

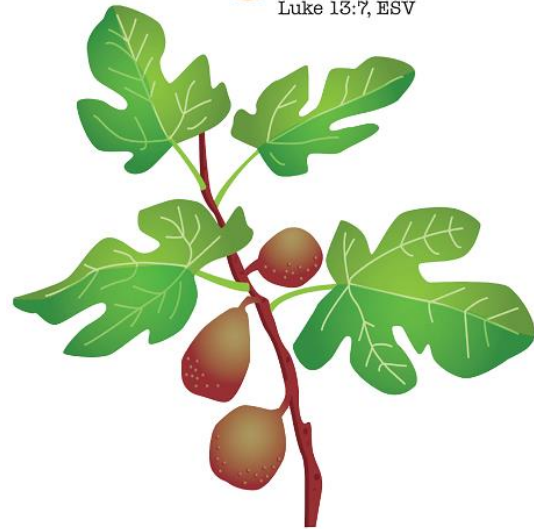


# Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*"I have come  
seeking fruit  
on this fig tree ..."*  
Luke 13:7, ESV



*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in  
Lent*

*March 20, 2022  
9:30 AM*

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[www.facebook.com/salembridgeport](https://www.facebook.com/salembridgeport)  
[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/salembridgeport) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

# Welcome

**The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down!**

The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live". The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

**Today we welcome as our preacher, our good friend, Bishop Eron B. Simmonds.** Pastor Simmonds not only led New Direction Ministries here at 3160 Park Avenue from February of 2016 until the pandemic, but he and his congregation were wonderful partners in ministry. We are grateful for their partnership in our Sunday Night Alive events, our Lutheran/Pentecostal Bible Study, our tri-church outdoor worship and picnics, our clean-up days, our food pantry, our children's musical theatre programs, and our occasional sharing of worship and pastoral leadership. We learned much and were greatly blessed by God bringing Pastor Simmonds and New Direction Ministries into our lives. We trust they were blessed by us as well.

**On Wednesday, we closed on the sale of our property to the Ephraim French Seventh Day Adventist Church (currently on the corner of Iranistan and Maplewood in what was formerly a synagogue) and we will be renting back space for worship, offices and storage for at least 2 months and perhaps longer.** Ephraim graciously offered us the former music director's office for Pastor Marjo and Karl to share, half of the workroom behind what will now be their church office for such things as our copier, printers, router, and file cabinets, a section of the paper supply closet in the workroom (thanks to Bill and Dave who doubled the size of our shelving there), storage for larger items in one of the closets off the stage, as well as a temporary "staging area" in the former food pantry space for things we will be moving off-site to long-term storage. The pastor and leaders of Ephraim have been most gracious and we thank God that our beloved building has been received into their loving hands and that we are able to still worship and serve here at this time.

**Salem is still requiring masks.** We know that some are only comfortable coming into a place where people are masked, and we want to provide an environment where they feel safe. We will continue to re-evaluate based on what happens with the pandemic and what the latest advice is concerning singing protocols.

**\* On the Wednesdays during Lent – March 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and April 6<sup>th</sup> – we'll gather at 6:30 ONLINE with other congregations from our conference for a Virtual Dinner Theatre Worship experience.** Bring your dinner to your desk - or your laptop to the dinner table - and enjoy your meal while participating in a kind of dinner church/cabaret theatre. The theme is "Looking for Joy in Lent", and each week's worship will incorporate a play, scripture, music, prayer, and some time to get to know one another. Each week's play will be self-contained but the same characters will return each week. We're looking for volunteers to read a part in the play. Please let Jeanette "Momma J" know if you can play a part. You can call or text her at 203-366-6778 or email her at [jharris524@yahoo.com](mailto:jharris524@yahoo.com). The worship will be streamed live to Facebook so if you can't join us in real time you can watch it later. Please invite your family and friends to this novel Lenten experience. The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab on our website [SalemBridgport.org](http://SalemBridgport.org). Or just click here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87987712617?pwd=eDFqZVBoTm0zYUtkTU04MDQ5U0tJQT09>  
Meeting ID 879 8771 2617, Passcode 668342, Dial by your location+1 929 205 6099 US (NY)

# Gathering

## GATHERING SONG Whom Shall I Fear God Of Angel Armies

### *Verse 1*

You hear me when I call You are my morning song  
Though darkness fills the night It cannot hide the light Whom shall I fear  
You crush the enemy underneath my feet You are my sword and shield  
Though troubles linger still Whom shall I fear

### *Chorus*

I know Who goes before me I know Who stands behind  
The God of angel armies is always by my side The One who reigns forever  
He is a friend of mine The God of angel armies is always by my side

### *Verse 2*

My strength is in Your name For You alone can save  
You will deliver me Yours is the victory  
Whom shall I fear Whom shall I fear (Whom shall I fear)

