



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

***2nd Sunday in
Advent***

***December 4,
2022
9:30 AM***

**PREPARE YE THE
WAY OF THE LORD**



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 second Sunday of Advent, which means that last Sunday we began a brand 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.

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. We come to worship to step into the spiritual reality of the kingdom of God through our praise and our prayers. And from here we are sent out to share our experience of that kingdom and invite others into it! proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Holiday Show Time! If you enjoyed attending the Little Mermaid last summer, you'll definitely want to join New Paradigm Theatre Company (NPT) and usher in the holiday season at the Fairfield Theatre Company's StageOne with spectacular performances! NPT's annual holiday extravaganza on **Saturday December 10th at 8:00pm and Sunday December 11th at 3pm**. The holiday show is jam-packed with Broadway dancers, singers, instrumentalists, and "Ms Clauz with a Z"© and her elves. Music Directed by Chris Coogan. NPT also continues to think outside the holiday box and will showcase its theatre arts education mentoring by featuring our NPT youth alongside Broadway, Film and TV professionals. For Saturday tickets go to <https://nptheatre.org/holiday-show-2022/> or **for Sunday tickets speak with Pastor Marjo TODAY.**

"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.

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

But Who May Abide + For He Is Like A Refiner's Fire + And He Shall Purify

Bass Recitative—Haggai 2:6-7; Malachi 3:1

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts:

Yet once, a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.

And I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come.

The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple,

even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in:

Behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

Alto Air—Malachi 3:2

But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth?

For He is like a refiner's fire.

Chorus—Malachi 3:3

And He shall purify the sons of Levi,

that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

Text and Music from "Messiah" by George Frederic Handel)

Performance # 1 by Trinity Wall Street Choir and Trinity Baroque Orchestra

Julian Wachner, music director and conductor, 12/24/ 2017

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JozORpK4lyY> [6:43]

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.

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 22-23**.

On Saturday, you are invited for breakfast

and a “Packing Party” for the Seafarers from 9:00-11:00 at Grace Church in Stratford.

Following the packing party I'll be coming here to worship with Ephraim SDA Church,

and you are welcome to join me as we build relationships
with our brothers and sisters in Christ with whom we share this building.

And if you'd like to go to the New Paradigm Theatre company's Holiday Show

on Saturday evening at 8:00 pm or Sunday at 3 pm

at the Fairfield Theatre Company's Stage One,
please speak with me today so we can get a group discount.

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, we come to praise you and give you thanks!

At the beginning of all things, you spoke light into darkness and spoke creation into being!

You sent Jesus to be the Light of the world!

You sent your Spirit to enlighten our minds, to kindle our hearts, and to blaze in our spirits.

Open us this very day to the cleansing fire of your love,

that we might leave here this day,

energized to witness to your power and mobilized to show forth your love in service.

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

OPENING SONG On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 249)

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!**
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.**
- 3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.**
- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.**
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

Text: based on Numbers 6:25, Job 14:1-2, Isaiah 40:3, 7, Matthew 3:1-6, Mark 1:2-6,

Luke 3:1-6 by Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite; Meter L M

Music: PUER NOBIS European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Text & Music are in the Public Domain.

Please be seated.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLELIGHTING – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - PEACE

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.

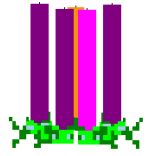
The sharp points of the leaves of the Holly remind us of Christ's crown of thorns.

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 Second Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Peace.

Our peace is found in God and in God's son, Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist & all the prophets remind us, that to receive peace we must be prepared for it.

We light this candle today to remind us that Christ is the Prince of Peace, the one promised from the beginning of the world.

We thank God for the hope God gives us and for the peace God bestows.

ADVENT PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God of Peace, Emmanuel, God-with-us,

we pray you to send your light into our hearts at this time.

Help us to be ready for the day and the hour of Christ's appearing.

Work in our hearts at this time and help us prepare ourselves for the peace that he brings,

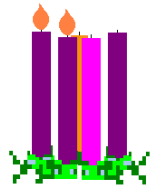
the inner peace that tells us that we are united with you

and the outer peace which will come when Christ returns to judge the world.

Bless our worship that it may be pleasing to you,

and bless us that we may prove to be your faithful servants. **Amen**

(Light the 1st & 2nd candles.)



ADVENT SONG

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW # 240, vs. 2

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

He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a '2' below it, indicating a second ending. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
that his life might overflow with joy!

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;
that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.
May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.
In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!
And blessed be your glorious name forever, & may all the earth be filled with your glory.
Amen!
Amen!

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 15:1-13

We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. For Christ did not please himself, but, as it is written, "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me".

