



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

***4th Sunday in
Advent***

***December 18,
2022
9:30 AM***

AN *Angel*
APPEARS
TO *Joseph*



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor
marjoanderson@aol.com
203-982-3441 (cell)

Karl Kraft, Office Manager
salemsec123@sbcglobal.net

3160 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604
Telephone: 203-336-3300;

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

Welcome

WELCOME TO WORSHIP at 3160 Park Avenue! If you have concerns about being indoors, please note that we have 3 units of the best air cleaner on the market in the sanctuary. Also please know that you are more than welcome to wear a mask at worship if you'd like. We want everyone to feel as safe as possible.

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, which means we are beginning week 4 of our new church year! In our 3-year lectionary (cycle of Bible readings), this is year A, the year that we focus on the gospel of Matthew.

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel", a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of the One born to save us from the power of sin and death.

Flowers today are given by Cindy Roberts in honor of the birthdays of Jon Albers and Joey Roberts.

Today Salem and Grace Lutheran in Stratford are partnering to collect food at the Stop and Shop at 4531 Main Street in Bridgeport from 9-5 to donate to Sterling House Food Pantry. If you can help, show up to lend a hand, to shop for needed items, to make a cash contribution, or simply to lend moral support to our volunteers!

"Why gather for prayer? Why go to Bible Study?" If you ask Pastor Marjo, she'll tell you that's it's because amazing things happen when you gather to listen to God. Sometimes someone will get an answer to prayer that is so far beyond their expectations that we are left speechless. Sometimes through Bible study God is able to lead you to a whole new understanding of where God is leading the Church. Through our study of Acts, we've come to look at our congregations in a very different way, & begun to see what it takes for the Church to spread and grow. **You're invited to gather for prayer on zoom Wednesday at 12:00** here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3eII2ZmtiZEpadz09>

& for Bible Study 6:30-7:25 as we pick up in our study of Acts with chapter 22-23 at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89119212353?pwd=WFdhU3ZaL1BUb2syZmdzREdTZVpsdz09>

If you cannot access zoom just let us know and you can join one of us via speakerphone. And for anyone not able to join us on Sundays, Holy Communion will be offered at 7:25.

Save the Date! January 15th at 2:00pm, **for the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's inaugural Hymn Festival.** It will be a time of worship and celebration, and it also incidentally would have been the birthday of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There will be 4 choirs participating, based on a balance of worship style as well as racial, geographic, and theological demographics. In other words, this will not be a Baptist Hymn Festival or an Episcopal Hymn Festival but rather will be a blend of who CCGB has been since 1945: "The Council shall do jointly what no single communion, congregation, or denomination can do alone; namely, to express through fellowship, cooperation, and service the essential unity of the Christian Church." Venue to be announced.

The Connecticut Hospice, Inc. is accepting applications for new volunteers! Our patients and families are in need of your care and support. If you have an interest in companionship, light housekeeping or making meals, please contact Joan Cullen, Director of Volunteers at 203-315-7510.

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

Messiah # 8 & 9

**Behold, a Virgin Shall Conceive
O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings / Arise, Shine, for the Light Is Come**

Alto Recitative

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and shall call His name Emmanuel, God with us.
(Text from Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23)

Alto Air and Chorus

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain.
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength;
lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God!
(Text from Isaiah 40:9)

Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
(Text from Isaiah 60:1)

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain.
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength;
lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God!
(Text from Isaiah 40:9)

*Text set to Music by George Frideric Handel
This song is in the Public Domain.*

*Performance by Sarah Connolly, conducted by James O'Donnell
on 12/5/09, the 250th anniversary of the composer's death
and in the place where he is buried.
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-u1ghO2TyrE> [5:36]*

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of God who calls us out of darkness into light,
in the name of Jesus the light of the world,
and in the name of the Spirit who shines in our hearts!

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 in the US.

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.

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at the Stop and Shop at 4531 Main Street in Bridgeport from 9-5
to donate to Sterling House Food Pantry.

If you can help, show up to lend a hand, to shop for needed items, to make a cash contribution,
or simply to lend moral support to our volunteers!

On Wednesday we invite you to join us on zoom for prayer at noon & Bible Study at 6:30.

This week the Bible study continues with Acts, chapter 23.

If anyone has not been able to receive communion, we can offer that at the end of Bible study.

For Christmas Eve, Salem members will be joining other congregations in worship.

A listing of 8 different services are included in your Sunday bulletin.

We will be gathering next Sunday for our Christmas Day worship at our normal time and also on the following Sunday for our New Year's Day worship.

Both services will include an abundance of Christmas Carols!

For more details on these announcements or to hear about other upcoming events please see our worship bulletin at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.

Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings?

Then let's begin our worship with prayer:

God, you are a great, great God!

In your power you created this amazing universe and in your love you created us!

You keep the planets spinning on their axes and yet you take time to show up in our lives!

Thank you for all you do and for all that you are.

Help us to trust that as you gave a sign to a long-ago king, you desire to give us signs as well.

Give us the courage to ask for all that you are just waiting to give!

We pray all this in the Name of Jesus and by the Power of the Spirit. Amen

OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 257)

You may stand if you so desire.

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

*Text: based on Exodus 9:9-13, 20:1-21, Isaiah 7:10-14, 11:1, 59:20, 60:1-3,
Jeremiah 23:1-6, 33:14-16, Luke 1:78-79, Revelation 3:7, 22:16,*

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite; Meter 8 8 8 8 8 8

Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite

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Performance by Tim McNabb, Halifax Lutheran Church, 5/28/20 (50/655 in our hymn series)

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQrZ0qFaGyA> [5:17]

Please be seated.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLELIGHTING – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - LOVE

The wreath is of course a circle - reminding us of the perfection and eternity of God.

Many wreaths are decorated with evergreen branches.

The evergreen, like the circle, is a symbol of eternity - but also of life.

Holly is sometimes used instead of - or with - the evergreen.

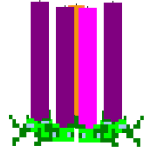
The sharp points of the leaves of the Holly remind us of Christ's crown of thorns.

The red berries remind us of his blood.

There is a story that holly berries were white until Christ's blood fell on them – causing them to be red ever since.

Christ is, of course, the light of the world – hence the candles.

(Our candle lighting ceremony today copyright is by the Rev. Richard J. Fairchild 2003)



ADVENT READING

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Love.

Jesus shows us God's perfect love.

He is God's perfect love in human form.

Those who believe in him and live in him, live in love.

Love transforms and perfects all things.

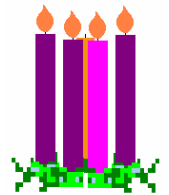
It never ends.

We light this candle today to remind us that God is love.

We thank God for hope God gives us, for the peace God bestows,

for the joy God pours into our hearts,

and for the love that redeems us and shows us the way.



ADVENT PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God of Love, Emmanuel, God-with-us, send your light into our hearts at this time.

Help us to be ready for the time of Christ's appearing.

Grant that we may so dwell in Christ that his perfect love fills our entire being.

Make our worship a time in which we celebrate your love

and are made ready to show that love to the whole world, both today and forevermore. **Amen**

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

ADVENT SONG

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

ELW # 240, vs, 4



4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

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Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 7:10-16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven”. But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test”. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

Word of God! Word of Life!
Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.
Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Word of God! Word of Life!
Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of God! Word of Life!
Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 1:18-25 *You may stand if you so desire.*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us". When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Word of God! Word of Life!
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Please be seated.

Pastor Marjo

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR ADVENT

(based on John 1 and John 14:19-26)

Let us affirm our faith together.

**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing was created.
The life that was in him became light for all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**To all who receive him, who believe in him,
is given the power to become children of God.**

**The Word became flesh, a man named Jesus.
He lived among us, full of grace and truth.
From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace.**

**In the name of Jesus, God has sent the Holy Spirit to teach us
and to remind us of all that he said and did.
We believe that because he lives, we shall live also,
to the glory of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen**

PURPOSE STATEMENT

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

**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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for love.

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

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church.

Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders

Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us.

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.

We pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:

Nancy Headford, Joey Roberts, Katherine Pytleski, and Jim McWain

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life.

Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation.

Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation

who dream of and are committed to the freedom and justice for all people.

We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you.

Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine.

Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment.

Comfort any who are isolated or lonely.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together.

We give you thanks for gathering us together in-person and online

for worship, for prayer, for Bible study, for service, and for fellowship,

Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery, especially Barbro, Barry,

Cliffy, Dave, Dave, Dennis, Dick, Dolores, Dorothy, Frank, Grace, Hans, Janice, Jeff, Jim,

Jocelyn, Joe, Joey, Linda, Liz, Katherine, Marija, Natalie, Pastor Ruth, Sara Jean, Steve, VL,

and all we name in our hearts.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever.

Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise

and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs.

By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children.

In Jesus' name we pray. **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 it 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.



HYMN OF THE DAY I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 815)*

You may stand if you so desire.

