



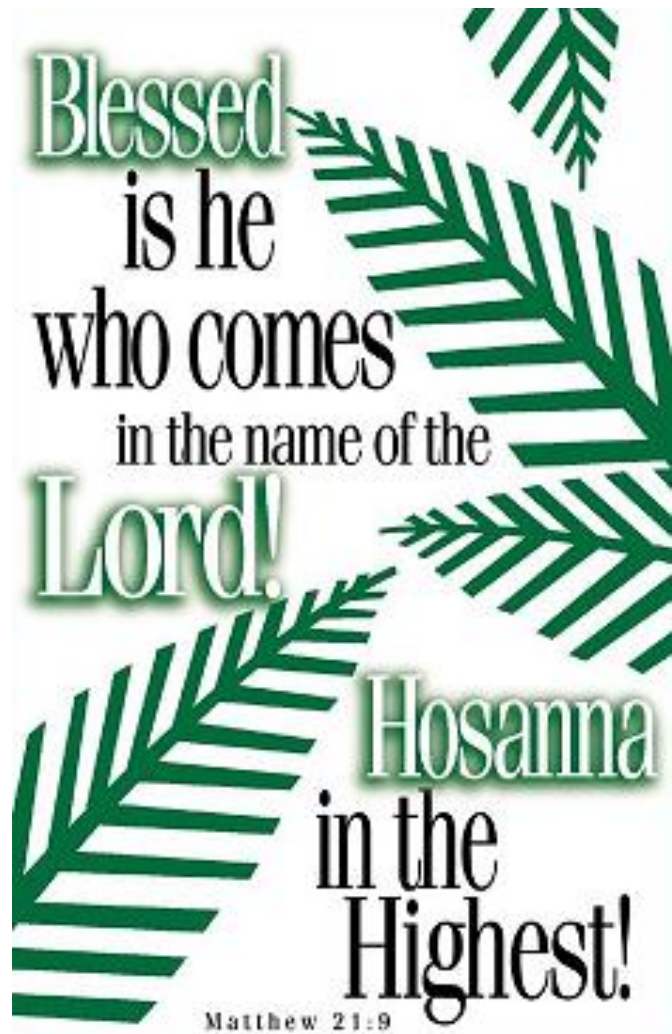
Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Palm / Passion Sunday

***April 2, 2023
9:30 AM***



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor
marjoanderson@aol.com
203-982-3441 (cell)

Karl Kraft, Office Manager
salemsec123@sbcglobal.net

3160 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604
Telephone: 203-336-3300;

www.salembridgeport.org
www.facebook.com/salembridgeport
YouTube – 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 in the lounge where we are having coffee hour today.** Also, you are most welcome to wear a mask at worship if you'd like.

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is both our triumphant eternal Lord and King and the Suffering Servant who died on the cross, out of his love for and his obedience to God, in order that we, too, might know God's power and love in our daily lives. We, too, are full of paradox: like the disciples, we fervently desire to follow Christ, and yet we find ourselves afraid, betraying, denying, and running away from the God who wants nothing but the love of our hearts and minds, bodies and souls. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise that when we die to ourselves, God will raise us up to new and abundant life in Christ – life such as we have never even imagined before! Thanks be to God who loves us through it all!

UPCOMING HOLY WEEK SERVICES INCLUDE:

Palm Sunday – 6:00 – an old-fashioned Palm Sunday Service (not the combined Palm/Passion) at the Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Ave Bpt, with Pastor William Stafford, preaching

Holy Monday – 7:00 Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Ave. with Pr Michon White-Bernard

Holy Tuesday – 7:00 Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Ave. with Bishop Danny Bland

Holy Wednesday – 12:00 noon – our weekly prayer gathering on zoom AND

7:00 Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Ave. with Pastor Jarvis Tracey

Maundy Thursday – 6:00 pm Thursday April 6 @ Grace Lutheran, 150 Chapel St, Stratford

Good Friday – 7:30 pm Friday April 7 @ Our Saviour's Lutheran, 160 Hill Farm Rd, Fairfield

Easter – 9:30 am Sunday April 9 RIGHT HERE AT SALEM

OTHER LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

1. Get your annual “spiritual” – just the way you get your annual physical.

Call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441 to arrange a time to discuss how you are, and let her know how she can pray for you.

