



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*for those with
hearing challenges*

2nd Sunday in Lent

*Scout
Farewell & Godspeed*

March 13, 2022

9:30 AM



“Blessed is the one
who comes in the name
of the Lord.”

LUKE 13:35, NRSV

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[YouTube](#) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Welcome

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

Today we bid Farewell and Godspeed to our Scouts. As a consequence of selling our building, Salem will no longer be sponsoring these groups. Boy Scout Troop # 103 is going to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church and Cub Scout Pack # 103 is going to St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church.

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.

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 1st and 3rd 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.

*** On the Wednesdays during Lent – March 16th, 23rd, 30th, and April 6th – 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. 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 [SalemBridgeport.org](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87987712617?pwd=eDFqZVBoTm0zYUtkTU04MDQ5U0tJQT09). 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)

Come to CityFest's Ecumenical Worship Extravaganza, "The RE:NEW Gathering" at 7 pm THIS Thursday at Kingdom Life Christian Church, 1455 Naugatuck Avenue, Milford, CT 06461 with Israel Houghton, Adam Durso, and Andrew Palau. The event is FREE, but you must register to get your free ticket. Go to <https://tapit.us/ol4pvY> OR go to <https://www.cityfest.org/renew> for more info and to sign up.

Please join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café at the next Inner-View Chat'n'Chew, Saturday March 19th at 11:00 am. Details to come.

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

Jehovah Sabaoth (God Of Angels Armies)

I shall not fear the arrow by day Nor shall I fear the terror by night
The God who governs angel armies Has set encampments around me Whom shall I fear?

I shall not fear the arrow by day Nor shall I fear the terror by night
The God who governs angel armies Has set encampments around me Whom shall I fear?

Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear?
The God who governs angel armies Has set encampments around me Whom shall I fear?

Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear?
Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear? Oh-oh-oh

The God who governs angel armies The God who governs, oh-oh-oh
Has set encampments around me Encampments around me Whom shall I fear?

I'm not afraid All is well All is well I'm not afraid All is well All is well

I'm not afraid Oh, I'm not afraid
All is well Because I know that all is well All is well All is well, I'm not afraid

I'm not afraid For I cried to the Lord and He heard me
All is well And delivered me from all of my fear All is well All is well, singing it louder for you

I'm not afraid Yeah, though I walk Through the valley of the shadow of death
All is well I will fear no evil, for all is well All is well So I can shout about it now, all is well

I'm not afraid I'm not afraid, oh-oh-oh
All is well All is well All is well All is well

The God who governs angel armies Has set encampments around me Whom shall I fear?
Oh-oh-oh

Copyright "Jehovah Sabaoth: God of Angel Armies"

Text and Music: Donald Lawrence © 2019 QW Publishing

Performance by Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 01/30-02/01/20

The Aeolians and Jason Max Ferdinand worship.calvin.edu

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtLcjjPC7rY> [10:35]

Performance by 'sounding light' and soloist Ariel Merivil on 10/0121

at First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ThSa-ZLEJhA> [4:50]

Performance by Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, with Calvin University's Gospel Choir,

Nate Glasper, Gospel Choir Director; Emma Gordon, Soloist;

Lisa Sung, Music Director/Piano; Luke DeVries, Keyboard;

Denny Tawas, Bass; Eron Lauchié, Drums; Sam Fynweaver, Cello; 02/05/21

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMIKVHVOFs0> [5:18]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of the God who makes and keeps promises
in the name of Jesus who shelters us like a mother hen,
and in the name of the Spirit who protects us against all that would come against us.

It is so good to be here!

Thank you for joining us today! Thank you, those of you who are here in person with us!
And thank you, those of you out there in cyber space, wherever – and whenever! – you are!

For those of you who don't know me,
I'm Pastor Marjo Anderson of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT,

To find out more about our ministry or to contact us,
you can go to our website SalemBridgeport.org, to our Facebook page, SalemBridgeport,
and to our YouTube channel, Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT.

Links to our donate page and worship bulletin –
which has both the order of worship and announcements – as well as other resources
are included on our website at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.

