



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*9th Sunday
after Pentecost*

*July 30, 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 to Worship!

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 for when we have coffee hour or adult forums there.** Also, you are most welcome to wear a mask at worship if you'd like.

On this 9th Sunday after Pentecost, as Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasure found in a field, and a pearl of great price. Jesus tells us a secret: the kingdom of God is here and now, and living in that kingdom is the most exciting adventure we can ever imagine!

Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study continues at 7:00 on zoom as we study Paul's letter to the Romans. Why Romans, you ask? Well, according to Martin Luther... "This Epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament and the very purest Gospel, and is so worthy that not only should every Christian know it word for word, by heart, but feast on it every day as bread for the soul. It can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes." While you may not be ready to memorize it or read it every day, we do invite you to study it weekly with us! This week we'll be looking at chapters 1 & 2. The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org.

Dear Salem Family,

I wanted to let you know that per the direction of the congregation at the semi annual meeting, we contacted Pastor Maria Hammons, the synod's Consultant for Congregational Mergers and Holy Closures; and per the direction of the council at its June meeting, we contacted Ms Kim Bergstrand, Associate to the Bishop, responsible for (among other things) Radical Revitalization and New Mission Starts. It was decided that Pastor Maria and Kim would meet together with Pastor Marjo and me, as well as Jeanette Harris, since she is already involved in mission development in Bridgeport and is closely connected with Salem.

At that meeting Pr Maria and Kim agreed to come lead an adult forum at Salem following worship and a short coffee hour on August 13th.

I hope you are as excited as I am to see where the Spirit of God is leading us!

Blessings,

Cindy Roberts, President

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

Jesus At The Center

Verse 1 Jesus at the center of it all Jesus at the center of it all
From beginning to the end It will always be it's always been You Jesus Jesus

Chorus And nothing else matters Nothing in this world will do
Jesus You're the center Ev'rything revolves around You Jesus You

Verse 2 Jesus be the center of my life Jesus be the center of my life
From beginning to the end It will always be it's always been You Jesus Jesus

Bridge From my heart to the heavens Jesus be the center It's all about You yes it's all about You
From my heart to the heavens Jesus be the center It's all about You yes it's all about You
(Jesus) (REPEAT)

Verse 3 Jesus be the center of Your church Jesus be the center of Your church
And ev'ry knee will bow And ev'ry tongue shall confess You

Interlude Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus

CCLI Song # 6115180

Adam Ranney | Israel Houghton | Micah Massey

© 2011 Heart Anthem Music (Admin. by Fun Attic Music, LLC)

Integrity Worship Music (Admin. by Integrity Music)

Integrity's Praise! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music)

Sound Of The New Breed (Admin. by Integrity Music)

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

CCLI License # 11092038

*Performance # 1 by Summit RDU, #theworldupsidedown, Summit Worship, 04/20/20
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vb7JJQ3vnXs> [5:22]*

Performance # 2 by Church of the City New York, 12/02/21

Our vision and our desire is to see

“the fame and deeds of God renewed and known in our time” (Habakkuk 3:2).

To that end, we live as those who pursue God’s presence in our midst,

and practice the Way of Jesus in our time and place,

to bring spiritual, social, and cultural renewal to the city.

We gather at 9am, 11am (with live broadcast), 4pm and 6pm every Sunday.

To find out more about Church of the City New York, visit <https://church.nyc>

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFWt3ahRpn4> [5:17]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome, in the name of God who invites us to live in his kingdom on earth,
in the name of Jesus who tells us what that kingdom is about,
and in the name of the Spirit through whom we step into that kingdom!

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 you are – and whenever you happen to watching!

For those of you who don't know me,

I am 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.

**You are invited to our weekday prayer call at noon on our conference line,
to our Wednesday Prayer Gathering at noon on zoom,
and to our Wednesday Evening Bible Study at 7:00 on zoom.**

**All of our zoom events can be found on the Calendar under the Resources tab
on our website: SalemBridgeport.org**

Don't forget to sign up for Camp Calumet's walk-a-thon!

And please remember all the events coming up in August:

the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance Scholarship Worship Service

at 11:00 Saturday August 12th at Russell Temple, 555 Connecticut Avenue;

the city-wide Rise to Read Vacation Bible Camp along with an old-fashioned Tent Meeting
with prayer gatherings and worship services August 13-18

at Washington Park, 318 Barnum Avenue;

and New Paradigm Theatre's production of Grease Friday and Saturday August 18 & 19
at Black Rock Church, 3685 Black Rock Turnpike in Fairfield.

Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings? Then let's begin worship w/prayer!

God, we thank you for who you are and what you do!

We have come to worship you, to praise you, to magnify you, and to bless your holy name.