Or if you prefer to use email to set something up, send your email to salemsec123@sbcglobal.net.

2. Again, every Monday thru Friday through Maundy Thursday 4/6, call in to our prayer line at 681-999-0232, using access code 673980#, for a brief time of prayer.

You can remain silent and anonymous, ask for particular prayers, or offer your own prayers.

3. Begin a Lenten fast or establish a new healthier habit.

4. Commit yourself to some new work of charity and one new work of justice.

If you're not sure what to do, Pastor Marjo can offer suggestions.

Gathering

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

GREETING

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them'. And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The Gospel of the Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ!

* BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah & king by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

Bless these branches and those who carry them.

Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross,

so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you;

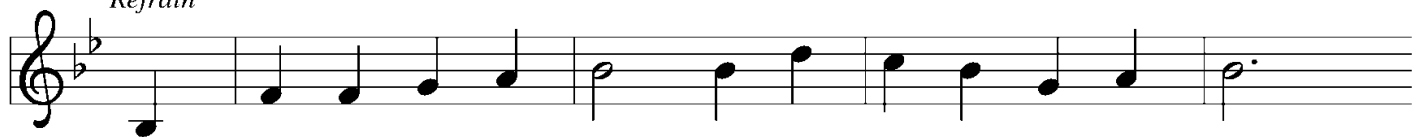
through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen

Let us go forth in peace

in the name of Christ! Amen!

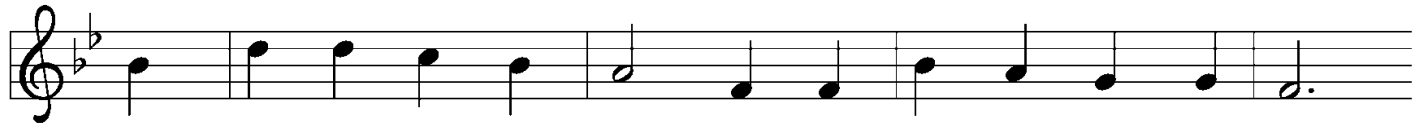
The assembly is invited to process into the nave as we join together in a song of praise!

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

*Text: based on Psalm 8:2, 24:7-10, 118:2, Matthew 21:1-16, Mark 11:1-10, Luke 19:29-38, John 12:12-15
 by Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Meter 7 6 7 6 D*

Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, ST. THEODULPH, by Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

CONGREGATIONAL ACCLAMATION FOR PALM SUNDAY

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

CHOIR ANTHEM FOR PALM SUNDAY

Please be seated.

"Hosanna in the Streets"

*from the Musical, "Come, Touch the Robe: Encounters with the Healer, the Servant, the Lord of Easter"
 by Pepper Choplin*

CONGREGATIONAL ACCLAMATION FOR PALM SUNDAY

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of God who calls us to love him with all our heart & mind & soul & body,
in the name of Jesus who shows us what that means,
and in the name of the Spirit who empowers us to do it.

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,

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 begin Holy Week & we invite you to worship every night from tonight thru Friday.

**Tonight at 6, join us at the Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Avenue in Bridgeport
for an old-fashioned Palm Sunday celebration**

(not like the combined Palm/Passion service we have this morning)

**On Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday there will be services at 7:00,
again at Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Ave.**

On Maundy Thursday at 6 pm join us at Grace Lutheran, 150 Chapel St, Stratford

On Good Friday at 7:30 join us at Our Saviour's Lutheran, 160 Hill Farm Rd, Fairfield

**And next Sunday join us at 9:30 right here at Salem
as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord**

On Wednesday at noon we will also meet on zoom for our weekly prayer gathering.

**And from Monday through Friday you can call in to our Lenten Prayer Line,
using the conference line phone number and access code printed in our weekly bulletin**

Also, remember these other 3 Lenten opportunities:

- 1. Sign up for your annual "spiritual" with your pastor –**
- 2. Use this time of Lent to fast or establish a new healthier habit.**
- 3. Commit yourself to some new work of charity and one new work of justice.**

Links to all of our online events can be found on our calendar at 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?