This **Week we have another Wondrous Wednesday** –
beginning with our semi-monthly Bible Study on Romans from 9:30-11,
continuing with our weekly Prayer Gathering at noon,
and concluding from 6:30-7:30
with a conference-wide Virtual Dinner Theatre Worship experience
as we come together, “Looking for the JOY in Lent”.

The links to all these zoom events are on our website
at SalemBridgeport.org/Resources/Calendar

On Thursday you are invited to an exciting in-person inter-church worship extravaganza
sponsored by the Luis Palau Association and over 100 churches in Greater Bridgeport,
including our own.

“The RE:NEW Gathering” will take place at 7 pm Thursday at Kingdom Life Church,
1455 Naugatuck Avenue, Milford, CT 06461

and features Israel Houghton, Adam Durso, and Andrew Palau.

The event is FREE, but you must register to get your free ticket.

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Finally on Saturday you are invited to Genesis Gospel Café's Inner-View Chat'n'Chew
at 11:00 on zoom. (The link is on Salem's calendar.)

Any other announcements? Then, Jeanette, will you open our worship with prayer?

OPENING SONG

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 618)*

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

**Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
where the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
shield me with your mighty arm,
shield me with your mighty arm.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.**

*Text: based on Exodus 13:21-22, Joshua 3:13-14, John 6:31-35, 1 Corinthians 10:1-4, Hebrews 11:13-16
by William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.;
Meter 8 7 8 7 8 7 7*

*Music: CWM RHONDDA by John Hughes, 1873-1932
Text and Music are in the Public Domain.*

Word

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

After these things the word of God came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great”. But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir”. But the word of God came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir”. God brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them”. Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed God, and God reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then God said to him, “I am the God who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess”. But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” God said to Abram, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon”. Abram brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day God made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates”.

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS: Philippians 3:17--4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in Christ in this way, my beloved.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 27

God is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

God is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,

they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

One thing I ask of God; one thing I seek;

that I may dwell in God's house all the days of my life;

to gaze upon the God's beauty and to seek God in the temple.

For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;

I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.

My heart speaks your message— "Seek my face."

Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

Hide not your face from me,

turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away — you have been my helper;

forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

Though my father and my mother forsake me,

the LORD will take me in.

Teach me your way, O LORD;

lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

Subject me not to the will of my foes,

for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.

This I believe — that I will see the goodness of the LORD

in the land of the living!

Wait for the LORD and be strong.

Take heart and wait for the LORD!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 13:31-35 *You may stand if you so desire.*

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you". He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

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

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.

You gather the church into a community of mercy and grace.
Unify Christians around the globe in efforts to proclaim good news
even in the face of opposition and to protect those whose lives are imperiled by the gospel.
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for CROP and World Vision
and Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts,
and for Salem members and families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Todd Dewalt, Noah Lansing, Laila Hietala and Jonathon Rosa.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You create the entire universe and call it good.
Hinder those who would cause further destruction to our planet's fragile ecosystems,
and augment the calls of those who advocate for thoughtful stewardship of the earth's resources.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You raise up leaders committed to love and justice.
Nurture in those who govern patience to receive criticism, openness to new ideas,
and courage to change course when needed for the sake of the common good.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You hear us when we cry to you.
Attend to those expecting a child, and console those who have experienced miscarriage.
Comfort veterans enduring post-traumatic stress. Shield those endangered by domestic violence.
Uphold those who are ill or grieving,
especially Barbara, Dolores, Frank, Grace, Jonathan, Linda, Steve, Pastor Errol Johnson,
the family and friends of Sue Chrien, and all we name in our hearts.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You kindle faith that moves us into action.
Guide children and adults preparing for baptism or confirmation.
Empower teachers and parents who share their faith with younger generations.
Give us all a renewed sense of vocation.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You welcome us into your heavenly realm.
We give thanks for those whose labors on earth are ended and who now rest with you,
especially Sue Chrien.
On the final day, gather all of us, with them, in your loving arms.
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

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.