We are here to listen and learn, to be taught and transformed, and to be fed and filled.

Bind us into one that we may leave here blessed to be a blessing to all we meet.

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

OPENING SONG

I Love You, Lord, and I Lift My Voice

(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
This Far by Faith # 288 and *Worship & Praise* # 67)

Chorus

**I love You Lord And I lift my voice To worship You O my soul rejoice
Take joy my King In what You hear May it be a sweet, sweet sound In Your ear**

CCLI Song # 25266

Text: based on Psalm 18:1, 40:16, I John 4:19, by Laurie Klein; Meter 9 9 10

Music: I LOVE YOU, LORD by Laurie Klein

© 1978, 1980 House Of Mercy Music (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)

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

CCLI License # 11092038

Performance by Ghing Heria, 04/05/19

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bxi4PI0Bf7g> [2:41]



I Love You, Lord

Words and Music by Laurie Klein/Arranged by Eric Shanfelt

F Bb F F F A Bb A

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to wor - ship

Bb D F Bb Dm7 C F A F Bb F

you; O my soul, re - joice! Take joy, my King, in

C7 F F Bb A C7 C7 F F

what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

Copyright © 1978 House of Mercy Music (Administered by Maranatha! Music. c/o The Copyright Company, Nashville, TN).
All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.

The Group Praise & Worship Songbook

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: 1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you”. And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise & discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

Give thanks to the LORD and call upon God’s name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples.

Sing to the LORD, sing praises,
and speak of all God’s marvelous works.

Glory in God’s holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Search for the strength of the LORD;
continually seek God’s face.

Remember the marvels God has done,
the wonders and the judgments of God’s mouth,

O offspring of Abraham, God’s servant,
O children of Jacob, God’s chosen ones.

The LORD is our God,
whose judgments prevail in all the world,
who has always been mindful of the covenant,
the promise made for a thousand generations:

the covenant made with Abraham,
the oath sworn to Isaac,
which God established as a statute for Jacob,
an everlasting covenant for Israel,
saying, “To you will I give the land of Canaan to be your allotted inheritance.”
Hallelujah!

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-46, 51-52

You may stand if you so desire.

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches".

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened".

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field".

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it"....

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH for the season of Pentecost

Let us affirm our faith together.

Through the Holy Spirit God created the heavens and the earth.

Inspired by the Spirit of God we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives.

We believe there are many gifts, but the same Spirit.

There are many ways of serving, but the same Lord.

There are many sorts of abilities, but it is the same God

who activates all of them in everyone for the sole purpose of doing God's will.

To each child of God is given an expression of the Spirit for the common good.

Through baptism in the Spirit, God confers the gifts of

wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge

and awe at God's boundless power and joy in God's endless love.

The Spirit also manifests in such gifts as healing, prophetic insight,

speaking in tongues, extraordinary ability, witness, and service.

The Spirit's living presence in us is demonstrated by our fruits:

love & joy, peace & patience, faithfulness, goodness, kindness, gentleness & self-control

all of which are activated by one and the same Spirit,

who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses,

to the glory of God and the joy of humankind. Amen

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.

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns,
let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

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

Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel.
Equip rostered and lay leaders to proclaim
that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
Form each of us into disciples.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

We pray for the safety, protection, thriving and wellbeing of elected/appointed officials
and their families in Bridgeport and beyond.

And we pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Corey DeWalt and Josephine Anderson
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation.
Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes,
preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, we pray for the nations.
Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil,
free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger.
Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, we thank you for healing Karen of her cancer. We continue to pray for all in any need.
Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked,
soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick,
especially Barbro, Barry, Boni, Cliffy, Dave, David, Dennis, Diane, Diane, Dolores, Dorothy, Eric,
Jacob, Janice, Jeff, Jim, Joe, Joey, John, Marija, Natalie, Natasha, Natasha, Pastor Paul, Pastor Paula,
Sara, Sara Jean, Sasha, Tyler and VL, and all those we name in our hearts & on our lips,
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered & those absent from this assembly today.
Grant safety to travelers, and life-changing experiences for children attending summer camps,
especially those at Camp Calumet Lutheran & at the Rise to Read Vacation Bible Camps in Bridgeport.
Provide all the resources needed to meet the needs of all who look to you for daily bread.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors.
Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel, and continually nourish us with your grace.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray,
in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, 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

In response to God’s grace, it is our joy to return to God our tithes and offerings.
We are grateful for your generosity, -which not only is an exercise of and witness to your faith,
but which funds our ministry together here at Salem.

If you are a member of another congregation,
we encourage you to give to your home congregation first,
but invite you to contribute to our ministry also
so that we can continue to take our worship online
as a witness to the power and love of the amazing God we serve.
Simply go to the menu on our website at SalemBridgeport.org and click “donate”
or scan the QR code here in our Sunday worship program
with a QR reader on your smart phone which will take you to that page.