God, we praise you because you are the King of All Creation!

Jesus, we praise you because you are the King of Love!

Holy Spirit, we praise you because you have made us kings and priests to serve the King of kings!

We open now our hearts and souls, our minds and bodies to your holy presence.

Transform us this very day into the people you have called us to be!

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

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens —

wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,

and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 31:9-16

Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

For my life is wasted with grief,

and my years with sighing;

my strength fails me because of affliction,

and my bones are consumed.

I am the scorn of all my enemies,

a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances;

when they see me in the street they avoid me.

Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind...as useless as a broken pot.

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;

they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.

I have said, “You are my God. My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies,

and from those who persecute me.

Let your face shine upon your servant;

save me in your steadfast love.”

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 26:14 – 27:66 *PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.*

*The story of Jesus' crucifixion in Matthew's gospel
emphasizes his rejection by the political and religious institutions of the day.
But the events surrounding his death show that he overcame the powers of death.
Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him as "the Son of God".*

Narrator: The Passion of Our Lord, according to Saint Matthew, the 26th & 27th chapters:

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot,
went to the chief priests and said,

Judas: What will you give me if I deliver him to you?

Narrator: They paid him thirty pieces of silver.
And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.
On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

People: **Where do you want us to make the preparations
for you to eat the Passover?**

Jesus: Go into the city to a certain one, and say, “The Teacher says, My time is near;
I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.”

Narrator: So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them,
and they prepared the Passover meal.
When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve;
and while they were eating, he said,

Jesus: Truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.

Narrator: And they became greatly distressed, and began to say to him one after another,

People: **Surely not I, Lord?**

Jesus: The One who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.
The Son of Man goes as it is written of him,
but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!
It would have been better for that one not to have been born.

Narrator: Judas, who betrayed him, said,

Judas: Surely not I, Rabbi?

Jesus: You have said so.

Narrator: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

Jesus: Take, eat; this is my body.

Narrator: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

Jesus: Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine
until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Narrator: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.
Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,
"I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."
But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

Narrator: Peter said to him,

Peter: Though they all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.

Jesus: Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows,
you will deny me three times.

Peter: Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

Narrator: And so said all the disciples.
Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane,
and he said to his disciples,

Jesus: Sit here, while I go over there and pray.

Narrator: He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee,
and began to be grieved and agitated.

Jesus: I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.

Narrator: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

Jesus: My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me;
yet not what I want, but what you want.

Narrator: Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

Jesus: So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?
Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial;
the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Narrator: Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

Jesus: My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.

Narrator: Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.
So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time,
saying the same words.
Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

Jesus: Are you still sleeping and taking your rest?
See, the hour is at hand, & the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.
Get up, let us be going.
See, my betrayer is at hand.

Narrator: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived;
with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs,
from the chief priests and the elders of the people.
Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

Judas: The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.

Narrator: At once he came up to Jesus and said,

Judas: Greetings, Rabbi!

Narrator: and kissed him.

Jesus: Friend, do what you are here to do.

Narrator: Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.
Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it,
and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

Jesus: Put your sword back into its place;
for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.
Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father,
and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?
But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled,
which say it must happen in this way?

Narrator: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

Jesus: Have you come out with swords & clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit?
Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me.
But all this has taken place,
so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.

Narrator: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.
Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest,
in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered.
But Peter, following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest,
and going inside, sat with the guards in order to see how this would end.
Now the chief priests and the whole council
were looking for false testimony against Jesus
so that they might put him to death,
but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward.
At last two came forward and said,

***People:* This fellow said,
“I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.”**

Narrator: The high priest stood up and said,

High Priest: Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

Narrator: But Jesus was silent.

[after a pause, the High Priest continues...]

High Priest: I put you under oath before the living God,
tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.

Jesus: You have said so.
But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man
seated at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.

Narrator: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

High Priest: He has blasphemed. Why do we still need witnesses?
You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?

