



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Full Text – Large Print

***4th Sunday
after the
Epiphany
of
Our Lord***

***Reconciling in Christ
Sunday***

***January 29, 2023
9:30 AM***



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

Welcome

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. **And we also have one running here in the lounge where we are worshipping today and next Sunday.** Also, you are most welcome to wear a mask at worship if you'd like.

The Word of the Lord is a powerful word – with the power to create and destroy, to build and tear down, to heal and to smite! In our first reading God brings a lawsuit against God's people. Now that's scary! But with the divine condemnation, God offers us a way out – “to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God”. Our psalm for the day confirms the truth spoken by the prophet. Then in the gospel we hear the Beatitudes which begin so gently with “Blessed are the poor in Spirit” and end by pointing out that when we work for the justice that God desires, we risk persecution. Which leads us to wonder: why would anyone in their right mind choose to take this risky road to righteousness? And of course the answer to that is that only those who have experienced the power and presence of the living, loving God would make such a “foolish” choice.

Today we celebrate Reconciling in Christ Sunday! Freed by God's grace, the body of Christ on earth leads a joyous dance of transformation, integrating sexuality and spirituality, justice and mercy. Through continuous reformation, the Church embraces in holiness and into wholeness people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, strengthening all for authentic, visible, faithful lives. Dedicated to radical reconciliation, the Church falls into the heart of God's passionate intent, co-creating a world without outcasts, calling all to serve as guests and hosts at God's table of blessing and power.

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) is a program of ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation, begun in 1983 as a way for Lutheran communities of faith – congregations, campus ministries, camps, colleges, synods of the ELCA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and other independent organizations – to answer the inclusive call of the Gospel. ReconcilingWorks has and continues to open doors, tear down walls, & builds tables for full inclusion and prodigal grace for our church. Working at the intersection of oppressions, ReconcilingWorks embodies, inspires, advocates and organizes for the acceptance & full participation of people of all sexual orientations & gender identities within the Lutheran communion and its ecumenical and global partners.

Every year on the last Sunday of January, Salem celebrates Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Sunday, a day set aside to reflect on our call to welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions.

An adult forum in preparation for Salem's semi-annual meeting next Sunday will be held right here in the lounge following worship today.

Salem's Semi-Annual Meeting will be held in person on Sunday February 5th, immediately following worship.

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

All Are Welcome

(as found in the ELCA worship book *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* # 641)

Verse 1 **Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain **All are welcome! All are welcome! All are welcome in this place.**

Verse 2 **Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain***

Verse 3 **Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain***

Verse 4 **Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain***

Verse 5 **Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain***

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen;

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7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 8.442.3358

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Performance # 1 of verses 1, 2a, 3b, 4, Refrain & Coda)

by The Beyond the Walls Choir, 08/27/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPrzP67jRts> [5:11]

Performance # 2 by Plymouth Church DSM, 09/08/19

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhvnbhPvbsA> [5:24]

Performance of Jason Jesteadt's arrangement

by Peter Henderson and members of the MCC Toronto Choir, 09/21/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63snPd1oqEU> [4:02]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of the God who created us to be in relationship,
in the name of Jesus who reconciles our broken relationships with God and with one another,
and in the name of the Spirit who will lead us to unity, justice, and peace

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.

After worship today we invite you to an adult forum

in preparation for our semi-annual congregational meeting next Sunday following worship.

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

Having finished our study of the book of Acts, we plan to spend the next two weeks

watching the documentary “The Insanity of God”, a modern story of Acts.

And after that, we'll see where the Spirit directs our study.

**Also on Wednesday, at 8:30 pm, African Descent Ministries of the ELCA invites you
to celebrate Black History month with the ELCA's Talks at the Desk Season 2,**
a 4-part video series that will explore diverse expressions of the church.

Watch them live on Facebook, stream them on YouTube, or download them

at <https://ELCA.org/ADM> For more info, go to: <https://ELCA.org/TalksAtTheDesk>.

Links to all of our events can be found on our calendar a SalemBridgeport.org

**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 will you pray with me?

Giver of Life, you are so full of power and love!

in the midst of life exploited by greed and abuse of power,
shortened by hate and exclusion, and destroyed by war and conflict,

you offer us forgiveness, grace, and undeserved mercy.

Shape our hearts and minds, our souls and bodies into all that you mean for us to be.

Fill us with such joy and gratitude that we can't help but share

the good news of your boundless power and your never-ending love with everyone we meet.

Set our hearts ablaze with fiery passion to work for justice and peace.

We come to encounter you that you may prepare us to build relationships and change the world.

We praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we adore you.

