



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Participant

*2nd Sunday
After Christmas*

*January 2, 2022
9:30 AM*



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor

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YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

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.

Altar Flowers today are given to the glory of God by Nancy Headford who wishes everyone a Healthy, Happy New Year!

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 this Wednesday 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.

You are invited to join our next Southern CT Conference Zoom Meeting at 4:00 pm on Sunday 23 January for pastors and lay leaders to discuss the synod program, “Collaborate, for Christ’s Sake”. If you see the merging of congregations as a possibility for the future, the first step is to build relationships through collaboration, so come and join the conversation! The link is on the calendar on our website at SalemBridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

Gathering

GATHERING CAROL Of the Father's Love Begotten

One License Song # 81061

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite; Meter: 8 7 8 7 8 7 7

Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance # 1 Arr. K. McChesney by the Handbell Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Boise, ID, 12/09/18
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99utoV0yVmU> [3:25]*

*Performance # 2 Arr. for solo piano by Pam Turner, sheet music at 222.pamturnerpiano.com, 09/13/17
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7ignlSDXW0> [2:46]*

*Performance # 3 by the bell choir at St Mary of the Mount & Prince of Peace Parish, Pittsburgh, PA, 12/06/20
with arrangement by Dr. Thomas Conroy. Used with permission. [2:56]*

*Performance # 4 Arr. by Walter Pelz. Sung by the Plymouth Choir of First Plymouth Church, 12/11/16,
Tom Trenney, conducting; Joanne Rodland, organist
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLpMSIvU4xs&t=19s> [6:11]*

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING CAROL Away in a Manger

(as found in the ELCA worship book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 277)

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

You may stand if you so desire.

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

Text: based on Luke 2:1-20, 2:7, North American, 19th cent.; Meter 11 11 11 11

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

Word

READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ Thus says YHWH:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the Head of Nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “YHWH, save your people, the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a parent to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of YHWH, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “The One who scattered Israel will gather it in & watch over it like a shepherd.”

¹¹ For YHWH has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of God, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

READING: Psalm 147:12-20

Worship YHWH, O Jerusalem;

praise your God, O Zion,

who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.

God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.

God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.

God scatters hail like bread crumbs.

Who can stand against God's cold?

God sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.

God has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless and to be full of love. God destined us to be adopted children through Jesus Christ, according to God's good pleasure and will, so that everyone might praise the glory of God's grace which was freely bestowed on us in God's beloved, Jesus Christ. It is in Christ and through the blood of Christ that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven, so immeasurably generous is God's favor given to us with perfect wisdom and understanding. God has taken pleasure in revealing the mystery of the plan through Christ, to be carried out in the fullness of time; namely, to bring all things – in heaven and on earth – together in Christ.

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of God who accomplishes all things according to the divine counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live to praise the glory of the Most High. In Christ you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had trusted in Christ, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of God's glory.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

SERMON

Please be seated.

You may stand if you so desire.

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!

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

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.

You make yourself known in the gift of language in diverse forms.

Draw our attention to those who communicate through sign, braille, and technology.

Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for our Southern CT conference, the New England Synod and Region 7,

and for Salem members and families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:

Haley Danowski, Iris Murphy, and David Larson.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning.

Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance.

Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us.

Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another,

especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You adopt us as your beloved ones.

Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process,

especially those in the foster system.

Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss.

Tenderly embrace all in need, especially

Barbara, David, Dahon, Derron, Dolores, Eron, Frank, Grace, Jonathan, Maureen, Steve, Sue, and all we name in our hearts.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You journey with us through change.

Guide those assuming new roles in this congregation

or making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities.

As the seasons and the calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service.

Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory.

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

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.



OFFERTORY CAROL

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

*(as found in the ELCA worship books,
With One Voice # 716 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 510)*

As long as you are masked, you may sing softly. You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.**
- 2 Word eternal, throned on high, Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die, crucified for our salvation,
saving Word, the world restoring, speak to us, your love outpouring.**
- 3 Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.**

Text: based on John 1:1-14, James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919, Meter 7 8 7 8 8 8

Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

Text © James Quinn, S.J., Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent. www.selahpub.com

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Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU and BLESSING *Please be seated*

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Meal & Dismissal

COMMUNION

Please be seated.

God be with you!

And also with you!

Open your hearts!

We open them to God and one another!

Let us give thanks to the God of all!

It is right to give God thanks & 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!**

CLOSING CAROL

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

(as found in the ELCA worship books,

This Far by Faith # 51 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 279)

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

You may stand if you so desire.

**Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child. Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;
new life, new hope the child will bring. Listen to the angels sing:**

"Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!

Text: based on Luke 2.13-14; African American traditional, alt.; Text Meter: PM

Music: WONDERFUL CHILD; African American traditional;

arr. Jeffrey Radford from The New Century Hymnal, © 1992 Pilgrim Press

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
Share the Good News of Christ Jesus by your verbal witness and your active service!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE CAROL

He Came Down

*(as found in the ELCA worship books,
This Far by Faith # 37 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 253)*

**He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.**

**He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light; hallelujah forevermore.**

**He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.**

**He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.**

Text: based on John 1.1-14, Cameroon traditional; Meter L M

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Text and Tune are in the Public Domain.

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Performance by the Oonte Orphans & Vulnerable Children Choir from Namibia, 12/04/20

*Video background by Joe Hackney from Pixabay, Posted by Chet Valley Churches
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXrB500CuCg> [1:33]*

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872
Sunday, January 2, 2022**

A nineteenth-century German Lutheran pastor,
Loehe worked to enliven the church with the eucharist at its center,
from which would flow evangelism and social ministry.
He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and the Ukraine.

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!

Please join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café at the next Inner-View Chat'n'Chew, Saturday January 15th at 11:00 am. Stay tuned for more info!

We had a great time at the last Sunday Night Alive inter-church event of “Cookies, Carols, Comedy and Kwanzaa”, and even had a reporter from Channel 12 come to cover the event. The next Sunday Night Alive event is scheduled for January 30th, so please save the date and stay tuned for more details.

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!**

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.

**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>