***People:* He deserves death.**

Narrator: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

***People:* Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?**

Narrator: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard.
And a maid came up to him, and said,

Servant-girl 1: You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

Narrator: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

Peter: I do not know what you are talking about.

Narrator: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him,
and she said to the bystanders,

Servant-girl 2: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.

Narrator: Again he denied it with an oath,

Peter: I do not know the man.

Narrator: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

***People:* Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.**

Narrator: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

Peter: I do not know the man!

Narrator: At that moment the cock crowed.
Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said:
“Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”
And he went out and wept bitterly.
When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people
conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death.
They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.
When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented
& brought back the 30 pieces of silver to the chief priests & the elders, saying,

Judas: I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.

People: **What is that to us? See to it yourself.**

Narrator: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed;
and he went and hanged himself.
But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

People: **It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.**

Narrator: After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter’s field
as a place to bury foreigners.
For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.
Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah,
“And they took the thirty pieces of silver,
the price of the one on whom a price had been set,
on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price,
and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”
Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus: You say so.

Narrator: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.

Pilate: Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

Narrator: But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge,
so that the governor was greatly amazed.
Now at the festival the governor was accustomed
to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted.
At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas.
So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Whom do you want me to release for you,
Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Narrator: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.
While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,
“Have nothing to do with that innocent man,
for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.”
Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds
to ask for Barabbas and have Jesus killed.

Pilate: Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

People: **Barabbas.**

Pilate: Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

People: **Let him be crucified!**

Pilate: Why, what evil has he done?

Narrator: But they shouted all the more,

People: **Let him be crucified!**

Narrator: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing,
but rather that a riot was beginning,
he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

Pilate: I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.

People: **His blood be on us and on our children!**

Narrator: So he released Barabbas for them,
and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.
Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters
and they gathered the whole cohort around him.
They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,
and, after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head.
They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him they mocked him, saying,

People: **Hail, King of the Jews!**

Narrator: They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head.
After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe,
and put his own clothes on him.
Then they led him away to crucify him.
As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon;
they compelled this man to carry his cross.
And when they came to a place called Golgotha
(which means Place of the Skull),
they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall;
but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.
And when they had crucified him,
they divided his garments among themselves by casting lots;
then they sat down there and kept watch over him.
Over his head they put the charge against him, which read,
“This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”
Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.
Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

People: **You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself!
If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.**

Narrator: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders,
were mocking him, saying,

People: **He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel;
let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.
He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to;
for he said “I am God’s Son.”**

Narrator: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.
From noon on, darkness came over the whole land
until about three in the afternoon.
And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

Jesus: Eli, Eli, lama sabach-thani?

Narrator: that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

People: **This man is calling for Elijah.**

Narrator: At once, one of them ran and got a sponge,
filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink.
But the others said,

People: Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

Narrator: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.
At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.
The earth shook, and the rocks were split.
The tombs also were opened,
and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.
After his resurrection they came out of the tombs,
entered the holy city and appeared to many.
Now when the centurion and those with him,
who were keeping watch over Jesus,
saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,.

People: Truly this man was God's Son!

Narrator: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance;
they had followed Jesus from Galilee, and had provided for him.
Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James & Joseph,
and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.
When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph,
who was also a disciple of Jesus.
He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus;
then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.
So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth
and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock.
Then he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.
The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation,
the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

People: Sir, we remember what that imposter said while he was still alive,
"After three days I will rise again."
Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day;
otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people,
"He has been raised from the dead,"
and the last deception would be worse than the first.

Pilate: You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.

Narrator: So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

This is the Passion of Our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

You may either stand or remain seated as you prefer.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR LENT

(from The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa and from Indonesia)

As people of the household of God, in faith, and love, and with goodwill to all,
let us in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ
give ourselves afresh to him and to one another in joyous covenant,
promising to walk together with God and one another.