We pray in Jesus' name and by the power of the Spirit. **Amen**

OPENING SONG God, We Gather as Your Children / For All the Children

(as found in the ELCA worship book All Creation Sings # 1038)

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1. God, we gather as your people to raise our song above,
and we dare to claim the promise of Your love,
though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will be,
when your children will be free.**

Refrain:

**O, may our hearts and minds be opened, fling the church doors open wide.
May there be room enough for ev'ryone inside.
For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong.
May that welcome be our song.**

- 2. Oh, we sing for all the children, that one day they be free;
and we sing for generations yet to be,
that they never have a reason to doubt that they are blest,
May they, in Your love, find rest. *Refrain***
- 3. Oh we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear & shame
so afraid of who they are & whom they love.
May the message now be banished that Your love is for the few;
may their faith in You renew. *Refrain***
- 4. God, we're working for the future when children far and wide
can live their lives with dignity and pride.
As they grow in strength and stature, may they join us hand in hand,
as against all hate we stand. *Refrain***

*Text: based on Matthew 18:5, Mark 9:37, Luke 9:48, Romans 15:7, Galatians 3:27-29
by David Lohman, b. 1961; Meter 14 11 14 7 and refrain*

Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG by David Lohman

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Performance by Lay Catholic Christians and friends who stood up and sang out to spread the good news of Christ's love, gathering to encourage voters to vote for LGBTQ rights as they sung their hearts out in support of LGBTQ young people.

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wLQ63LMC-A> [6:25]

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Micah 6:1-8

Hear what YHWH says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of YHWH,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,

and redeemed you from the house of slavery;

and I sent before you Moses,

Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,

what Balaam son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,

that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD,

and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,

with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,

with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,

the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does YHWH require of you?
to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 15

GOD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,

who speak the truth from their heart;

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;

they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

In their sight the wicked are rejected,

but they honor those who fear the LORD.

They have sworn upon their health

and do not take back their word.

They do not give their money in hope of gain,

nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart".

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord".

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 5:1-12

You may stand if you so desire.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

”Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

You may either stand or remain seated as you prefer.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY

Please join me as we confess what we believe.

**We believe that God's grace is all-inclusive,
and we affirm that all God's children are welcome here.**

**We believe that Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness
in a world of alienation and brokenness.**

**As disciples of Christ seeking justice and reconciliation between peoples,
we at Salem welcome, without exception, all people
regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity,
physical-mental ability or disability, socio-political position, age or station in life.
We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God
and by the grace of God is called a "Child of God".**

**We proclaim that all are welcome at Salem:
to worship God, receive the sacraments and share in the fellowship and service.
As disciples, we commit ourselves to exercise our faith,
treasuring one another's similarities and accepting our differences
in the spirit of love and good will
as we continue to discover what it means to be "Reconciling in Christ."**

**"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation."**

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

You may stand, sit, or kneel for the prayers.

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

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

We pray for the courage to follow you even when to do so seems foolish in the eyes of others.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for ReconcilingWorks, and all faith communities that are Reconciling in Christ and Open and Affirming, and for those who have yet to understand your call to radical welcome and hospitality.

We pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Chris Wolff, Roberta Bellows, Keith Murphy, and Hailey DeWalt.

God of grace, **hear our prayer**

We pray for all of creation that you have pronounced “good” – for people, animals and plants, mountains and valleys, rivers and seas, earth and all stars.

Guide us to care for creation, be mindful of waste, carbon emissions, and the impact of these sins on poor and marginalized communities.

God of grace, **hear our prayer**

We pray for the dismantling of systems rooted in oppression and discrimination.

Make us bold in our proclamation that the lives, loves, and gifts of Black, Brown, Indigenous, Incarcerated, Immigrant, Migrant, Disabled, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and Aromantic people matter to you, and so they matter to all of us.

Teach us to see and celebrate the stunning beauty in the diversity of all you have made.

God of grace, **hear our prayer**

We pray for those caught in a chaos swirling around them with no discernible way of escape.

We pray that all of us find our true peace and wholeness of ourselves in you.

We pray especially this day for Barbro, Barry, Boni, Cliffy, Dave, Dave, Dennis, Dick, Dolores, Dorothy, Frank, Gigi, Grace, Jacob, Janice, Jeff, Jim, Jocelyn, Joe, Joey, John, Linda, Liz, Katherine, Marija, Natalie, Paula, Pastor Ruth, Sara, Sara Jean, Steve, VL, and all we name in our hearts.

God of grace, **hear our prayer**

As with your people Israel, remind this congregation of all your saving acts that have brought us this far.

Remind us how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses.

Help us to discern your will for us, and trust not in our own wisdom which is foolishness, but in your wisdom even when it seems like foolishness.

God of grace, **hear our prayer**

Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place.

Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always.

God of grace, **hear our prayer**

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

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **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 SONG

Let Justice Roll Like a River

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Worship & Praise # 85)*

Please join in on the refrain; if you know the verses, please join in on them also!