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised, on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 3:1-12

You may stand if you so desire.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near”. This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’ ”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

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 peace.

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

God, you renew the church in every age.

We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians.

Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people.

We pray for our mission partners,

especially today for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission and the Center for Family Justice.

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

Elijah Caragol, Barbara Howard, Dale Danowski, and Ashley Palmarozza.

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

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more.

Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures.

Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed.

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

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed.

Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good.

Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials

to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves.

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

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear.

Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused,

especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking.

Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence.

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

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us.

Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation.

We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones, especially

Barry, Cliff, Cluffy, Dave, Dave, Dennis, Dick, Dolores, Dorothy, Frank, Grace, 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.**

You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises,

and we give thanks for their faithful witness, especially for Clifford LaRose, Sr.

Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence.

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 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.

SONG OF THE DAY

All Earth Is Hopeful

*(as found in the ELCA worship books Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 266,
This Far by Faith # 47, and With One Voice # 629)*

You may stand if you so desire.

**All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.**

**People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.**

**Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**

**We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he his present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.**

*Text: based on Isaiah 7:10-14, 40:1-11, Matthew 1:18-25, 3:1-12, Luke 2:33, 38, James 5:7-10
by Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946; Meter 11 11 12 12*

*Music: TODA LA TIERRA by Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; arr. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1944-1992;
Spanish Text & Tune © 1993 and Translation © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica,
admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.*

*Text & Tune © 1972 Alberto Taulé, admin. Virgil C. Funk;
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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 22-23.**

**On Saturday, you are invited for breakfast
and a “Packing Party” for the Seafarers from 9:00-11:00 at Grace Church in Stratford.**
Following the packing party I’ll be coming here to worship with Ephraim SDA Church,
and you are welcome to join me as we build relationships
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**And if you’d like to go to the New Paradigm Theatre company’s Holiday Show
on Saturday evening at 8:00 pm or Sunday at 3 pm**
at the Fairfield Theatre Company’s Stage One,
please speak with me today so we can get a group discount.

**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 our reading today from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 11:

May God pour into you the Holy Spirit that you may receive the 7-fold gifts of the Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and awe of God,
that your life might overflow with joy! 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 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 HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

(as found in the ELCA worship books Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 264)

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:**

Refrain: **Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!**

- 2 God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain:***

- 3 Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: *Refrain:***

- 4 His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: *Refrain:***

*Text: based on Psalm 24:7-10, Isaiah 40:3-5, Matthew 3:3, 21:8-9, Mark 1:2-3, 11:8-10,
Luke 3:4-6, 19:35-38, John 12:12-13, by Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847;
translation Lutheran Book of Worship; Meter 7 6 7 6 7 7 6 6*

Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.

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DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Prepare Ye (the Way of the Lord)

from "Godspell"

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Words based on Isaiah 40:3, Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, Luke 3:4 by Stephen Schwartz

Music by Stephen Schwarz

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*Performance by Fairfield County Children's Choir, Jon Noyes, Music Director & Founder
with soloists Patrick Agonito, Caroline Lui, Abigail Bruce & the Combined Choirs of the FCCC
at "Spotlight Broadway" at Klein Memorial Auditorium, Bridgeport, CT, 02/01/14*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfxDUNMfry4> [1:58]

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 are invited to join a “Packing Party” for the Seafarers on NEXT Saturday, December 10th, at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford. Rich Lansing and Bruce Tomasko will cook and serve breakfast at 9:00 (come at 8:00 if you can help!), and Carol Lansing will supervise the packing of the donated items beginning at 10:00. We hope you will join us for a time of fun, food, and fellowship as we seek to serve seafarers!

You are invited to join Pastor Marjo at Ephraim Seventh Day Adventist Church’s Worship, immediately following the Seafarers Packing Party. Part of our call as Christians is to live into the unity of the Body of Christ. Building relationships with the people with whom we share the building is part of that adventure!

On Saturday December 17th, please join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Cafe for their Inner-View Chat’n’Chew from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm on zoom. The link is on the calendar on our website.

MITTEN TREE. While we will not have an actual mitten tree this year, we will be collecting mittens, gloves, hats and scarves as usual. There will be a box in the narthex on Sunday mornings for contributions. Items can also be dropped off at the office on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If the door is locked please call the Church number from your cell phone and Karl will let you in.

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.

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! 😊

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!**

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died c. 749 Sunday, December 4, 2022

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342 Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397 Wednesday, December 7, 2022

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

CREDITS

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Holiday Show!

**AT FAIRFIELD THEATRE COMPANY
DECEMBER 10TH AND 11TH**

TICKETS: WWW.NPTHEATRE.ORG

**"Oh what fun...
for the whole family"**





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 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.