



# Salem Lutheran Church

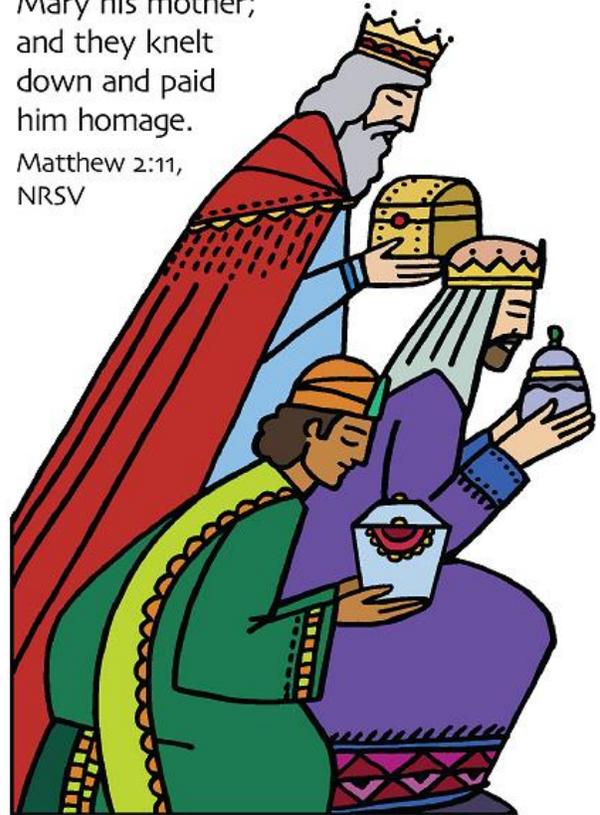
shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

## *Celebrating the Epiphany of Our Lord*

*January 8, 2023  
9:30 AM*

On entering the house,  
they saw the child with  
Mary his mother;  
and they knelt  
down and paid  
him homage.  
Matthew 2:11,  
NRSV



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# Welcome

**The feast of the Epiphany (“manifestation” or “revelation”) of Our Lord concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.** In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

**The season of Epiphany** begins on the 12<sup>th</sup> night of Christmas (the eve of January 6<sup>th</sup>) and continues through the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday. It centers around 3 festivals, the Epiphany of Our Lord, when it was revealed to 3 kings from the East that the baby Jesus was the long-awaited King of the Jews, the Baptism of Our Lord, when it was revealed at Jesus’ baptism that he was God’s beloved Son, and the Transfiguration of Our Lord, when it was revealed to Peter, James, and John that Jesus was God’s beloved Son.

**Please note that Pastor Marjo has prepared an Epiphany House Blessing take-home insert for you so that you may bless your home in this New Year.**

## **Upcoming services at our regular time include:**

Sunday Jan 15 – The Baptism of Our Lord

Sundays Jan 22, Jan 29, Feb 5, & Feb 12 – Sundays after Epiphany

Sunday February 19 – The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Wednesday Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday – place TBA

**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.

**It’s a brand new year and time for new year’s resolutions!** So we encourage you to resolve to grow in your relationship with God. And what better way than through talking to God and listening to God? That’s exactly what happens when we pray and read & study scripture. We can do those things on our own, of course, but when we do them together it’s far more impactful – kind of like addition and multiplication. Praying and studying on our own is like adding 4 + 4 which gives you 8, but praying and studying together is like multiplying 4 x 4 which gives you 16. Certainly, we are “better together”.

**And so we invite you to join us 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 27 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, we invite you to join the Lutheran community of Greater Bridgeport** for breakfast and a faith discussion at 9:00 at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford.

# Gathering

## GATHERING MUSIC    **There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth**

There shall a Star from Jacob come forth,  
And a sceptre from Israel rise up,  
And dash in pieces princes and nations.

As bright the star of morning gleams,  
So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams  
Of light and consolation!  
Thy Word, O LORD, radiance darting,  
Truth imparting, gives salvation;  
Thine be praise and adoration!

