelist

Monday, December 27, 2021

Son of Zebedee & brother of James, John was 1 of 12 disciples & witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

Name of Jesus

Saturday, January 1, 2022

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

**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

Pastor Marjo Anderson and Jeanette Harris

will host a discussion of this presentation and of the book in general

on Sunday May 1st at 4:00 on zoom at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89975646418?pwd=ZG5nSVVmR3NVTXc5dTAWbWtqTWdrZz09>

or go to SalemBridgeport.org/Resources/Calendar and click on the event for more information

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

CREDITS AND PERMISSIONS:

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

Prayers of Intercession

Offering Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

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Gospel

New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989,

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Advent Wreath Candle-lighting

Advent Song “A Candle Is Burning”

Text: Sandra Dean (1986)

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

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as found at this link: <http://spirit-net.ca/sermons/c-advn-candles.php>

Processional Carol “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Text: based on Luke 2:13-16, John 1:1-5, 14, attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786;

tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2; Meter Irregular

Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

Carol of Praise “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

Text: based on Genesis 11:9, Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:13-14, Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876;

Meter C M D

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

Psalms Carol “From Heaven Above”

Text: based on Luke 2:7-20, Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship,

Meter L M

Music: VOM HIMMEL HOCH, attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, Geistliche Lieder, 1539

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Music is in the Public Domain.

Gospel Acclamation Carol “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Text: based on Matthew 2:11, Luke 2:8-20, French carol;
tr. H.F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864; Meter 7 7 7 7 and refrain
Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958
Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

Carol of the Day “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

Text: based on Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 2:13-14, John 1:1-14,
Marie Wexelsen, 1832-1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881-1959; Meter C M
Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, CHRISTMAS EVE, Peder Knudsen, 1819-1863
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Music is in the Public Domain.

Offertory Carol “What Child Is This”

Text: based on Isaiah 11:6, Matthew 2:11, Luke 2:1-20, William C. Dix, 1837-1898;
Meter 8 7 8 7 6 8 6 7
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.
Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

Livestream Sending Carol “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Text: based on Isaiah 40:9-10, Isaiah 52:7-10, Luke 2:7-20, African American spiritual,
refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.; Meter 7 8 7 6 7 6 7 6
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual
Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

Communion Carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Text: based on Job 38:7, Isaiah 7:10-14, Micah 5:2, Luke 2:1-14,
Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893; Meter 8 6 8 6 7 6 8 6
Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908
Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

Candle-Lighting Carols

Silent Night

Text: based on Luke 2:7-14, Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885;
Meter Irregular
Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787-1863
Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

Night of Silence

Text: based on Matthew 2, Luke 2, Daniel Kantor; Meter Irregular
Music: NIGHT OF SILENCE, Daniel Kantor
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In-Person Sending Carol “Joy to the World”

Text: based on Genesis 3:17-19, Psalm 98, 100, Isaiah 55:12-13, Luke 2:10;
Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Meter C M and repeat
Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872
Text and Music are in the Public Domain.