**We believe in God, who is love and who has given the earth to all people.
We believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us, and to free us from all forms of oppression.
We believe in the Spirit of God, who works in and through all who are turned toward the truth.
We believe in the community of faith, which is called to be at the service of all people.**

**We do not believe in the right of the strongest, nor in the power of oppression.
We believe in human rights, in the solidarity of all people.
We denounce, stand, and work against racism,
in the power that comes from wealth and privilege, or in any established order that enslaves.
We believe that all people are equally human,
that order based on violence and injustice is not order.
We do not believe that hunger and poverty are inevitable and peace unattainable.
We dare to believe, always and in spite of everything, in God's power to transform,
fulfilling the promise of a new heaven and a new earth where justice and peace will flourish.**

PURPOSE STATEMENT *(updated by Council in June of 2019)*

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

Please be seated.

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

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

Save your church, O God. Enable us to boldly confess in all times & places that Jesus is Lord. With the humility of a servant, equip congregations, synods, and other ministries to proclaim your extravagant love for all.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Good Shepherd, Grace, Our Saviour's, and the other congregations of our Southern CT conference of our synod.

We pray for Bridgeport schools to become known among the best in Connecticut.

We pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Bob Reichelt, Marjo Anderson, and Kristen Ladue.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

Save your creation, O God. Every living being you have made has purpose.

Give us renewed appreciation of farm animals who labor in the fields, service animals who accompany human companions and beloved pets who live alongside us.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness, especially, Ann, Anne, Barbro, Barry, Boni, Cliffy, Dave, Dave, David, Dennis, Diane, Diane, Dick, Dolores, Dorothy, Frank, Gigi, Grace, Hazel, Jacob, Janice, Jeff, Jim, Jocelyn, Joey, John, Karen, Katherine, Pastor Kari, Linda, Liz, Marija, Natalie, Natasha, Pastor Paula, Pastor Ruth, Sara, Sara Jean, Steve, VL, and all those we name in our hearts and on our lips.

We thank you for answered prayer, especially for your healing of Keith, and for your resolving of Pastor Marjo's and Cake's car issues.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

Save the peoples of the earth, O God. Restore dignity to those who are scorned and persecuted for their religious beliefs or political activism, and deliver them from the hand of their enemies. Bring peace to places where conflict runs deep.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

Save those who cry to you in any need, O God.

Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting trial, and stand with those unjustly accused.

Be present with those feeling isolated, lonely, or fearful.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

Save us at the last, O God.

We give you thanks for your saints of old who embodied your servant love.

As you came to their aid, so deliver us in times of trial,

that every knee would bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

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

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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

There Is a Redeemer

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Worship & Praise # 140)*

Verse 1

**There is a Redeemer Jesus God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God Messiah Holy One**

Chorus

**Thank You O my Father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit
Till the work on earth is done**

Verse 2

**Jesus my Redeemer
name above all names
Precious Lamb of God Messiah
O for sinners slain**

Verse 3

**When I stand in glory
I will see His face
There I'll serve my King forever
In that holy place**

CCLI Song # 11483

by Keith Green

Text: based on Isaiah 53:4-5, John 1:29, 1 Corinthians 1:30, 1 Peter 1:18-21; Meter Irregular

Tune: GREEN

© 1982 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing

(Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)

Birdwing Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Ears To Hear (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

Reprinted / Streamed with permission under CCLI License # 11092038

Performance by Virtual Choir, under the direction of Florentin Tise, 05/04/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzZK8o9xd-I> [4:03]

Sending

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we begin Holy Week & we invite you to worship every night from tonight thru Friday.

**Tonight at 6, join us at the Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Avenue in Bridgeport
for an old-fashioned Palm Sunday celebration**

(not like the combined Palm/Passion service we have this morning)

**On Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday there will be services at 7:00,
again at Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Ave.**

On Maundy Thursday at 6 pm join us at Grace Lutheran, 150 Chapel St, Stratford

On Good Friday at 7:30 join us at Our Saviour's Lutheran, 160 Hill Farm Rd, Fairfield

**And next Sunday join us at 9:30 right here at Salem
as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord**

On Wednesday at noon we will also meet on zoom for our weekly prayer gathering.

**And from Monday through Friday you can call in to our Lenten Prayer Line,
using the conference line phone number and access code printed in our weekly bulletin**

Links to all of our online events can be found on our calendar at 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?