**I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God gave the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.**

**In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path and show me the way to the Father.**

**In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.**

**In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

Text: based on John 12.46, Ephesians 5.8-14, 1 John 1, 5, Revelation 21.23;

by Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934; Meter 10 7 10 8 and refrain

Tune: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934;

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Performance by First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska on 08/19/18,

sung by the congregation and men of the Plymouth Choir,

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZ78sCBWlrQ> [4:33]

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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THANK YOU

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 with me, you can reach her through Salem's website or Facebook page.

BLESSING

As we say good-bye to our online worshippers,

I'd like to offer to all who are worshipping with us, both in-person and in cyberspace this blessing based on our readings for today:

In Jesus, the LORD God of the heavenly armies,
has come to restore you – to rescue you and save you!
May Jesus, the Light of the World, shine in your heart this day
that your life may reflect the light of God's love!

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Meal & Dismissal

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

You may stand if you so desire and make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever! Amen!

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen

People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on **+** Christ, and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord! **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 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!**

SENDING SONG

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 631)

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.**
- 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**
- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**
- 4 Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

*Text: based on John 20:22, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Hebrews 4:9-10, Revelation 4:10-11, 7:15,
by Charles Wesley, 1707-1788; Meter 8 7 8 7 D*

Melody: HYFRYDOL by Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1812-1887

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Performance by The Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul Montreal, QC, Canada, 05/19/20

Arr. J. Scott and J. Oldengarm

Dr. Jean-Sébastien Vallée, Conductor;

Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm, Organist/Director of Music;

Stratsimir Dimitrov, Sound Editing and Video Montage

Released on the Choir's CD "A New Heaven" - available at www.standrewstpaul.com

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eb6xfRzjhg> [4:41]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Walk in the light of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Love Has A Name

Verse 1 There's a space in ev'ry beating heart
 There's a longing that reaches past the stars
 There's an answer to ev'ry question mark
 There's a name

Verse 2 There's a hope flowing through these veins
 There's a voice that echoes through the pain
 There's an ember ready for the flame
 There's a name

Pre-Chorus We will fix our eyes on the One who overcame
 We will stand in awe Of the One who breaks the chains

Chorus 1 Love has a name Love has a name Jesus
 Love has a name Love has a name Jesus

Verse 3 There's a joy that triumphs over fear
 There's a laughter that wipes away all tears
 There's a presence that changes atmospheres
 There's a name

Chorus 2 Vict'ry has a name Vict'ry has a name Jesus
 Joy has a name Joy has a name Jesus

Bridge The name that's lifted up forever
 The name that shakes the earth
 And shakes the heavens
 The hope for ev'ry heart
 The Savior of the world Jesus – Jesus

Chorus 3 Oh oh love has a name Love has a name Jesus
 My vict'ry has a name Vict'ry has a name Jesus
 Oh joy has a name Joy has a name Jesus
 My hope has a name Hope has a name Jesus

Chorus 4 (Oh) love has a name Love has a name Jesus
 Joy has a name Joy has a name Jesus

CCLI Song # 7091348

Kim Walker-Smith | Ran Jackson | Ricky Jackson

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Performance by Jesus Culture, featuring, Kim Walker-Smith, 10/11/17

Official studio version Jesus Culture's new worship album, Love Has A Name.

Download/Stream here: <http://jcltr.me/lovehasaname.studio>

Official album playlist here: <http://bit.ly/2vJdUi7>

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2S3aJIf9w8> [4:23]

WORSHIP SCHEDULE for CHRISTMAS EVE and BEYOND



*Christmas Eve, Salem is not having worship services,
but below is a list of services in the area you can attend:*

3:00 pm – Grace Lutheran, 150 Chapel St., Stratford

5:00 pm – Our Saviour’s Lutheran, 160 Hill Farm Rd., Fairfield
(Family Worship with Christmas Pageant)

5:00 pm – Holy Trinity Lutheran, 406 White Plains Rd., Trumbull

5:00 pm – Holy Cross LCMS, 5995 Main St., Trumbull

5:00 pm – Christ Presbyterian at Park City Music Hall, 2926 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport

5:30 pm – Good Shepherd Lutheran, 466 Elm St., Monroe

8:00 pm – Our Saviour’s Lutheran, 160 Hill Farm Rd., Fairfield

8:00 pm – Holy Cross LCMS, 5995 Main St., Trumbull

**Salem will have a Christmas Day Carol Service
on Sunday Dec 25 at our normal time of 9:30.**

**Salem will have a New Year’s Day Service
of Lessons & Carols on Sunday Jan 1
at our normal time of 9:30**



**BOTH CHRISTMAS and NEW YEARS DAY SERVICES ABOVE
WILL FEATURE AN ABUNDANCE OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS!**

Upcoming services at our regular time include:

Sunday Jan 8 - Epiphany Sunday service

Sunday Jan 15 - Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

Sundays Jan 22, Jan 29, Feb 5, Feb 12, and Feb 19 - Sundays after Epiphany

Wednesday Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday – place TBA

Announcements

Looking for a job? Shiloh Baptist Church at 477 Broad Street in Bridgeport can help. Resume, job search & interview skills. Come check open positions. **Every Monday beginning December 5th** 4 pm til 7 pm. Register in advance, if possible, at 203-579-1504 or Jessicamcneil787@gmail.com . 1,000 jobs open in CT. Come, find yours, and get to work!

