



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Christmas Day

*December 25,
2022*

9:30 AM



... to you is born
this day in the city of
David a Savior,
who is the
Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:11, NRSV

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](#) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Welcome

*A most blessed Christmas to you and yours
as we celebrate together the gift of God
made manifest in the birth of the Christ child -
not only over 2000 years ago,
but in his birth tonight -
in the hearts of those who invite him in
and welcome him as their Lord and Savior.*

*May you be blessed during our worship this morning
and throughout the coming year!*

MERRY CHRISTMAS! As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being! Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then -- and now! Along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we are so emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth that we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God"! O come, let us adore God in Christ who through the Holy Spirit is with us right here and right now!

We want you to feel safe so please know that we have 3 units of the best air cleaner on the market in the sanctuary. Also, you are most welcome to wear a mask at worship if you'd like.

"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.

Next Sunday on New Year's Day we gather at our regular time of 9:30 as we continue to celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas with a service of lessons and carols.

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

Distant Echoes: A Christmas Prelude for Orchestra

Music by Kentaro Sato,

Conducted by Kentaro Sato (Ken-P)

Performed by Budapest Symphony Orchestra

a take from recording session, 03/25/19

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUYpHcCertk> [6:36]

Christmas Prelude

Rieks van der Velde. CIMO - Carlos Esteve, Premiered 01/05/22

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWppVmrhazQ> [2:32]

Christmas Prelude on 'Fröhliche Weihnacht'

by Paul Fey

Premiered 12/26/21

This piece was played on the wonderful Hauptwerk Sampleset of Giubiasco

sampled by Piotr Grabowski and played via my Gloria Klassik

352 electronic organ sponsored by Kisselbach.

I hope you like this joyful Christmas-Prelude

on the German carol "Fröhliche Weihnacht".

To celebrate Christmas and the arrival of my new organ (demo-video soon!)

this score will be available for FREE.

I'd still be very thankful for a donation towards my studies at university –

thank you!!

For donations use this PayPal-Link (use "Send" option): <https://www.paypal.me/feypaul>

To download the score please visit Google Drive: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JzAb...>

If you like the content on my channel, you might like to make a more regular contribution

in support of my work by becoming a patron and donating through Patreon:

<https://www.patreon.com/feypaul>

Any help you are able to offer will be most gratefully accepted: thank you!

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBMvnx1o0ug> [1:43]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of the God who spoke in ancient times through the Law and the Prophets,
in the name of God's Word made manifest in human form over 2000 years ago
in the person of Jesus Christ,
and in the name of the God who speaks to our own hearts and minds right here and now
through the gift of the Holy Spirit!

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.

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, chapters 24 & 25.

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

Next Sunday on New Year's Day we gather at our regular time of 9:30

as we continue to celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas with a service of lessons & 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 of boundless power and endless love,

you are the transcendent force that brought all of creation into being,

& at the same time you are the immanent power that resides in the hearts of those who love you.

Open our minds and hearts, our bodies and souls to receive all that you desire to give.

Make us open channels so that your love and mercy and grace

might flow through each one of us to every person in our lives.

Let the ripples of your love and grace

cause justice to flow like water, and your truth like an ever-flowing stream,

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

OPENING CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 283, vss. 1 & 4)*

You may stand if you so desire.

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him born the king of angels!
O come, let us adore him! O come, let us adore him!
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him! O come, let us adore him!
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

*Text: based on Luke 2:13-16, John 1:1-5, 14,
attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786;
tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2;
Meter Irregular*

Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

Text and Music are in the Public Domain

Performance by First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln, Nebraska, 12/12/16

An excerpt from the ABENDMUSIK AT FIRST-PLYMOUTH Christmas program

"O Come, Let Us Adore Him"

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=242_gGa8ni8 [6:27]

Please be seated.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLELIGHTING –CHRIST

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.

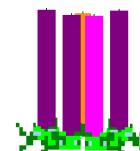
The sharp points of the leaves of the Holly remind us of Christ's crown of thorns.

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

As we light these candles today, 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.

We thank God for the gift of Jesus.

We thank God that, through Christ, God's light has come into the world
and made it possible for us to see, and in seeing, to rejoice.

God's truth, God's love, God's very self, transforms all who receive him.



ADVENT PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God, Emmanuel, God-with-us, we thank you for being with us,
for sending your Son to walk with us and to lead us.