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 reading from Psalm 31:

Love, trust and obey God, and you will know that your times are in God's hand.

Then God will rescue you from the hand of your enemies, from those who persecute you,
and God's face will shine on you as God saves you out of endless love. 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 journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen**

God's love is infinite and unconditional.

As individuals we have only to accept it and live in its light.

The moment we confess, we are forgiven.

As together we gather for worship, so together we confess our sins as our community,
and together we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, we confess:

**that too often we focus on the things we lack,
that too often we are attached to our own personal agendas,
that too often we insist on doing things our own way,
that too often we are oblivious to the needs for justice around us.**

God who has heard our confession both forgives and forgets every failing. **Amen!**

Loving God, teach us:

**to see your amazing abundance rather than any lack,
to listen more - to you and to each other - and to talk less,
to trust in your power and not our own,
to build relationships with those who are not like us.**

God who has given us the will to do these things ✙
graciously gives us the power to perform them. **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 HYMN

O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 431)*

**O Christ, what can it mean for us to claim you as our king?
What royal face have you revealed whose praise the church would sing?
Aspiring not to glory's height, to power, wealth and fame,
you walked a diff'rent, lowly way, another's will your aim.**

**You came, the image of our God, to heal and to forgive,
to shed your blood for sinner's sake that we might rise and live.
To break the law of death you came, the law of love to bring:
a diff'rent rule of righteousness, a diff'rent kind of king.**

**Though some would make their greatness felt and lord it over all,
you said the first must be the last and service be our call.
O Christ, in workplace, church, and home, let none to power cling;
for still, through us, you come to serve, a diff'rent kind of king.**

**You chose a humble human form and shunned the world's renown;
you died for us upon a cross with thorns your only crown.
But still, beyond the span of years, our glad hosannas ring,
for now at God's right hand you reign, a diff'rent kind of king!**

Text: based on Revelation 1:4-8 by Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939; Meter C M D

Music: ALL SAINTS NEW by Henry S. Cutler, 1824-1902

Text © 2001, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music is in the Public Domain

Reprinted / Streamed with permission under OneLicense # A-727372

Performance by Tim McNabb, Halifax Lutheran Church, 10/01/21

649/655 in our hymn series

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wu7Q3d6tt-I> [2:44]

DISMISSAL

Go with unwavering faith and hope to follow Christ your King!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE SONG

Now Behold the Lamb

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
This Far by Faith # 128 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 341)*

**Now behold the Lamb, the precious Lamb of God,
who bore all my sin, that I may live again:
the precious Lamb of God.**

**Holy is the Lamb, the precious Lamb of God.
Why you love me so, Lord, I shall never know;
the precious Lamb of God.**

**Thank you for the Lamb, the precious Lamb of God.
Because of your grace I can finish the race;
the precious Lamb of God.**

*Text: based on John 1:29, 36, 2 Corinthians 4:6, 2 Timothy 4:7, Hebrews 12:1
by Kirk Franklin, b. 1970; Meter 5 6 5 6 6*

Music: NOW BEHOLD THE LAMB by Kirk Franklin; arr. Keith Hampton, b. 1957

Text and music © 1996 Lilly Mack Music

Reprinted / Streamed with permission under CCLI # 11092038

*Performed by Kenedi Wilson & Natalie Harris & Choir of Christian Life Center, Heath, OH
12/18/21; to learn more and/or to support this ministry, go to at <https://clcheath.com>
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOmJ2id267g> [5:31]*

CREDITS

*From sundaysandseasons.com. © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission
under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS005794.*

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989,

Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.

Used by permission.

Announcements

Worship Locations for April, May and June

We are a congregation that gathers to worship the Lord and receive His word. We are a congregation that serves the Lord and supports our neighbors in need. That we do gather together to worship, hear the Word, and serve is more important than where we gather together.

This quarter, the Salem congregation will worship at four churches other than the Ephraim French SDA Church building at 3160 Park Ave. During these visits, Salem will not have a worship service at Park Ave.