Refrain:

**Let justice roll like a river, and wash all oppression away.
Come, O God, and take us, move and shake us;
come now, and make us anew, that we might live justly like you.**

- 1 "Take from me your holy feasts, all your off'rings and your music.
Let justice flow like waters, and integrity like an ever-flowing stream." (Refrain)**
- 2 How long shall we wait, O God, for the day of your mercy to dawn,
the day we beat our swords into plows, when your peace reigns over the earth? (Refrain)**
- 3 Hear this, all of you who use the poor in your thirst of power and riches:
the Lord will turn your laughter to tears, on the wondrous Day of our God. (Refrain)**
- 4 "Even now, return to me, let your hearts be broken and humble,
for I am gracious, gen'rous and kind." Come and seek the mercies of God. (Refrain)**
- 5 You have been told the way of life, the way of justice and peace:
to act justly, to love gently, to walk humbly with God. (Refrain)**

*Text: based on Joel 2:12, Amos 5:21-24, 8:4, Micah 4:3, 6:8, by Marty Haugen;
Meter Irregular*

Music: LET JUSTICE ROLL, by Marty Haugen

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Performance OF VERSES 1, 2, & 5 WITH REFRAIN by Pink Menno, 07/06/11

*Pink Menno is working to be a bridge in the Mennonite Church:
for peace, love, welcome, change, acceptance, justice, God, service...
Let [PINK] justice roll like a river!*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYfgLxCPE5g> [4:46]

Sending

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After worship today we invite you to an adult forum

in preparation for our semi-annual congregational meeting next Sunday following worship.

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

Having finished our study of the book of Acts, we plan to spend the next two weeks

watching the documentary “The Insanity of God”, a modern story of Acts.

And after that, we’ll see where the Spirit directs our study.

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to celebrate Black History month with the ELCA’s Talks at the Desk Season 2,

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Links to all of our events can be found on our calendar a SalemBridgeport.org

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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.

RECOMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION AND BLESSING

God, you have called us into being and joined us to one another through love.

Creating, Redeeming, Sustaining God, we invite you transform our minds and hearts

that we might come to love, appreciate and value

the beautiful diversity you have created within the human family.

Show us the beauty in every skin color –

from the whiteness of snow to the blackness of ebony.

Help us hear music in the various languages, dialects, and accents around us.

Melt our hearts wherever we see love and affection expressed, no matter what the gender.

Let the fragrant aromas of different ethnicities whet our appetites for cultural delights.

Our lives are but a breath, but our breaths are drawn from your divine Spirit.

You have created us as walking paradoxes, as divine dust.

Transform our spirits that we might see You in every human face.

May God who has planted these desires in your heart, delight in fulfilling each and every one!

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,
who makes all things new,
transforming our hearts and minds, our witness and our service. **Amen**

Trusting in God's boundless power and endless love, let us confess our sin.

**Creating and Redeeming God, source of our renewal,
we confess that we are bound by sin, and cannot free ourselves.
We have not given our hearts to you.
We have not submitted to your authority.
For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us,
that we may be reconciled to you and to every person in our lives
that all may be drawn to bring you honor, glory and praise! Amen**

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare”

We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

Those who follow where Christ leads will find life abundant and joy without measure. **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 SONG

Blest Are They

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
With One Voice # 764, and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 728)*

As long as everyone is masked, you may sing softly.

- 1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the Kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.**

**Refrain: Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the Kingdom of God!**

- 2. Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.**

(Refrain)

- 3. Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God!**

(Refrain)

- 4. Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.
Blest are they, who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs.**

(Refrain)

- 5. Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad; yours is the Kingdom; shine for all to see.**

(Refrain)

Text: based on Matthew 5:3-12 by David Haas, b. 1957; Meter Irregular

Music: BLEST ARE THEY by David Haas, b.1957;

Vocal arr. by David Haas, b.1957, Michael Joncas, b.1951, © 1985, GIA Publications, Inc.)

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*Performance of VERSES 1-3 & REFRAIN by Tom Conroy for Salem Lutheran Church 11/01/20
[2:50]*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, and with hearts forgiven and full, rejoice and be glad!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE HYMN

Let Streams of Living Justice

(as found in the ELCA worship book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 710)

- 1 Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people's hour.**
- 2 For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.**
- 3 Your city's built to music; we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language; we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service, our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor; our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice; your way—the path untried;
your truth—the heart of stranger; your life—the Crucified.**

Text: based on Isaiah 61:1, Amos 5:24, Luke 4:18-19 by William Whitla, b. 1934; Meter 13 13 13 13 13 13

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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Performance by Heather Jordan of St. George & St. Michael, 09/05/21

*Click to subscribe to our YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/3esjuto>
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioCT3EvNeWY> [2:52]*

CREDITS

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Announcements

God wants to spend time with us. God has some things to say to us. And God wants to hear from us. One of the primary ways God listens to Salem is through our praying together. And one of the primary ways God speaks to us is through Bible Study. If we expect to know God's will for us, we must come together to listen to what God has to say. So, please! Join us for Prayer this week and also for Bible Study, as we reflect back on what God has spoken to our hearts through the book of Acts.