### *Bridge*

(And) nothing formed against me shall stand You hold the whole world in Your hands  
I'm holding on to Your promises You are faithful You are faithful (*REPEAT*)

*CCLI Song # 6440288*

*Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Scott Cash*

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*CCLI License # 11092038*

*Performance # 1 by Lancaster Baptist, 4020 E Lancaster Blvd, Lancaster, CA, 08/22/21*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfFlyn13WfA> [4:31]*

*For More Gospel Music Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZt...>*

*Performance # 2 by Redeemer Baptist Church, Sydney Australia. 09/28/21*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t79eCjTLjqE> [4:03]*

*Website: <http://www.redeemer.org.au/>*

*Performance # 3 by Drew Willoughby, Haley Klinkhammer, and Nate De La Garza*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4j1Fe-7P8Q> [4:11]*

***Please note that here we go live on Facebook.***

**WELCOME**

**Ray Anderson**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Bishop Simmonds**

## OPENING SONG

## Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 623)*

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

*You may stand if you so desire.*

- 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure;  
cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**
  
- 2 Not the labors of my hands  
can fulfill thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone;  
thou must save, and thou alone.**
  
- 3 Nothing in my hand I bring;  
simply to thy cross I cling.  
Naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;  
wash me, Savior, or I die.**
  
- 4 While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when mine eyelids close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.**

*Text: based on Psalm 61:2, John 19:34, 1 Corinthians 10:4, 1 John 5:6  
by Augustus M Toplady, 1740-1778; Meter 7 7 7 7 7 7*

*Music: TOPLADY by Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872*

*Text and Music are in the Public Domain.*

# Word

## A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 55:1-9

Jean Larson

- <sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
- <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.
- <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.
- <sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
- <sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.
- <sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
- <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
- <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

## A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 63:1-8

Tom Larson

*(A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah.)*

- <sup>1</sup> You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you;  
**I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you,  
in a dry and parched land where there is no water.**
- <sup>2</sup> I have seen you in the sanctuary  
**and beheld your power and your glory.**
- <sup>3</sup> Because your love is better than life,  
**my lips will glorify you.**
- <sup>4</sup> I will praise you as long as I live,  
**and in your name I will lift up my hands.**
- <sup>5</sup> I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;  
**with singing lips my mouth will praise you.**
- <sup>6</sup> On my bed I remember you;  
**I think of you through the watches of the night.**
- <sup>7</sup> Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings.
- <sup>8</sup> **I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.**

**A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13** **Jean Larson**

<sup>10:1</sup> For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. <sup>2</sup>They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. <sup>3</sup>They all ate the same spiritual food <sup>4</sup>and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry”. <sup>8</sup>We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did — and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. <sup>9</sup>We should not test Christ, as some of them did — and were killed by snakes. <sup>10</sup>And do not grumble, as some of them did — and were killed by the destroying angel.

<sup>11</sup>These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup>So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! <sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to humankind. And God is faithful; and will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, God will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

**A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 13:1-9** **Tom Larson**

<sup>13:1</sup>Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup>I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them — do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

<sup>8</sup> “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

**SERMON**

*Please be seated.*

**Bishop Eron B. Simmonds**

*You may stand if you so desire.*

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**Jean Larson**

Let us affirm our faith together.

**I believe it is a matter of faith to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.**

**I believe it is a matter of faith to recognize equally  
and love all members of God's human family  
whatever their race, creed, color, gender, marital status,  
physical or mental capacity, or sexual orientation.**

**I believe Jesus Christ came to us to free all people from sin and to make disciples –  
people willing to live Christ's discipline of love and justice for all.**

**I believe the Holy Spirit is that power within us  
that gives us courage and stamina to face the truth and to live it,  
even to die for it, as Jesus died.**

**I believe in the resurrection, the victory over death,  
the truth that is life for all in Jesus' name.**

**Glory be to God, the One-in-Three:  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustaining Power of Love. Amen**

## **PURPOSE STATEMENT**

**Jean Larson**

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**

**Tom Larson**

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

Jean and Tom Larson

Drawn close to the heart of God,  
we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