OFFERTORY SONG

More Precious than Silver

You may stand if you so desire.

*Note: If singing with recording, simply sing Chorus 1 twice;
if singing with piano, sing through as written.*

Chorus 1

**Lord You are More precious than silver
Lord You are More costly than gold
Lord You are More beautiful than diamonds
And nothing I desire Compares with You**

Verse

**And who can weigh the value Of knowing You
Oh who can judge the worth Of Who You are
Lord who can count the blessing Of loving You
Who can say just how great You are, How great You are**

Chorus 2

**(Oh) Lord You are More precious than silver
Lord You are More costly than gold
Lord You are More beautiful than diamonds
And nothing I desire Compares with You
Ooo nothing I desire Compares with You
Ooo nothing I desire Compares with You**

CCLI Song # 11335

by Lynn DeShazo

© 1982 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music)

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 the Chancel Choir & Orchestra of Hayes Barton Baptist Church,
Raleigh, NC, 12/16/18*

(<https://vimeo.com/306082263>) titled "Portraits of The King"

at Hayes Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC <http://www.hbbc.org/>

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQH0gTU8-s4> [1:45]

Sending

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**You are invited to our weekday prayer call at noon on our conference line,
to our Wednesday Prayer Gathering at noon on zoom,
and to our Wednesday Evening Bible Study at 7:00 on zoom.**

All of our zoom events can be found on the Calendar
under the Resources tab on our website: SalemBridgeport.org

Don't forget to sign up for Camp Calumet's walk-a-thon!

And please remember all the events coming up in August:
the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance Scholarship Worship Service
at 11:00 Saturday August 12th at Russell Temple, 555 Connecticut Avenue;
the city-wide Rise to Read Vacation Bible Camp along with an old-fashioned Tent Meeting
with prayer gatherings and worship services August 13-18
at Washington Park, 318 Barnum Avenue;
and New Paradigm Theatre's production of Grease Friday and Saturday August 18 & 19
at Black Rock Church, 3685 Black Rock Turnpike in Fairfield.

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 together,
you can reach me through our website or Facebook.

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 online:
this blessing based on our reading today from Romans 8:

Know that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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 Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps us in the one true faith. **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!

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**

PEACE

As Christ reconciles us with God, let us be reconciled with each other.

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

And also with you!

Please share that peace with one another!

SENDING SONG

Seek Ye First

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Worship & Praise # 122 and This Far by Faith # 149)*

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.**

**Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia.**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia.**

Text: based on Matthew 6:33, 7:7, adapt.; Meter Irregular

Music: LAFFERTY, Karen Lafferty, b. 1948

© 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyright Company

Reprinted / Streamed with permission under CCLI # 11092038

Performance by Chris Brunelle

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JInofnk7OX0> [1:55]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that all things work together for good
for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE HYMN

Neither Death nor Life

(ELW # 622)

Refrain: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come,
neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation
can ever separate us from the love of God poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

- 1 Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead; though your body shall die,
in Christ you shall rise through the Spirit who brings you to life. *[Refrain]*
- 2 All who are led by the Spirit shall live as children of God,
and heirs with Christ Jesus, God's adopted and chosen and loved. *[Refrain]*
- 3 All of the suff'ring we now must endure is nothing to the glory
so soon to be revealed when creation itself is set free. *[Refrain]*
- 4 All of creation awaits the new birth, the fullness of redemption,
through labor pains of love, and so we wait in patience and hope. *[Refrain]*
- 5 All things work for the good for the ones who love God, and if God is for us,
then who can be against us? God's justified cannot be condemned. *[Refrain]*
- 6 Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship or distress,
persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword?

Refrain: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come,
neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation
poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord, poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Text: based on Romans 8:11-19, 22-25, 28-35, 38, by Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Meter Irregular
Korean tr. Chan Gyu Jang; Cantonese tr. Yvette Lau;
Spanish tr. Ron Krisman & Maria Cornou; Indonesian tr. Ester Widiasih

Music: NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, by Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text and Music © 2001 by GIA Publications, Inc.

Reprinted/Streamed with permission under OneLicense # A-727372

Performance by Calvin Symposium on Worship 2021 Virtual Choir (including Pastor Marjo Anderson!)

