



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*1st Sunday
after Christmas*

Name of Jesus

*January 1, 2023
9:30 AM*



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Welcome

*A most blessed New Years Day to you and yours
as we continue to celebrate the 12 days of Christmas,
rejoicing together in the gift of God
made manifest in the birth of the Christ child -
not only over 2000 years ago,
but in his birth today -
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 AND HAPPY NEW YEARS!

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, we participate in an ancient tradition of lessons and carols which tells the story of how Christmas began at the creation of the world and continues to this time and place.

Readings for the First Sunday after Christmas – Although we will not be reading the lessons appointed for this Sunday, we encourage you to take some time this week to read them – Isaiah 63:7-9 (Israel saved by God’s own presence), Psalm 148 (The splendor of the Lord over earth and heaven), Hebrews 2:10-18 (Christ shares flesh and blood to free humankind), and Matthew 2:13-23 (The slaughter of innocent children). The gospel confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod which reminds us that the birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

Readings for The Name of Jesus, celebrated on January 1 – Although we will not be reading the lessons appointed for this festival, we encourage you to take some time this week to read them – Numbers 6:22-27 (The Aaronic blessing), Psalm 8 (How majestic is God’s name in all the earth!), Galatians 4:4-7 (We are no longer slaves, but children), Philippians 2:5-11 (God takes on human form), Luke 2:15-21 (The child is circumcised and named Jesus). From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are “Christ-ened” at the font. Bearing Christ’s name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately as “Abba” or “Daddy”. Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.

Please note that Pastor Marjo has prepared a take-home insert for you to help you celebrate this Name of Jesus Festival!

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.

Gathering

GATHERING CAROL Of the Father's Love Begotten

(as found in the ELCA worship book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 295)

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.
- 2 Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.
- 3 This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord
evermore and evermore.
- 4 Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore.
- 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory evermore and evermore! Amen

One License Song # 81061

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite; Meter: 8 7 8 7 8 7 7

Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance # 1 Arr. K. McChesney by the Handbell Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Boise, ID, 12/09/18
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99utoV0yVmU> [3:25]*

*Performance # 2 Arr. for solo piano by Pam Turner, sheet music at 222.pamturnerpiano.com, 09/13/17
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7ignlSDXW0> [2:46]*

*Performance # 3 by the bell choir at St Mary of the Mount & Prince of Peace Parish, Pittsburgh, PA, 12/06/20
with arrangement by Dr. Thomas Conroy. Used with permission. [2:56]*

*Performance # 4 Arr. by Walter Pelz. Sung by the Plymouth Choir of First Plymouth Church, 12/11/16,
Tom Trenney, conducting; Joanne Rodland, organist
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLpMSIvU4xs&t=19s> [6:11]*

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.

The Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord concludes the Twelve Days of Christmas,

on January 6th, but since we do not have worship that day,

we will celebrate that festival next Sunday,

remembering the day the Three Kings presented their gifts to the baby Jesus.

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 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 270)*

You may stand if you so desire.

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

*Text: based on Isaiah 9:6, Malachi 4:2, Luke 2:13-14, John 1:1-14,
 2 Corinthians 5:19,
 by Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.; Meter 7 7 7 7 D and refrain*
*Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847;
 arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915*

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance by the congregation of Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, CA, 12/12/17
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTDSz-7D0sI> [3:11]*

Word

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 1:1–5, 14–18

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day....

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

FIRST CAROL

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 284, vss. 1, 3, & 4)*

- 1 **'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled,
that *God the Lord of all the earth sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim, and wond'ring hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria!**
- 3 **The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria!**
- 4 **O children of the forest free, the angel-song is true;
the holy child of earth and heav'n is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy, who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.
Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria!**

**original: "mighty Gitchi Manitou"*

*Text: based on Luke 2:8-16, by Jean de Brebeuf, 1593-1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872-1960, alt. ;
Meter 8 6 8 6 8 8 and refrain*

Music: UNE JEUNE PUCELLE, French folk tune, c. 16th cent.

Text © 1927 The Frederick Harris Music Company;

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Arrangement © Augsburg Fortress

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Performance by Zack von Menchhofen, cago, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Richlandtown, PA, 01/02/21

*Played from the 1982 Hymn #114. Organ is a Batholomay and Sons (Fritzsche) pipe organ
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IIJ8Olu2o> [4:55]*

SECOND LESSON: Micah 5:2–5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore God shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the remnant of the ruler's family shall return to the people of Israel.

The ruler shall stand and shepherd them in the strength of YHWH,
in the majesty of the name of YHWH their God.

And they shall live in safety,
for now the ruler shall be great to the ends of the earth;
and shall be their peace.

SECOND CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 272, verses 1-2)*

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.**
- 2 Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.**

*Text: based on Isaiah 11:1, Luke 2:7-16, German carol, 15th cent.;
tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3;
John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4; Meter 7 6 7 6 6 7 6*

*Music: ES IST EIN ROS, Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599;
arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621*

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance by Barbara Bulger Verdile, Interim Music Director
and Choir of Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church, 12/27/20*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PZfl0u7FNM> [5:15]

THIRD LESSON: Hebrews 1.1-3a

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

THIRD CAROL

Joy to the World

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 267)*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

*Text: based on Genesis 3:17-19, Psalm 98, 100, Isaiah 55:12-13, Luke 2:10,
by Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Meter C M and repeat*

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

Text & Music are in the Public Domain

*Performance by Megan C, vocalist, and Dr. Thomas Conroy, organist,
at St Mary of the Mount and Prince of Peace Parish in Pittsburgh, PA.
Used with permission from Dr. Conroy.*

FOURTH LESSON: Luke 1:26–35, 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young woman engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The young woman's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! God is with you!" But she was much perplexed by the angel's words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a child, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Child of the Most High, and YHWH God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy and will be called the Child of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

FOURTH CAROL Once in Royal David's City

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 269, verses 1-2)*

- 1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.**
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.**

*Text: based on Micah 5:2, Philippians 2:5-11, Revelation 7:13-17;
Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895; Meter 8 7 8 7 7 7*

Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance by the choirs of St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney
as stated at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_qxu9R5xk8 [3:55]*

FIFTH LESSON: Matthew 1:18–25

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 YHWH 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.

