



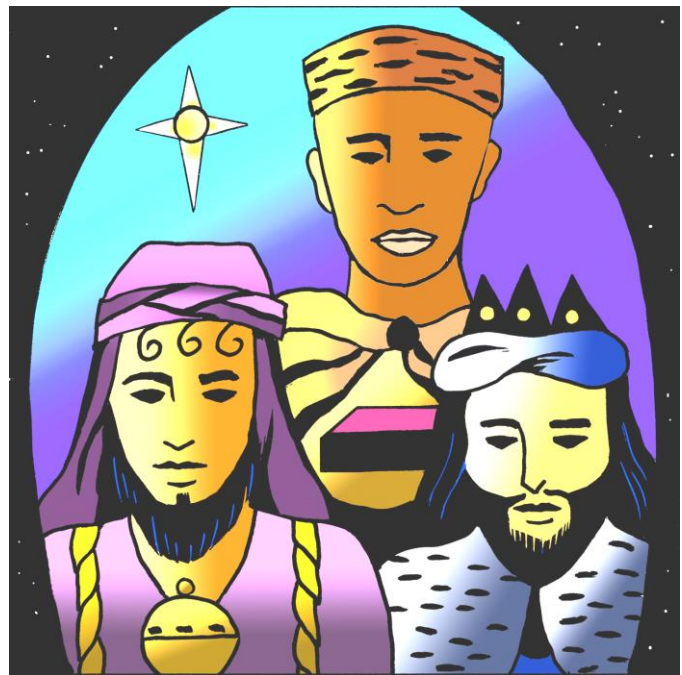
Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*1st Sunday
After Epiphany*

*January 9, 2022
9:30 AM*



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Welcome

Today we celebrate the feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) which occurs on the 12th Day of Christmas, January 6th, bringing the Christmas season to its conclusion with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

Due to the steep rise in Covid rates and the increased pressure on our medical system, Salem is joining other responsible faith communities in requiring masks while inside the building. As Christians it is our duty to provide a place where even the most vulnerable in our midst feel safe.

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 resumed this past week as we began 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 Wednesdays at 6:30 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.

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!

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.

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.

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC **There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth**

There shall a Star from Jacob come forth,
And a Sceptre from Israel rise up,
And dash in pieces princes and nations.

As bright the star of morning gleams,
So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams
Of light and consolation!
Thy Word, O LORD, radiance darting,
Truth imparting, gives salvation;
Thine be praise and adoration!

*Words: Original German text compiled by Christian Charles Josias von Bunsen
Music: There Shall a Star from Jacob Come | Félix Mendelssohn*

*Performance # 1 arr. Sanders, by the Indianapolis Men's Chorus
Videography Zach Rosing Productions, Recorded at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
Indianapolis, IN, 12/15/13
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZwuI0swkqA> [5:05]*

*Performance # 2 by the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew,
Wilmington, DE,
David Christopher, organist and music director, 12/12/16
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmitaJfCzow> [5:17]*

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING CAROL

The First Noel

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 300)*

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

You may stand if you so desire.

**The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

*Text: based on Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 2:8-11, English traditional; Meter Irregular
Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional, arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901
Text and Music are in the Public Domain.*

Word

READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

Please be seated.

- ¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of YHWH has risen upon you.
- ² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but YHWH will arise upon you,
and God's glory will appear over you.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of YHWH.

READING: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Give your anointed one your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to your chosen one;
that the people may be ruled with righteousness
and the poor with justice;
that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
Let your anointed one defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.
The reign of your chosen one will endure as long as the sun and moon,
from one generation to another.
Let the anointed one come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth,
so that justice may flower;
and peace may reign till the moon shall be no more.
May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.
May all kings bow down before your anointed ,
and all the nations serve your chosen one.
For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper,
having compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserving the lives of the needy.
Your anointed will rescue them from oppression and violence
and regard their lives as precious.

READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

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

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that God has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

READING: Matthew 2:1-12

You may stand if you so desire.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON

Please be seated.

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

God of wanderers, you sent the magi from afar to witness the mystery & majesty of your birth. Send us into the world with songs of your praise in our hearts and on our lips.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, and for Salem members and families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Barbro Lund.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You created heaven and earth.

Through your Spirit send your all-encompassing love over the cosmos.

Bless the stars that guide our way and the night sky that invites the earth into slumber.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You sent the magi to follow the star into an uncertain future.

May we seek your face,

especially when paths are not clear, conflicts rage, tyrants oppress, and fear abounds.