Please mark your calendar for the location & times of our worship services through June:

April 6	6:00	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford
April 7	7:30	<i>Good Friday</i> at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 160 Hill Farm Rd, Fairfield
April 9	9:30	<i>Easter</i> at 3160 Park Ave, Bridgeport
April 16	9:30	at 3160 Park Ave, Bridgeport
April 22	4:00	(Saturday) at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 406 White Plains Rd, Trumbull
April 23	10:00	(Sunday) at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 406 White Plains Rd, Trumbull
April 30	9:30	at 3160 Park Ave, Bridgeport
May 7	9:00	First Presbyterian Church (<i>Contemporary Service</i>), 2475 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield
May 7	10:30	First Presbyterian Church (<i>Traditional Service</i>), 2475 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield
May 14	9:30	at 3160 Park Ave, Bridgeport
May 21	10:00	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 160 Hill Farm Rd, Fairfield
May 28	9:30	at 3160 Park Ave, Bridgeport
June 4	9:30	at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford
June 11	9:30	at 3160 Park Ave, Bridgeport
June 18	9:30	at 3160 Park Ave, Bridgeport (<i>Semi-annual meeting</i>)
June 25	9:30	at 3160 Park Ave, Bridgeport

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE DIAPER & WIPE DRIVE!

Nourish Bridgeport's Hydroponic Farm is now open to the public. Hours are Monday and Wednesday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come and purchase leafy greens and herbs at 1895 Stratford Avenue, Stratford CT.

Salem is sponsoring monthly Food Collections at the following times & places:

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 East 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!

Thank you for your contributions to Salem's Food Assistance Fund! 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".

If you'd like to do more than feed people, you can also contribute to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund which is used to help members who have other financial needs.

On Thursday, May 4 the Council of Churches will once again hold its Spring Fling fundraiser at the Downtown Cabaret Theatre in Bridgeport. The show is "Cabaret". The \$85. cost per person includes a reception and the show. Salem has always been a strong supporter of this event and we hope we will again have good representation for this major fundraiser. For more information see Sandra Brown, Bonnie McWain or Tom Larson.

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.

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!**

You are invited to support the Greater Bridgeport Area's 49th Annual CROP Walk on Sunday May 7th (rain or shine) beginning 1:30 pm at United Congregational Church, 2200 North Avenue, Bridgeport. You can certainly walk to support this effort (there is a 2.2 mile walk as well as a 1 mile walk), but there are other ways to be involved also. You can invite family and friends to walk. You can donate money to people walking from Salem. Or you can donate non-perishable food that will go to nOURish BRIDGEPORT's food pantry at the UCC. Or you can volunteer to help at the walk. This year 25% of the proceeds will benefit these local organizations: Bridgeport Rescue Mission, Daughters of Charity Rescue Mission, King's Pantry, Operation Hope, Thomas Merton Center, Stratford Baptist Church Food Pantry, Trumbull Social Services, the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, and Spooner House. The remainder supports the work of Church World Service around the world, in places like the Ukraine. For more info, visit <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023> or speak with ... or Pastor Marjo.

Gather, Play, Wonder, Grow, and Explore at Camp Calumet Lutheran All Year Long! Whether you're taking time for quiet, self-care or enjoying retreat time with others, Calumet is ready to serve you with superb hospitality and great home-cooking, in the Conference Center rooms & Village Cabins, Lakeside Bunk Cabins (heated or unheated), or in the Retreat Lodge & Staff House on the Lake.

The 65-site Family Campground is open May-October, and adults and families who visit here, enjoy laughter, conversation, connections, and learning in the outdoors while getting to know their campsite neighbors, through walks, campfires, lake-plunging, and beach time. RVs, Pop-ups, Tent-camping, and Platform rentals available.

Calumet's iconic Resident Camp for Kids has been impacting lives of campers and staff for over 80 years. From the very beginning, way back in 1960, Calumet has been able to point to the life-long relationships and authentic connections made here as evidence that Calumet and the Calumet Spirit is simply unique.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans.

Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists
Thursday, April 6, 2023

These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation.

Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time.

Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light.

Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther.

Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

The Interdenominational Alliance of Greater Bridgeport and Vicinity

Holy Week Services

April 2-7 Nightly
7:00PM

Cathedral of Faith
2319 Fairfield Ave
Bridgeport, CT 06605

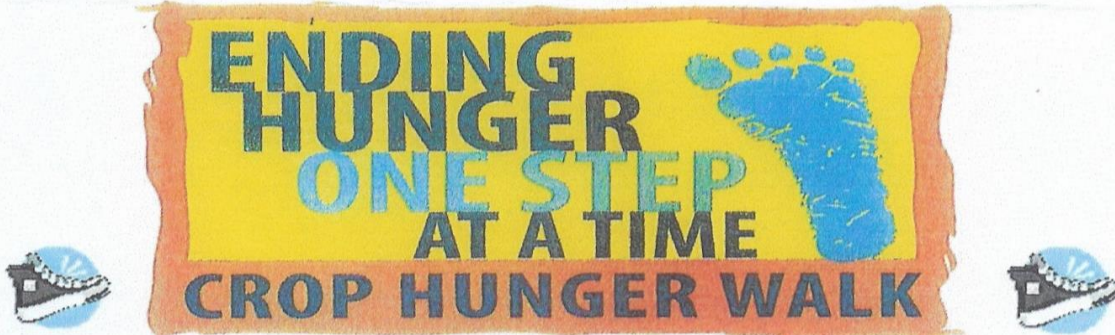
 <p>Sun. Apr. 2 *6:00PM</p>	 <p>Mon. Apr. 3</p>	 <p>Tues. Apr. 4</p>	 <p>Wed. Apr. 5</p>	 <p>Thurs. Apr. 6</p>	 <p>Fri. Apr. 7</p>
<p>Pastor William Sutton- First Baptist Church of Stratford</p>	<p>Pastor Michon White-Bernard- Cathedral of Praise COGIC Int'l</p>	<p>Bishop Danny Bland- Revival Church</p>	<p>Pastor Jarvis Tracy- Faith and Hope Apostolic Ministries</p>	<p>Pastor Brenda J. Barnes- Vice President Faith Gospel Assembly Church</p>	<p>Pastor William D. McCullough- President Russel Temple CME Church</p>



www.facebook.com/ima.bridgeport
[www.youtube.com- IMA Bridgeport](https://www.youtube.com-IMA Bridgeport)



Walk With Us ... It's Our 49th!



CROP Hunger Walk No. 49

Sunday, May 7, 2023

at 1:30 – 4:00 pm for 2+ mile walk (Rain or Shine)

**at United Congregational Church
2200 North Avenue, Bridgeport, CT**

25 % of monies raised goes to hunger related programs in the Bridgeport Area.
For more info, call 203-375-1284 or go to www.crophungerwalk.org/bridgeportct



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE



— All year long —

****Conference Center rooms & Village Cabins****
****Lakeside Bunk Cabins (heated or unheated)****
****Retreat Lodge & Staff House on the Lake****
****Great Home-Cooking & Superb Hospitality****

**Whether you're taking time for quiet, self-care
or enjoying retreat time with others ...
We're ready for you!**

Calumet's iconic *Resident Camp for Kids* has been impacting lives of campers and staff for over 60 years. From the very beginning, way back in 1960, Calumet has been able to point to the life-long relationships and authentic connections made here as evidence that Calumet and the Calumet Spirit is simply unique. We're ready for you!

The 65-site *Family Campground* is open May-October. Adults & Families visit here and enjoy the outdoors while getting to know their campsite neighbors.
**** RVs, Pop-ups, Tent-camping, & Platform rentals ****
**** Walks, campfires, lake-plunging, & beachtime ****
Laughter & Conversation! Connections & Learning!
We're ready for you!

Calumet

P.O. Box 236
West Ossipee, NH 03890
(603) 539-4773 www.calumet.org

NON-PROFIT
PRESORT AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
N. CONWAY, NH
03860
PERMIT #160

Make a
Gift to
Calumet



Contact
Reservation
Staff



Peruse
Year-Round
Programs