FIFTH CAROL

That Boy-Child of Mary

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 293, verses 1, 2 & 6)*

That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable, a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

1 What shall we call him, child of the manger? What name is given in Bethlehem?

That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable, a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

2 His name is Jesus, God ever with us, God given for us in Bethlehem.

That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable, a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

6 Gladly we praise him, love and adore him, give ourselves to him in Bethlehem.

That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable, a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

Text: based on Luke 2.7, 21 by Tom Colvin, 1925-2000; Text Meter: 5 5 5 4 and refrain

Music: BLANTYRE, Malawi traditional, adapt. Tom Colvin

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*Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Halifax, 11/30/20
402/655 in our hymn series.*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKH7HrWS6lk> [2:55]

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:8–20

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

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

When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SIXTH CAROL

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 275, verses 1-2)*

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**
- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

*Text: based on Matthew 2:1-3, Luke 2:8-14, James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3;
Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4; Meter 8 7 8 7 8 7*

Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance by Zack von Menchhofen, cago, St. John's Lutheran Church, Richlandtown, PA
01/02/21 (The organ is a Batholomay and Sons (Fritzsche) pipe organ.)*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=We6LfN1yA-w> [2:53]

SEVENTH READING: 2 Corinthians 4.1-6

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness", who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

SEVENTH CAROL Let All Together Praise Our God

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 287, verses 1, 2 5)*

- 1 Let all together praise our God
before the highest throne;
today God opens heav'n again
and sends the only Son, and sends the only Son.**

- 2 From God's right hand the Son descends,
is born an infant small,
and lies in poverty, his bed
a manger in a stall, a manger in a stall.**

- 5 A wonderful exchange you make:
you take our flesh and blood,
and in return give us to share
the shining realm of God, the shining realm of God.**

*Text: based on Genesis 3:24, Luke 2:1-14, John 10:7, 9, Philippians 2:6-8, Revelation 3:7,
Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561; tr. hymnal version; Meter 8 6 8 6 6*

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman

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*Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Halifax,
12/16/22 (Accompaniment Style: Classic Big Band)*

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QXNJli_1_4 [2:55]

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,
that we may encounter God, build relationships, and change lives.**

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.

Holy God, you have given the church the holy name of Jesus,
and in him we are your beloved children.

Unite us in mission through the power of his Spirit.

Make us worthy of the name we bear, the name in which we pray.

We pray for our mission partners,

especially today for our Southern CT conference, the New England Synod and Region 7.

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

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

Life-giving God, move each of us to work to do our part to restore the health of soil, seas, and air.

Increase the joy and praise of all living things.

In the coming year help us to strengthen local, national, and international efforts
to prevent further harm to the environment.

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

Liberating God, deliver us and work through us to deliver people from cruel oppression. Increase
justice in every nation and keep the dream of freedom and equality alive.

In this new year bring the blessing of peace

as you move through us to put an end to violent conflict throughout the world.

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

Uplifting God, raise all who are bowed down by trouble and need,
especially individuals and families living in poverty.

Protect and nurture all children, and sustain those who parent, teach, and care for the young.

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

Abiding God, accompany this community in the coming year.

Increase our love for one another and show us how we need the neighbors we serve.

Enrich our worship & deepen our faith. Sustain Pastor Marjo & all who minister in your name.

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

Healing God, raise up any who are bowed down with illness or sorrow.

Deepen our care and concern for one another.

We lift to you all who are undergoing transition

in relationships, occupation, living situation, or health condition, 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

and all we name in our hearts.

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

Loving God, the holy innocents who perish in every generation are safe in your keeping.

We give you thanks & praise for the all the faithful who have gone before us into eternal life with you.

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 CAROL In the Bleak Midwinter

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 294)*

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

- 2 Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.**

- 3 What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what I can give him — give my heart.**

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894; Meter Irregular

Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance by The Choir Boys and posted by Chet Valley Churches
at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAzQIS4-MpY> [4:29]*

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 to celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord,
or Three Kings' Day**

**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 7th reading
from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, chapter 4:

Do not lose heart, for you are saved by God's mercy!
For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness",
who desires to shine in your heart
to give you the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ. 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

The First Noel

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 300, verses 1-3)*

You may stand if you so desire.

**The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

*Text: based on Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 2:8-11, English traditional;
Meter Irregular*

*Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional,
arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901*

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance by Ellen S, vocalist, and Dr. Thomas Conroy, organist,
at St Mary of the Mount and Prince of Peace Parish in Pittsburgh, PA.
Used with permission from Dr. Conroy.*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with hearts filled with hope and mouths proclaiming that Jesus Christ is Lord!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE CAROL

He Came Down

*(as found in the ELCA worship books,
This Far by Faith # 37 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 253)*

He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light; hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.

Text: based on John 1.1-14, Cameroon traditional; Meter L M

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Text and Tune are in the Public Domain.

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Performance by the Oonte Orphans & Vulnerable Children Choir from Namibia, 12/04/20

*Video background by Joe Hackney from Pixabay, Posted by Chet Valley Churches
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXrB500CuCg> [1:33]*

CREDITS

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Announcements

“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.

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”.

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!**

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!

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

Name of Jesus
Sunday, January 1, 2023

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872
Monday, January 2, 2023

Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.



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.