



# *Salem Lutheran Church*

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in  
Advent*

*December 11,  
2022  
9:30 AM*



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[YouTube](#) – 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 third Sunday of Advent**, which means we are beginning week 3 of our new church year! In our 3-year lectionary (cycle of Bible readings), this is year A, the year that we focus on the gospel of Matthew.

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us in our hearts and lives, in praise and worship, in Bible study and prayer, in our homes and in the world, and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us that we might "go and tell" the world what we have heard and seen God say and do!

**Flowers today are given** by Nancy Headford in Memory of Michael Daly.

**Holiday Show Time!** Those attending the New Paradigm Theatre's Holiday Show should meet no later than 2:45 in the lobby of Fairfield Theatre Company's Stage 1, 70 Sanford Street in Fairfield.

**"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.

**On Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

# Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

Rejoice Greatly

*Messiah # 18*

## Soprano Air

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, thy King cometh unto thee;

He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, thy King cometh unto thee;

*Text from Zechariah 9.9-10*

*Text set to Music by George Frideric Handel*

*This song is in the Public Domain.*

*Performance # 1 by Angela Scorese, Soprano; Stacie Yao, Organ*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJAp7c3xTy8> [4:59]*

*Performance # 2 by*

*Sooyeon Lee, Soprano; Darrell Ang, Conductor; Münchner Rundfunkorchester, Orchestra  
Recorded at ARD Music Competition 2015 in Munich, Germany,  
where Lee obtained the second prize and audience prize.*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhdTpc4KAhY> – [4:33]*

*Performance # 3 by Sylvia Naa Wilson, Soprano; Accra Diocesan Choir;*

*produced by the GH Choral Music, Accra, Ghana,  
an organization which promotes choral singing in Ghana.*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORzx297QdYs> – [4:23]*

***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](http://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](http://SalemBridgeport.org/Live).

**Those attending the New Paradigm Theatre's Holiday Show** should meet no later than 2:45  
in the lobby of Fairfield Theatre Company's Stage 1, 70 Sanford Street in Fairfield.

**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.

**Next Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**For more details on these announcements or to hear about other upcoming events  
please see our worship bulletin at [SalemBridgeport.org/Live](http://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 the Spirit to bring us to Life!

Open our ears to hear what you're saying! Open our eyes to see what you're doing!

Open our minds to your glorious power! Open our hearts to your unfailing love!

Open our hands to share your blessings! Open our mouths to sing your praise!

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

## OPENING HYMN

## Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 873)*

*You may stand if you so desire.*

**1 Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;  
your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.**

*Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!*

**2 With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise,  
send forth the sturdy hymns of old, the psalms of ancient days.**

*Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!*

**3 With all the angel choirs, with all the saints on earth  
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rapture, noblest mirth.**

*Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!*

**4 Still lift your standard high, still march in firm array,  
as pilgrims through the darkness wend till dawns the golden day.**

*Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!*

**5 At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest;  
the pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest.**

*Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!*

**6 Praise God who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore:  
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest, one God forevermore.**

*Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!*

*Text: based on Psalm 20:5, 71:22, Philippians 4:4, by Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-1891, alt.*

*Meter S M and refrain*

*Music: MARION, by Arthur H. Messiter, 1834-1916*

*Text and Music are in the Public Domain*

*Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Halifax  
05/28/21, 584/655 in our hymn series*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owhKikoZsnc> [3:15]*

*Please be seated.*

## ADVENT WREATH CANDLELIGHTING – 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOY

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.

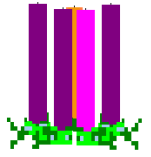
The sharp points of the leaves of the Holly remind us of Christ's crown of thorns.

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 third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Joy.

Our joy is in God and in God's son, Jesus Christ. Like peace, joy is a gift from God.

It overtakes us and fills us when we remember

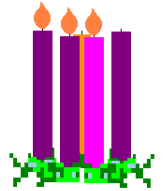
what God has done and what God has promised to do.

We light this candle today to remind us that Christ came, and is coming,

so that all people might have a rich and abundant life.

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

and for the joy God pours into our hearts.



## ADVENT PRAYER

Let us pray.

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

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

Fix our hearts and our minds upon those things you have done

and those you have promised to do that we may have the joy you have promised.

As we worship you, strengthen us

so that we may always do your will and so bless you and the world you have made. **Amen**

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

## ADVENT SONG

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW # 240, vs. 3



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



Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

*Reprinted/Streamed with 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbuFk_GwCQ8) [2:02]*



# Word

*Please be seated.*

## **A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 35:1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

**the desert shall rejoice and blossom;**

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,

**and rejoice with joy and singing.**

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,

**the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.**

They shall see the glory of the LORD,

**the majesty of our God.**

Strengthen the weak hands,

**and make firm the feeble knees.**

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

**“Be strong, do not fear!**

Here is your God. He will come with vengeance.

**With terrible recompense, he will come and save you.”**

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

**and the ears of the deaf unstopped;**

then the lame shall leap like a deer,

**and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.**

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

**and streams in the desert;**

the burning sand shall become a pool,

**and the thirsty ground springs of water;**

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,

**the grass shall become reeds and rushes.**

A highway shall be there,

**and it shall be called the Holy Way;**

the unclean shall not travel on it,

**but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.**

No lion shall be there,

**nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there,**

but the redeemed shall walk there.

**And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,**

and come to Zion with singing;

**everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;**

they shall obtain joy and gladness,

**and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

Word of God! Word of Life!

**Thanks be to God!**



**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 146:5-10**

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

**whose hope is in the LORD their God;**

who made heaven and earth, the seas,

**and all that is in them;**

who keeps promises forever;

**who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.**

The LORD sets the captive free.