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

We pray for the church around the world in all its forms:  
for pastors, deacons, bishops, chaplains, and mission developers;  
for church councils, committee chairs, and all lay ministry leaders;  
for congregations that contemplate difficult decisions about the future of their ministry.  
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,  
the Ephraim French Seventh Day Adventist Church, and New Direction Ministries,  
and for Salem members and families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:  
Joe Bales and Stephan Dow.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the health of this planet and the well-being of its creatures:  
for lands impacted by droughts and at risk of wildfires;  
for fig trees and vineyards that produce fruit for our nourishment and delight;  
for animal habitats threatened by climate change.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those called into positions of civic responsibility:  
for judges, attorneys, & court administrators tasked with uncovering truth & delivering justice;  
for activists & community leaders who cast a vision of a more compassionate & equitable society.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those who call upon you for mercy: for all who live in poverty and experience hunger;  
for any who feel tested beyond their strength;  
for those who are hospitalized or near death, and for all in need of healing,  
especially Barbara, Christiane, Dolores, Frank, Grace, Jonathan, Linda, Steve, Pastor Johnson,  
and all we name in our hearts.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the advocacy efforts of this congregation:  
for those whose faith leads them to speak difficult truths  
and engage in difficult conversations with policymakers;  
for those who promote mercy over vengeance or retaliation.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those whose earthly journeys have ended, we give thanks, & with all the saints, we praise you  
for the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

**Amen**



# Thanksgiving

## OFFERING PRAYER

Jean Larson

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.*

Tom Larson

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 SONG

## Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 777)*

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

**1 "Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty; drink the water I will give.  
If you knew what gift I offer, you would come to me and live."**

*Refrain* **Jesus, ever flowing fountain, give us water from your well.  
In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.**

**2 "Come to me, all trav'lers weary; come that I may give you rest.  
Drink the cup of life I offer; at this table be my guest." *Refrain***

**3 "Come to me, believers burdened; find refreshment in this place.  
Come, receive the gift I offer, turn to me and seek my face." *Refrain***

**4 "Come to me, repentant sinners; leave behind your guilt and shame.  
Come and know divine compassion, turn to me, I call your name." *Refrain***

**5 "Come to me, distressed and needy; I would be your trusted friend.  
Come and seek the gift I offer, come, your open hands extend." *Refrain***

**6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned; lonely ways no longer roam.  
Come and take the gift I offer, let me make in you my home." *Refrain***

*Text: based on Matthew 11:28-30, John 4:10, by Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939;  
Meter 8 7 8 7 D*

*Music: BEACH SPRING, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. Selected Hymns, 1985  
Text © 1992, 1996 The Liturgical Press*

*Arr. of Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 777 © 1985 Augsburg Fortress  
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## Sending

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU, and BLESSING**

*Here ends our Facebook live stream.*

# Meal & Dismissal

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Bishop Simmonds

In the name of God,  
who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Holy One,  
we confess that we have wandered far from you:  
we have not trusted your promises,  
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,  
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,  
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.

**Have mercy on us!**

**Forgive us and turn us again to you, teach us to follow in your ways,  
assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for Christ's sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by Christ's authority,  
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

## COMMUNION

*Please be seated.*

Bishop Simmonds

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, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 and 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 SONG

## My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 597)*

*As long as everyone is masked, you may sing softly.*

*You may stand if you so desire.*

**1 My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

*Refrain*

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

**2 When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.**

*Refrain*

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

**3 His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood;  
when all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay.**

*Refrain*

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

**4 When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,  
clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne!**

*Refrain*

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

*Text: based on Matthew 7.24-27, 24.31, Mark 13.24-27, Luke 6.46-49, 1 Corinthians 15.52,  
Philippians 3.9, 1 Thessalonians 4.16, 1 Timothy 1.1, Hebrews 6.13-19, 1 John 1.7;  
by Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.; Meter 8 8 8 8 8 8*

*Music: MELITA by John B. Dykes, 1823-1876*

*This Text and Music are in the Public Domain.*

Go in peace, return to the Lord with repentant hearts, and God will abundantly pardon.

**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

### Living Hope

1. How great the chasm that lay between us! How high the mountain I could not climb!  
In desperation, I turned to heaven And spoke Your name into the night.  
Then through the darkness, Your loving-kindness Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished, the end is written Jesus Christ, my living hope

*Refrain:*

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free! Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!  
You have broken every chain! There's salvation in Your name – Jesus Christ, my living hope!  
Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free! Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!  
You have broken every chain! There's salvation in Your name – Jesus Christ, my living hope!

2. Who could imagine so great a mercy? What heart could fathom such boundless grace?  
The God of ages stepped down from glory To wear my sin and bear my shame.  
The cross has spoken: I am forgiven. The King of kings calls me His own.  
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever – Jesus Christ, my living hope! (*Refrain*)
3. Then came the morning that sealed the promise. Your buried body began to breathe.  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion Declared the grave has no claim on me.  
Then came the morning that sealed the promise. Your buried body began to breathe,  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion Declared the grave has no claim on me.  
Jesus, Yours is the victory, whoa! (*Refrain*)

Jesus Christ, my living hope! Oh God, You are my living hope!