Grant that the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love
which we have heard and spoken of throughout Advent

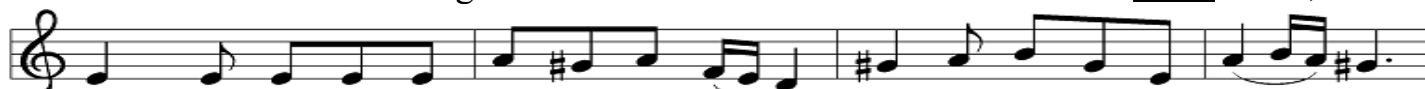
may be fully realized in us as we worship and serve you through Christ Jesus our Lord,
both now, in the new year to come, and forevermore. **Amen**

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

ADVENT SONG

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

ELW # 240, vss. 1-4



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #25794.

Performance by Tim McNabb, Halifax Lutheran Church, 11/17/20, 353/665 in their hymn series

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbuFk_GwCQ8 [2:02]

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 62:6-12

- ⁶ Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night they shall never be silent.
You who remind the Lord, take no rest,
- ⁷ **and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.**
- ⁸ The Lord has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored;
- ⁹ but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord,
and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.
- ¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.
- ¹¹ The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth:
**Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him."**
- ¹² They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord";
and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

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

PSALM CAROL

From Heaven Above

(as found in Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 268)

You may stand as you so desire.

- "From heav'n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev'ry home!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing:"**
- "To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this newborn child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth."**
- 14."Glory to God in highest heav'n, who unto us the Son has giv'n."
With angels sing in pious mirth a glad new year to all the earth!"**

*Text: based on Luke 2:7-20, by Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship;
Meter L M*

Music: VOM HIMMEL HOCH, attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, Geistliche Lieder, 1539

Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Reprinted / Streamed with permission under OneLicense # A-727372

Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Halifax, 12/13/22

Accompaniment Style: Orch. Big Band 2

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fg4oG-34Ydw> [5:33]

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Titus 3:4-7

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

You may stand if you so desire.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION CAROL Angels We Have Heard on High

(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship #289, vs. 1)

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

*Text: Matthew 2:11, Luke 2:8-20,
 French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864;
 Meter 7 7 7 7 and refrain*

*Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958
Text & Music are in the Public Domain*

*Performance by Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church
and Interim Music Director, Barbara Bulger Verdile, 12/25/20
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfG33W5h8Ks> [2:18]*

[¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.]

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us”. ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION CAROL Angels We Have Heard on High

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship #289, vs. 3)*

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

*Text: Matthew 2:11, Luke 2:8-20,
 French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864;
 Meter 7 7 7 7 and refrain*

*Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958
Text & Music are in the Public Domain*

*Performance by Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church
and Interim Music Director, Barbara Bulger Verdile, 12/25/20
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfG33W5h8Ks> [2:18]*

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR CHRISTMAS *(based on Romans 1:1-7)*

Let us affirm our faith together.

**We believe that we have been called to be messengers of the gospel,
the good news which God promised beforehand
through the prophets in the holy scriptures,
the gospel concerning God's own dear Child,
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 a calling
to bring about the obedience of faith among all people
for the sake of his name, and because we belong to Jesus Christ,
To us is given grace and peace from God in Christ through the power of 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

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world,
we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

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

The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God.

We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise,
and for all who lead the church's worship.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Seafarers and International House.

We pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Priscilla Schulz and Ray Anderson.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

This day dawns with new hope for all living things,

and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices.

Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict.

Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish justice for all.

Give courage to each and every one of us

as you lead us to speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others.

Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety.

Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are troubled.

Heal the sick and speed their recovery, especially Barbro, Barry, Cliffy, Dave, Dave, Dennis,
Dick, Dolores, Dorothy, Frank, Grace, Jacob, Janice, Jeff, Jim, Jocelyn, Joe, Linda, Liz,
Katherine, Marija, Natalie, Pastor Ruth, Sara, Sara Jean, Steve, VL & all we name in our hearts.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day.

Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel.

Inspire us to sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries

that give generously to people in need.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In Christ we have beheld your glory, full of grace and truth.

We give thanks for those in every generation who reflect the light of Christ.