To join us for prayer on zoom Wednesday at 12:00 click here:

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

And to join us for Bible Study 6:30-7:25, click here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89119212353?pwd=WFdhU3ZaL1BUb2syZmdzREdTZVpsdz09>

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

Also on Wednesday, at 8:30 pm, African Descent Ministries of the ELCA invites you to celebrate Black History month with the ELCA's Talks at the Desk Season 2, a 4-part video series that will explore diverse expressions of the church. A new video will premiere each Wednesday in February at 7:30 Central/8:30 Eastern time. Watch them live on Facebook, stream them on YouTube, or download them at <https://ELCA.org/ADM> . For more info, go to: <https://ELCA.org/TalksAtTheDesk>.

PLEASE JOIN THE SALEM'S WATER BOTTLE CHALLENGE to benefit the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Janus Center's school closet program! School children in Bridgeport public schools are in dire need of drinking water as drinking fountains have been dismantled due to Covid and also because of lead in the pipes. Our own Cindy Roberts has found a most cost-effective way to supply water – by the pallet! A pallet holds 84 cases, each holding 24 bottles for a total of 2,016 bottles. Cindy has negotiated the price down to \$6.12 (including the \$.10 deposit) = \$514.08/pallet. Salem delegates to the CCGB would like to challenge our congregation to raise enough funds to cover 1 pallet and then challenge other congregations to do the same. Please make checks payable to Salem and in the memo list “water bottles”. You can also contribute cash by placing it in an envelope, marked “from <YOUR NAME> for water bottles”, and place it in the offering box or give it to Pastor Marjo. If you have any questions please see Sandra Brown, Nancy Headford, Tom Larson, Cindy Roberts, Bill Winter or Pastor Marjo.

Upcoming services at our regular time include:

Sundays Feb 5, & Feb 12 – Sundays after Epiphany

Sunday February 19 – The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Wednesday Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday – place TBA

Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County invites your support as a guest, sponsor, or in-kind donor, at their 2023 Annual Gala April Fools Masquerade Ball Saturday April 1, 2023, 6:30-11:00 PM, Woodway Country Club, 540 Hoyt Street, Darien, CT. For more information, please visit habitatcfc.org/gala .

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".

You can also feed the hungry by helping to collect food at the following times & places:
March 18 for Bishop Jean Williams Food Pantry at Stop & Shop on Main in Bridgeport
April 15 for Trumbull Food Pantry at Stop & Shop on Quality St in Trumbull
May 20 for Sterling House Food Pantry at Stop & Shop on Main St in Stratford
June 17 for Operation Hope at Stop & Shop on Kings Hwy Cutoff in Fairfield
The Monday morning team that helps at Bishop Jean Williams Food Pantry will help deliver the collections on the following Mondays. See Richard Lansing to sign up!

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.

Please support the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's ministries with your donations of time and money.

- Their FEED Center is improving the nutritional value of the food served and distributed through their network of food pantries and soup kitchens and is also providing free culinary classes and entrepreneurial opportunities to help lift people out of poverty. Their Mobile Market truck delivers fresh fruits and vegetables to the communities who have a hard time getting to the stores.
- PROJECT LEARN is the after-school program for elementary students which is run by the Summerfield United Methodist Church.
- Their JANUS Center supports 90 young people each year, offering a 24-hour hot line, respite care services, mentoring, and interventions, helping to keep them in school and out of the juvenile justice system – leveraging hope and changing lives. Parenting Journey workshops help parents learn skills to help their families. The Outreach program works with homeless youth.
- PROYECTO NUEVA VITA (PNW) helps formerly incarcerated citizens upon their release with a set of clothes, needed documents, bus passes and group meetings to help get their lives back together.

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport and Vicinity Presents:



Black History Month

Scholarship Prayer Breakfast

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023

9:00AM

CREATIVE VENUE AND RENTALS

40 LOGAN ST.

BRIDGEPORT, CT 06607

TICKETS: \$35



Guest Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Charlie Stallworth

East End Baptist Tabernacle Church



Rev. William D. McCullough-President

Rev. Brenda J. Barnes-Vice President



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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

Presentation of Our Lord

February 2

40 days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law.

There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song

"Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace",

as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865

February 3

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia,

Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg.

He is remembered for his love for poor people.