*CCLI Song # 7106807 by Brian Johnson / Phil Wickham*

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*Performance by Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, 08/08/21*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzXuPciWGaA> [7:33]*

# Announcements

**Welcome to WONDROUS WEDNESDAYS!** On Wednesday we have 3 wonderful opportunities to live into our mission of Encountering God, Building Relationships, and Changing Lives. The links are all on the calendar on our website at SalemBridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

**\* First, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month through June, we begin with a Morning Bible Study 9:30-11:00 on zoom, led by our beloved Grace Dukenski.** There is time for sharing before we launch into our study of the book of Romans, and time for prayer at the end.

**\* Every 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 more we talk with God and the more we listen to God, the more God is able to work through us. And the more we pray TOGETHER the more the power of prayer is multiplied.

**Join the Journey as we Look for Joy in Lent!**

**\* We encourage everyone to spend the 6 weeks of Lent reading** what we have been studying in our Bible Study these last 2 months – **Acts chapters 1 & 2.** As you read this story reflect on what God is saying to YOU through this story and listen to how it applies to your life and then pay attention to how God works to transform you through this story.

**\* Palm Sunday, 9:30 April 10<sup>th</sup> – in-person at 3160 Park Ave, & streamed live to Facebook.**

**\* Maundy Thursday, 7:30 April 14<sup>th</sup> – in-person at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, 160 Hill Farm Rd, Fairfield, and streamed live to YouTube.**

**\* Good Friday, 7:30 April 15<sup>th</sup> – in-person at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, 160 Hill Farm Rd, Fairfield, and streamed live to YouTube.**

**\* Easter. 9:30 April 17<sup>th</sup> –** We will celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord right here at 3160 Park Avenue with a festive service, complete with brass players and the Hallelujah Chorus!

**\* After Easter we will return to our Wednesday Bible Study from 6:30-7:15,** followed by Holy Communion, 7:15-7:30 – and we’ll begin by reflecting on how God has been using Acts 1-2 to transform our lives during Lent!

**Please join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café at the next Inner-View Chat’n’Chew, Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> (the day before Easter) at 11:00 am.** Details to come.

**Thank you also to all who attended our Sunday Night Alive Inter-Church Cabaret Night.** We had representatives from 7 different congregations there, including Salem, Genesis, Our Saviour’s, CHURCH, Tabor, and even the Seventh Day Adventist congregation who is purchasing our property! We had a lot of fun enjoying stories, poems, songs, and the reading of a short play – all while getting to know each other – which is exactly what God calls us to do!

**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, 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 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 on zoom at this link:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89975646418?pwd=ZG5nSVVmR3NVTXc5dTAWbWtqTWdrZz09>  
or go to [SalemBridgeport.org/Resources/Calendar](http://SalemBridgeport.org/Resources/Calendar) and click on the event for more information

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

**God is SO good that we cannot help but give thanks with a grateful heart!** At last week's congregational meeting we heard in the report of the Treasurer that your giving has remained consistently strong over these past 2 years despite the pandemic. **THANK YOU!** We also heard that we made so much money in the stock market that it more than covered our budgeted deficit! PLUS! we received \$40,000 in grants from the federal government! But the vitally important thing to note is that **ALL of these gifts are from God** who gave this year through you, through our investments, and through our government. It doesn't matter if someday the stock market loses money. It doesn't matter if we never get money from the government again. Why? Because if God desires to bless us financially, God can and will find a way to do it. Our trust is not in each other, nor in banks, nor in governments. Our trust is in the God of all power and love who will give us all the resources we need to do whatever it is God calls us to do. So pray that God make our mission known to us and give us the courage to do it. And then the rest is easy: Don't worry! BE THANKFUL!

**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!**



**Invitation from Joe Bales** - As I'm sure you'll remember the Salem Food Pantry ended in early 2020 with the onset of the Covid 10 pandemic. It was a very disappointing period for Salem and personally for me as we had created a great community outreach program. While our pantry has been silent a small contingent of Food Pantry volunteers have continued to be involved in meeting the needs of the hunger challenged. Today seven men meet weekly at the Brooklawn Deli for fellowship — followed by picking up food from the Bridgeport Food Bank with delivery to the PTBarnum Food Pantry. The group consists of Dr. Peter Mitchell, Fred Schaefer, Bert Andren, Ray Anderson, Tom Larson, Charlie Beaver and myself. **YOU** are welcome to join us and as in the past we welcome your support through monetary contributions. Your donation should be directed to Feed The People Food Pantry, c/o Roberta Marson, 240 Hanson Avenue, Bridgeport, Ct 06605. Contact Joe Bales at 203-434-6308 for additional information.

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556** **Monday 03/21/22**  
Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

**Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758** **Tuesday 03/22/22**  
A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

**Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980** **Thursday 03/24/22**  
Romero, deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor & powerless in El Salvador, worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

**Annunciation of Our Lord** **Friday 03/25/22**  
Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

## CREDITS

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