*Words: Original German text compiled by Christian Charles Josias von Bunsen  
Music: There Shall a Star from Jacob Come | Félix Mendelssohn*

*Performance # 1 arr. Sanders, by the Indianapolis Men's Chorus  
Videography Zach Rosing Productions, Recorded at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church  
Indianapolis, IN, 12/15/13  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZwuI0swkqA> [5:05]*

*Performance # 2 by the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew,  
Wilmington, DE,  
David Christopher, organist and music director, 12/12/16  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmitaJfCzow> [5:17]*

***Please note that here we go live on Facebook.***

## WELCOME

Welcome in the name of the God who spoke Light into being,  
in the name of Jesus, the Light of the World,  
and in the name of the Spirit who enlightens our hearts and minds!

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.

**Today we enter the season of Epiphany** which means “revelation”,  
**by celebrating the Epiphany of Our Lord,**

when it was revealed to 3 kings from the East

that the baby Jesus was the long-awaited King of the Jews.

**Next Sunday we will celebrate the 2<sup>nd</sup> festival in the season of Epiphany,**  
**the Baptism of Our Lord,**

when it was revealed at Jesus' baptism that he was God's beloved Son.

**The season will conclude on February 19<sup>th</sup> with the third great festival,**  
**the Transfiguration of Our Lord.**

**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 27.

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

**On Saturday, we invite you to join the Lutheran community of Greater Bridgeport**  
for breakfast and faith discussion at 9:00 at Grace Lutheran Church in Stratford.

**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:

Gracious God, you are the sun of righteousness,

our light in the darkness, our bright morning-star!

You made all that exists and yet you care for the humblest of human beings.

Today, as we worship, we ask that you would enlighten our minds,

that you would lighten our spirits, and that you would shine in our hearts,

that all might come to know your boundless power and your infinite love.

We ask this in Jesus' name and by the power of the Spirit. Amen

## OPENING CAROL

## The First Noel

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

*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.**

**This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**Then entered in those wise men three, full rev'rently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught  
And with his blood mankind hath bought  
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 Christmas Songs and Carols - Love to Sing, 11/21/13  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5uud2fjtoo> [5:03]*

# Word

*Please be seated.*

## **A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 60:1-6**

Arise, shine; for your light has come!

**And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you!**

For darkness shall cover the earth,

**and thick darkness the peoples;**

but YHWH will arise upon you,

**and God's glory will appear over you.**

Nations shall come to your light,

**and kings and queens to the brightness of your dawn.**

Lift up your eyes and look around;

**they all gather together, they come to you;**

your sons shall come from far away,

**and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.**

Then you shall see and be radiant!

**Your heart shall thrill and rejoice!**

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,

**the wealth of the nations shall come to you.**

A multitude of camels shall cover you,

**the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.**

They shall bring gold and frankincense,

**and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD!**

Word of God! Word of Life!

**Thanks be to God!**

## A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

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

Let him defend the needy among the people,  
**rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
**from one generation to another.**

Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
**like showers that water the earth.**

In his time may the righteous flourish;  
**and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
**and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

May all kings bow down before him,  
**and all the nations do him service.**

For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
**the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
**and preserves the lives of the needy.**

From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
**and precious is their blood in his sight.**

Word of God! Word of Life!

**Thanks be to God!**

## **A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Ephesians 3:1-12**

This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 2:1-12** *You may stand if you so desire.*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage”. When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

*‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”*

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage”. When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

*You may stand if you so desire.*

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR EPIPHANY**

Let us affirm our faith together.

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.  
You create our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
You have always been with us.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.  
You came to us before we came to you.  
You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
who lived and died and rose again.  
You are with us now.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit  
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.  
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.  
You are our God. We worship you**

*The Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia*

*Taken from A New Zealand Prayer Book, The Church of the Province of New Zealand, p 481.*

*[https://prodigal.typepad.com/prodigal\\_kiwi/2011/06/sunday-an-affirmation-of-faith.html](https://prodigal.typepad.com/prodigal_kiwi/2011/06/sunday-an-affirmation-of-faith.html)*

## **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.*

Revealing God, guide the whole church with your wisdom.

Nurture ecumenical and interreligious understanding around the globe,  
as well as in Greater Bridgeport and in our New England Synod.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for

the Ephraim French Seventh Day Adventist Church, and Christ Presbyterian Church.

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

Barbro Lund

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

Creating God, restore your glory to the earth.

Teach us to protect fragile ecosystems: rain forests, coral reefs, wetlands, prairies, & shorelines.

Guide us to treasure the rich variety of animals and plants that share the world with us,  
especially those that are endangered.

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

Righteous God, bring the nations into the way of justice and peace.