Be with those who suffer, especially Barbara, Dolores, Frank, Grace, Jonathan, Steve, Sue, and all we name in our hearts.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You sent your Spirit to dwell with Paul in prison.

Send your Spirit to those who are imprisoned and enslaved,

especially those incarcerated due to injustice and systemic racism.

Give us the courage and wisdom to build roads that lead to justice and freedom.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You sent the holy family to seek safety in a new land.

Protect all who make similar journeys.

Send your guiding Spirit to asylum seekers, refugees, and all who journey toward safety.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your glory is shown to the saints.

We give thanks for those whose earthly journey has ended and now dwell with you forever.

Give us signs of your continual presence until that day when we arise in you.

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 HYMN

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 301)*

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

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 Bright and glorious is the sky, radiant are the heavens high
where the golden stars are shining. All their rays to earth inclining
beckon us to heav'n above, beckon us to heav'n above.**
- 2 On that holy Christmas night through the darkness beamed a light;
all the stars above were paling, all their luster slowly failing,
as the wondrous star drew nigh, as the wondrous star drew nigh.**
- 3 Sages from the East afar, when they saw this wondrous star,
went to find the king of nations and to offer their oblations
to the child, the newborn king, to the child, the newborn king.**
- 4 Him they found in Bethlehem, yet he wore no diadem;
there they saw a maiden lowly with an infant pure and holy
resting in her loving arms, resting in her loving arms.**
- 5 Guided by the star, they found him whose praise the ages sound.
We too have a star to guide us, which forever will provide us
with the light to find our Lord, with the light to find our Lord.**
- 6 And this star, as bright as day, that will never lead astray
with its message so appealing, is the word of God, revealing
Christ, the way, the truth, the life, Christ, the way, the truth, the life.**

*Text: Psalm 119:105, Matthew 2:1-12, Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872;
tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877-1970, alt; Meter 7 7 8 8 7 7*

Music: DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMEL BLÅ, CELESTIA; Danish, 19th cent.

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Performance by 2019 Pastors Conference at Church of the Redeemer in West Monroe, LA.

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Miq5NnZQ2u0>

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU and BLESSING

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Meal & Dismissal

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

You may stand if you desire.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who sends the word with angels,
who is made flesh among all peoples,
and who breathes peace on all the earth. **Amen**

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess our sin before you.
We replace compassion with competition.
We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.
We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.
We have not put on love in harmony with you.
Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.
Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed,
may reflect your love born among us. **Amen**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people:
God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. ☩
In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace. **Amen**

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 HYMN

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

(as found in the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's* worship book, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* # 308)

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

- 1 **O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own truth and light,
aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's line, King David's son, our Lord and Savior, you have won
our hearts to serve you only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!**
- 2 **Come, precious diamond, light divine, and deep within our hearts now shine;
there light a flame undying!
In your one body let us be as living branches of a tree,
your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily earth's deep sadness may perplex us and distress us,
yet with heav'nly joy you bless us.**
- 3 **Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there falls from God above
a ray of purest pleasure.
Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood refresh our souls with heav'nly food.
You are our dearest treasure!
Let your mercy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For you teach us
God's own love through you has reached us.**
- 4 **Almighty Father, in your Son you loved us, when not yet begun
was this old earth's foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love to live in him here and above:
this is your great salvation.
Alleluia! Christ the living, to us giving life forever,
keeps us yours and fails us never!**
- 5 **Oh, let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned,
our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way — today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!
Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!**
- 6 **What joy to know, when life is past, the Lord we love is first and last,
the end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace, transport us to that happy place
beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness!
We are yearning for the day of your returning.**

*Text: based on Numbers 24:17, Psalm 45, Isaiah 62:1-5, Ephesians 1:3-10, 2 Peter 1:19, Revelation 14:2-3, 15:2-4, 22:13, 16,
Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship; Meter P M*

Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace.

Invite others to come and worship Christ the Savior of the world!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

We Fall Down

Verse **We fall down We lay our crowns At the feet of Jesus
The greatness of mercy and love At the feet of Jesus**

Chorus **And we cry holy holy holy And we cry holy holy holy
And we cry holy holy holy is the Lamb**

CCLI Song # 2437367 by Chris Tomlin

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Performance by Calvary Chapel Petaluma Music, 12/31/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znKDFiZqdPg> [4:13]

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710 (TFF)

January 9, 2022

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England.

He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968

January 15, 2022

An American prophet of justice among races and nations,

King was an eloquent preacher,

a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society,

and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

CREDITS

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Announcements

The next Salem and Friends Breakfast & Faith Discussion, sponsored by the Salem Men but open to ALL, will be held Saturday **February 12th** 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!**

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>