May their witness shine forth in our time.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus,
we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Mary, Did You Know

Mary did you know That your baby boy Would one day walk on water
Mary did you know That your baby boy Would save our sons and daughters
Did you know That your baby boy Has come to make you new
This Child that you delivered Will soon deliver you

Mary did you know That your baby boy Would give sight to the blind man
Mary did you know That your baby boy Would calm a storm with His hand
Did you know That your baby boy Has walked where angels trod
And when you kiss your little baby You've kissed the face of God Oh Mary did you know

Ooh Mary did you know ooh ooh
The blind will see The deaf will hear The dead will live again
The lame will leap The dumb will speak The praises of the Lamb

Oh Mary did you know That your baby boy Is Lord of all creation
Mary did you know That your baby boy Will one day rule the nations
Did you know That your baby boy Is heaven's perfect Lamb
And the sleeping Child you're holding Is the great I Am Oh Mary oh

CCLI Song # 839225

Buddy Greene / Mark Lowry

© 1991, 1993 Rufus Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Curb Word Music (Admin. by WC Music Corp.)

For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

CCLI License # 11092038

Performance by Steve Kuczo; Background track found at this link: <https://youtu.be/qzATTOAa064> [3:25]

OFFERING PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

You may stand if you so desire.

Let us pray, *(a brief silence)*

God of abundance,

receive and bless these gifts we have offered.

Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration.

**Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen**

CAROL OF THE DAYO Little Town of Bethlehem

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 279, vss. 1 & 4)*

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

*Text: based on Job 38:7, Isaiah 7:10-14, Micah 5:2, Luke 2:1-14,
by Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893; Meter 8 6 8 6 7 6 8 6*

Music: ST. LOUIS, by Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

Text & Music are in the Public Domain

Performance by Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church, 12/25/20

Voice: Donathan Chang, John Cassidy, Dave Spurling, Mark Weber

Organ: Carol Churchill

Coordinating, Film Editing, Audio Mixing and Mastering: Sung Lee

We pray that the worship and music materials from 'Samm Hills Music' is a blessing to you.

If you would like to use it in your setting (worship, class, etc), please do so.

If you do, please let us know

so that we can better understand the depth and breadth of God's reach through our ministry.

You can reach us at sammamishhillslutheranchurch@gmail.com

If you would like to help us to continue to produce these kinds of materials,

you are invited to make a donation at <https://secure.myvanco.com/YK2T/home>

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UrUbtedJ7o> [3:49]

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

**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.

**We will be gathering next Sunday, New Year's Day, at our normal time of 9:30
for a service of Lessons and Carols**

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

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 today's 2nd reading from Paul's letter to Titus:

God has sent Jesus to save you
by offering you rebirth through ongoing renewal by the Holy Spirit.
God wants nothing more than to pour out this Spirit richly on you
so that, having been transformed by grace,
you might live in hope as you experience the abundant life Jesus came to give.
Amen!

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 Holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life & our salvation. **Amen!**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security.

We nurture conflict and build barriers.

We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God! **Amen!**

COMMUNION

Please be seated.

God be with you!

Open your hearts!

Let us give thanks to the God of all!

And also with you!

We open them to God and one another!

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 CAROL

Cold December Flies Away

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 299)*

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 **Cold December flies away at the rose-red splendor.
April's crowning glory breaks while the whole world wonders
at the holy unseen pow'r of the tree which bears the flow'r.
On the blessed tree blooms the reddest flow'r.
On the tree blooms the rose here in love's own garden, full and strong in glory.**

- 2 **In the hopeless time of sin shadows deep had fallen.
All the world lay under death Eyes were closed in sleeping.
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose golden light
brings unending joy, brings the endless joy of our hope,
highest hope of our hope's bright dawning, Son belov'd of heaven.**

- 3 **Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world awakens.
In the lily's purest flow'r dwells a wondrous fragrance.
And it spreads to all the earth from the moment of its birth;
and its beauty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it spreads
in its heav'nly brightness sweet perfume delightful.**

*Text: based on Song of Solomon 2:1, 11-13, Isaiah 11:1, Luke 1:78-79,
Catalonian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953; Meter P M*

Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Catalonian carol

*Text and Arrangement © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress;
Reprinted / Streamed with permission under OneLicense # A-727372*

*Performance by Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN, 12/31/20
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fo5M9iBnryE> [5:06]*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and joy, giving glory and praise to God for all you have heard and seen!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE MUSIC

Christmas Pipe Organ Postlude: O Come All Ye Faithful, J.S. Bach Cantata, and Oh Holy Night
Alyn D. Heim, organist, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 12/24/14
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zkgwfc8JYgM> [3:28]

Announcements

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

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. 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 a check to the 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".

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.

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!

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.emerestafll.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

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr Monday, December 26, 2022

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

John, Apostle and Evangelist Tuesday, December 27, 2022

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs Wednesday, December 28, 2022

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

CREDITS

From sundaysandseasons.com. © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS005794.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989,

Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.

Used by permission.



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.