**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;**

the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

**the LORD loves the righteous.**

The LORD cares for the stranger;

**the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

The LORD shall reign forever,

**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

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

**A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: James 5:7-10**

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

**A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 11:2-11** *You may stand if you so desire.*

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

**SERMON**

*Please be seated.*

**Pastor Marjo**

*You may stand if you so desire.*

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR ADVENT**

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

Let us affirm our faith together.

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

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

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

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

## **PURPOSE STATEMENT**

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

**We are a community of Christian disciples called by the Holy Spirit.  
In response to God's transforming love, we share our joy through praise and service.**

May it be so!

**Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

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

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit.  
Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land.  
We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission.  
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for CROP and World Vision and Scouts.  
We pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:  
Susan Murphy  
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted.  
Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods.  
Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you.  
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression.  
Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted.  
Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies.  
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion.  
Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss, especially Barbro, Barry, Cliffy,  
Dave, Dave, Dennis, Dick, Dolores, Dorothy, Frank, Grace, Hans, Janice, Jeff, Jim, Jocelyn,  
Joe, Joey, Linda, Liz, Katherine, Marija, Natalie, Pastor Ruth, Sara Jean, Steve, VL,  
and all we name in our hearts.  
Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors,  
and all who risk themselves to keep others safe.  
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company.  
Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends.  
Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy.  
Console the grieving and surround them with loving support.  
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints,  
that your mercy endures for all generations.  
Look with favor on those who have died & lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises.  
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.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 244)*

*You may stand if you so desire.*

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.**

**The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,  
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.  
Around the thorn of glory the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.**

**Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

*Text: based on Isaiah 40:3-5, Matthew 25:1-13, Revelation 4:9-10, 21:23-24  
by Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907;  
Meter 7 6 7 6 D*

*Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune  
Text and Music are in the Public Domain*

*Performance by Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Worcester, MA, 11/28/10  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAFg-4M47eQ> [2:16]*

# Sending

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## THANK YOU

Before we end the live-streamed portion of our worship,

I want to especially thank those of you out there in cyberspace who have worshipped with us. I hope you will join us again.

If you'd like to know more, or if you'd like to talk or pray with me, you can reach her through Salem's website or Facebook page.

## BLESSING

As we say good-bye to our online worshippers,

I'd like to offer to all who are worshipping with us, both in-person and in cyberspace this blessing based on our reading today from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 35:

Worship God with singing!

Follow in the Way of the Lord!

And everlasting joy shall be upon your head,

sorrow and sighing shall flee away,

and you shall obtain joy and gladness! 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 SONG      I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
This Far by Faith # 257)*

*You may stand if you so desire.*

**1 I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,  
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;  
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,  
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.**

**2 I've got the peace that passes understanding,  
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;  
I've got the peace that passes understanding,  
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.**

**3 I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,  
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;  
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,  
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.**

*Text: Philippians 4:7, by George W. Cooke; Meter Irregular*

*Music: DOWN IN MY HEART, by George W. Cooke*

*Text and Music are in the Public Domain*

*Performance by SZABO MUSIC, 07/07/20*

*Video and Vocals/Instrumentals Copyright (c) 2020 by Charles Elmer Szabo, BMI  
as found at this link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlyp3-e\\_H1I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlyp3-e_H1I) [1:25]*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Walk in the light of the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

### Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 836)*

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**
- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.**
- 3 Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!**

*Text: Psalm 148, by Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933; Meter 8 7 8 7 D  
Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt  
Text and Music are in the Public Domain*

*Performance by Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN, 05/19/19  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wrkkg70EtYM> [4:03]*

# Announcements

**Are you a member of Thrivent?** Then you are invited to a **Virtual Christmas Concert featuring Pentatonix**, hosted by the Thrivent Member Network-Northeast Region. Take some time to treat yourself to the sounds of this joyous season. Grab your friends and family and listen to your favorite Christmas tunes sung by three-time Grammy Award-recipient and multi-platinum group, Pentatonix. **Today, December 11<sup>th</sup> thru Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup> 11:59 pm. This OnDemand Concert is viewable for one week only. Register at [Bit.ly/ThriventPentatonix](https://bit.ly/ThriventPentatonix) or email [BoxTMNNEast@Thrivent.com](mailto:BoxTMNNEast@Thrivent.com).**

**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 5<sup>th</sup> 4 pm til 7 pm.** Register in advance, if possible, at 203-579-1504 or [Jessicamcneil787@gmail.com](mailto:Jessicamcneil787@gmail.com) . 1,000 jobs open in CT. Come, find yours, and get to work!

**Building on Salem's previous success for the Trumbull Food Pantry**, we are coordinating another community food pantry collection. On Sunday, December 18, we will do a collection for Sterling House Food Pantry at 4531 Main Street in Bridgeport. If you can help, please contact Rich Lansing at [rlansing@optonline.com](mailto:rlansing@optonline.com). We will work in pairs in two-hour shifts: 9-11, 11-1, 1-3, and 3-5. Thank you, Rich Lansing

**Save the Date! January 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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](http://SalemBridgeport.org), click on Donate, and then fill in your amount under "Food Pantry Donation".

**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](http://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! 😊

**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

**Lucy, martyr, died 304**

**Tuesday, December 13, 2022**

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

**John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591**

**Wednesday, December 14, 2022**

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

**Las Posadas**

**Friday, December 16, 2022**

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem.

Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

## CREDITS

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

protocol [https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Policies\\_and\\_Procedures.pdf](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.