You can help feed the hungry! While we may not have our own food pantry anymore, some of our members and others are still in need of food and Pastor Marjo distributes \$25 stop and shop cards as needed, requested and as available. Also, a number of Salem members support the food pantry at PT Barnum with their time, and we'd also like to support it financially. We encourage you to donate to Salem's food assistance fund. You can give using the envelopes found in your quarterly envelope packet or you can put a check in the donation box marked "food assistance." In addition, you may send check to office or drop it in church mailbox or give it or cash to Pastor Marjo. You can also give to the fund online by **clicking on this link**. or go to our website, SalemBridgeport.org, click on Donate, and then fill in your amount under "Food Pantry Donation".

Let's stay connected! Much of Pastor Marjo's and Salem's Office Manager, Karl's work can be done from their homes, but generally Karl is here on Thursdays to take care of tasks that cannot be accomplished remotely, and Pastor Marjo is happy to meet with you in-person here should you so desire. 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 or send an email to SalemSec123@sbcglobal.net. **Please also do not hesitate to call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441 or email her at marjoanderson@aol.com. She would be MORE THAN HAPPY to hear from you!**

Living with a family member (non-spouse) or friend who is 65 or older, and who is on medicaid? Companies such as Emerest Adult Family Living will pay you to care for them. You must go through a proces to determine how much you are qualified for by the state of CT, but some people make more than \$2,750/month. Call or text Emerest at 203-871-3000 to learn more or fill out a quick form online at www.emerestafl.com .

You may have money waiting for you at <https://ctbiglist.com/> . Just put in your name, city and zip and then press search. If you want to verify that this is legit, just go to: <https://portal.ct.gov/OTT/Unclaimed-Property/Overview> . If you end up with some unexpected cash, you might want to think about giving a tithe on it to Salem! 😊

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552 **Tuesday, December 20, 2022**
Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age 24 she & several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

CREDITS

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Our denomination's work on Climate Care – Acting upon a request from several sources, in November 2021, the ELCA Church Council authorized the development of an ELCA social message on climate care. Social messages are ELCA teaching documents that address a focused social topic. Drawing from existing social teaching, they provide theological rationale and social analysis to foster discernment and engagement on a relatively narrow social issue. This project was authorized in light of the grim contemporary situation affecting our global home and the need for fresh action on the part of this church. It draws its framing themes from several social statements, particularly *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*

<https://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Caring-for-Creation> In line with standard ELCA

protocol https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Policies_and_Procedures.pdf, the project is being shepherded by the ELCA Director for Theological Ethics, working with a lead writer in collaboration with a group of reviewers. **The draft social message is now available for public feedback! Read the social message draft here**

[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/DRAFT-Social Message on Climate Care.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/DRAFT-Social%20Message%20on%20Climate%20Care.pdf) **and then use this survey** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R8R98QX>

to share your input by Friday, December 2, 2022. The draft will be edited, guided by the feedback, and presented to the ELCA Church Council to be voted on this coming spring



New CCGB President and CEO

The Rev. Curtis Farr, board chair of the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport (CCGB), announced that the Rev. Shivonne Annan has accepted the position of president and CEO of the CCGB.

"The Rev. Annan brings valuable experience in leading and working with non-profit groups serving urban communities. We are excited to have her join us in directing the critical services that the Council of Churches provides to so many individuals, families, & communities of Greater Bridgeport."

The Rev. Shivonne Annan holds a Bachelor of Arts from Pennsylvania State University, a Master of Business Administration from American Intercontinental University, a Master of Education from Adelphi University, and a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary.

The Rev. Shivonne Annan has prior experience as the executive director of Community Help in Park Slope, Inc. (CHiPS) in Brooklyn, which serves as many as 175 meals daily through their soup kitchen and food pantry. Earlier she served as the executive director of Jeremiah Program's community in the Brownsville neighborhood in Brooklyn, overseeing their efforts to provide support for mothers and children. Annan also served as a pastor in a congregation in New Jersey and as the assistant director of St. John Residence and School for Boys in Rockaway Park, N.Y.

The Rev. Shivonne Annan will assume her duties with the Council of Churches early 2023, replacing Tom Larson, who currently serves as interim president and CEO.