Strengthen those who work for human rights, equality, & the protection of the most vulnerable.

We pray for all in public office, that they may serve with honesty and honor.

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

Delivering God, help those who have no helper.

Rescue any who suffer from abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Deliver adults and children who are caught in cycles of poverty.

Transform social systems that enable racism and discrimination of any kind.

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

Abiding God, draw each member of our congregation into a deeper relationship with you.

Enable us to see you at work in the challenges that we face as you transform our lives.

Comfort, heal, and strengthen all who are suffering,

especially Barbro, Barry, Cliffy, Dave, Dave, Dennis, Dick, Dolores, Dorothy, Frank, Grace,

Hans, Janice, Jeff, Jim, Jocelyn, Joe, Joey, John, Linda, Liz, Katherine, Marija, Natalie, Pastor

Ruth, Sara Jean, Steve, VL, and all we name in our hearts.

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

Redeeming God, reveal your promise by the witness of those who died trusting in you.

Receive our thanks for their witness and faith,

and guide us by their example until we are gathered with them into your eternal presence.

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 YMN

### **Brightest and Best of the Stars**

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s worship book,  
Lutheran Book of Worship # 84)*

*You may stand if you so desire.*

- 1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness & lend us thine aid.  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant redeemer is laid.**
- 2 Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining; low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining, maker and monarch and savior of all.**
- 3 Shall we then yield him, in costly devotion, odors of Edom, and off'rings divine,  
gems of the mountain & pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest & gold from the mine?**
- 4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation, vainly with gifts would his favor secure;  
richer by far is the heart's adoration, dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**
- 5 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant redeemer is laid.**

*Text: Matthew 2:1-12; Reginald Herber, 1783-1826, alt.; Meter 11 10 11 10*

*Music: MORNING STAR; James P. Harding, 1850-1911, adapt.*

*The Text, Music & Arrangement are in the Public Domain*

*Performance by Choir of Trinity Church, Swarthmore, PA,*

*James Smith, Director of Music*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wQnHRW0nX0>*

# Sending

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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 27.

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

**On Saturday, we invite you to join the Lutheran community of Greater Bridgeport  
for breakfast and faith discussion at 9:00 at Grace Lutheran Church in Stratford.**

**We will be gathering next Sunday to celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord.**

**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).**

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> reading

from the book of the prophet, Isaiah, chapter 60:

Arise, shine; for your light has come and God's glory has risen upon you!

Lift up your eyes and you shall see and be radiant!

Your heart shall rejoice because abundance is poured out on you,

as you proclaim the greatness of our God!

*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 and 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!

**And also with you!**

Open your hearts!

**We open them to God and one another!**

Let us give thanks to the God of all!

**It is right to give God thanks & praise!**

In the night in which he was betrayed....

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed.

**Blessed be God, who is our Bread; may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen**

The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you.

*During communion, you may take your communion elements during worship  
or hold on to your kit until you get home.*

*If you take the elements inside the church, open the kit over the pew to prevent spilling on the carpet.*

*After the service, please dispose of your own kit either in a waste receptacle at church or at home.*

The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in divine grace! **Amen!**

**SENDING HYMN**

**I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 815)*

*You may stand if you so desire.*

**I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God gave the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.**

**In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path and show me the way to the Father.**

**In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.**

**In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

*Text: based on John 12.46, Ephesians 5.8-14, 1 John 1, 5, Revelation 21.23;*

*by Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934; Meter 10 7 10 8 and refrain*

*Tune: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934;*

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*Performance by First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska on 08/19/18,*

*sung by the congregation and men of the Plymouth Choir,*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZ78sCBWlrQ> [4:33]*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace,  
and let your light so shine that the world might be drawn to worship Jesus!

**Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **We Fall Down**

*Verse* **We fall down We lay our crowns At the feet of Jesus  
The greatness of mercy and love At the feet of Jesus**

*Chorus* **And we cry holy holy holy And we cry holy holy holy  
And we cry holy holy holy is the Lamb**

*CCLI Song # 2437367 by Chris Tomlin*

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*Performance by Calvary Chapel Petaluma Music, 12/31/20*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znKDfiZqdPg> [4:13]*

## **CREDITS**

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# Announcements

**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.

**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 process 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](http://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

**Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710  
Monday, January 9, 2023**

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England.

He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.