OFFERTORYSONG

Thy Holy Wings

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 613)*

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

**Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment be lived within thy grace.**

**Oh, let me nestle near thee, within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care.**

**Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah's cleansing flood;
give me a willing spirit, a heart, both clean and good,
and take into thy keeping thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.**

*Text: based on Genesis 6-8, Psalm 63:1-8, Isaiah 66:10-14, Luke 13:31-35, 1 Peter 3:18-22
by Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903,*

sts. 1, 3, Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite; Meter 7 6 7 6 D

Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR; Swedish folk tune, arr. hymnal version

Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent, www.selahpub.com,

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress)

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Sending

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

Representative:

Boy Scout Troop #103 and Cub Scout pack #103 are leaving our sponsorship and we wish to bid them farewell.

Pastor:

In gracious mercy, God sent you to minister to us, among us, and on behalf of us. When you came to this congregation we rejoiced to receive you as partners with us in ministry.

Here at Salem you have used your God-given talents to work tirelessly at this place. As part of God's loving purpose for you, you have been both servants to others and witnesses to God's faithfulness and love. We hope that God has blessed you in our community of faith, for God has certainly blessed us through you.

We trust that God will continue to lead and guide you along new paths to fulfill all that God intends for you.

Pastor:

Let us pray. *(a brief silence)*

God of boundless power and endless love, we thank you for the scouts and for our life together in this congregation and community. As they have been a blessing to us, so now send them forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

When Jacob left his father-in-law's house, Laban asked God to keep watch over them both. As you leave our home here at Salem, I pronounce that same Mizpah blessing over you: May God watch between us when we are absent one from the other.

In loving thanks for the gifts you have offered and the gifts that you are, we present you with a gift of two pieces of wood to remind you that, though broken and divided, in Christ we are united, held together forever by the power of God's love. The vertical piece reminds us of the powerful, saving relationship we have with God through our Savior Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, and the horizontal piece reminds us of our relationship with each other and with all of creation.

As you leave our community of faith, and this cross remind you of all the gifts you have shared with us and the gifts you have been to us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

Please join us for another **Wondrous Wednesday** –
beginning with our semi-monthly Bible Study on Romans from 9:30-11,
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at 11:00 on zoom. (The link is on Salem’s calendar.)

THANK YOU and BLESSING

Before we end the live-streamed portion of our worship,
I want to especially thank those of you out there in cyberspace who have worshipped with us.
I hope you will join us again.

If you’d like to know more, or if you’d like to talk or pray together,
you can reach me through our website or Facebook.

As we say good-bye to our online worshippers,
let me offer all who are worshipping with us
this blessing based on today’s reading from Psalm 27:

In the day of trouble, know that God will give you shelter,
hide you in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise you high upon a rock.
So wait for God, be strong, and take heart
and you WILL see God’s goodness!

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Meal & Dismissal

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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**

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved.
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love.

In ✝ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.

God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen**

Rejoice in this good news:

In ✝ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Live as freed and forgiven children of God. **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 SONG

The Lord Is My Light

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
This Far by Faith # 61)*

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

**1 The Lord is my light and my salvation, the Lord is my light and my salvation,
the Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?**

Refrain

Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life; whom shall I fear?

**2 In the time of trouble, he shall hide me; in the time of trouble, he shall hide me;
in the time of trouble, he shall hide me; whom shall I fear?**

Refrain

Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life; whom shall I fear?

**3 Wait on the Lord and be of good courage, oh, wait on the Lord and be of good courage,
wait on the Lord and be of good courage; he shall strengthen thy heart.**

Refrain

Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life; whom shall I fear?

Text: based on Psalm 27, 2 Corinthians 4:6, adapt. by Lillian Bouknight; Meter Irregular

Music: THE LORD IS MY LIGHT by Lillian Bouknight, arr. Paul Gainer

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace and have no fear
for God is your light and salvation, your rock and your fortress, now and forevermore!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE 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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*Performance 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]*

Announcements

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 10th – in-person at 3160 Park Ave, & streamed live to Facebook.**

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

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

* **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!

Thank you to all who attended our first Looking for Lent Virtual Dinner Theatre Cabaret on Wednesday. The feedback we received was most positive so we hope to see many more of you on zoom this Wednesday!

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!

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!**

**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 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>

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!**

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

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.

Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461

Thursday, March 17, 2022

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age 16 and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.

Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

Saturday, March 19, 2022

Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.

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