Soloists: Elizabeth Canfield, Ivan Manoraj, Luke DeVries (English); Sa El Lee (Korean);
Yvette Lau (Cantonese); Carlos Lemagne (Spanish); Cindy Tuna (Indonesian)

Instrumentalists: Marty Haugen (piano); Glen Okonoski (percussion);
Tom Good (guitar); Kevin Panepento (guitar); Jay Round (bass guitar)

Editing: Glen Okonoski and Jay Round

Announcements

Do you want to talk or pray with your pastor? Well, just like you call your doctor or dentist to schedule an annual wellness visit or a visit to deal with a particular issue, you can contact Pastor Marjo via text or phone at 203-982-3441, or through Office Manager Karl Kraft via text at 203-336-3300 or email at salemsec123@sbcglobal.net . Our bodies are intimately connected with our minds and hearts and spirits, so the health of one part impacts the health of the other parts.

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. Call in to our prayer line at 681-999-0232, using access code 673980#, at noon Mon-Fri for a brief time of prayer.

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

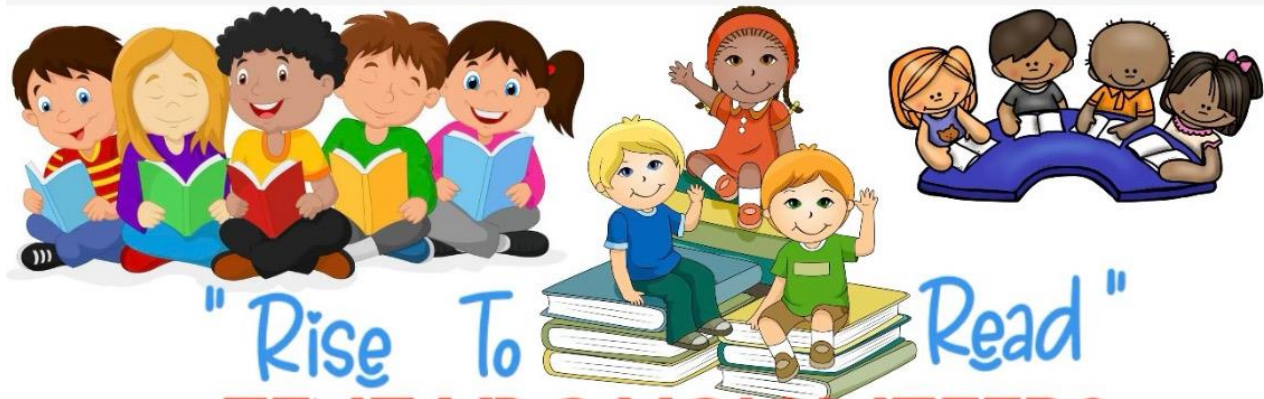
3. Begin a Pentecost fast or establish a new healthier habit.

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

If you’re wondering what the difference is, it’s like this. If people are hungry and you give them fish, that’s CHARITY. If people are hungry and you teach them to fish, that’s EMPOWERMENT. If people are hungry and you work to change laws so that they receive high enough wages from their jobs so they can afford to buy fish, that’s JUSTICE.

If you’re not sure how to “do justice” as God commands through the Prophet Micah (6:8), Pastor Marjo can offer suggestions.

At its July meeting, Salem’s Congregation Council voted to contribute \$500 to provide 1 scholarship to the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport’s Scholarship Fund AND to encourage Salem members and friends to attend the worship service at 11:00 on Saturday the 12th of August 2023 at Russell Temple, 555 Connecticut Avenue. The mission of the IMA is to empower clergy – and their congregations – to unite and mobilize to bring about social and economic justice in the city of Bridgeport and beyond. One way we are doing this is by providing Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarships for high school graduates who are going off to colleges and universities. In 2022, 17 students each received \$500. The worship service on 8/12 will celebrate these young people’s accomplishments and give thanks for all those who have supported them. If you can’t attend, you can personally support this important ministry by giving to the IMA Scholarship Fund by CashApp at \$IMABPT21 or via check made out to The IMA of Greater Bpt, with “Scholarship Fund” in the memo, and mailed to: IMABPT, c/o Russell Temple, 555 Connecticut Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06607.



TENT VBC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**IN-PERSON TRAINING... THIS SAT.
JULY 29, 2023... 9-11 AM**

**"RISE TO READ" LEARNING CENTER
248 FAIRFIELD AVE. BPT. CT.**

MORE INFO (203) 984-7499

**RISE TO READ SUMMER VACATION BIBLE CAMP
DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST 14TH - FRIDAY,
AUGUST 18**

TIME: 12PM-4PM

**LOCATION: WASHINGTON PARK, 318 BARNUM
AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT CT, 06608**

**ALTERNATIVE ONLINE ZOOM TRAINING & CAMP
UPDATE MEETING**

DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 5TH

TIME: 9AM-10AM

**LOCATION: ZOOM CALL (LINK WILL BE
PROVIDED IN A FOLLOW-ON EMAIL TO ALL
VOLUNTEERS)**



Rise to Read's FREE ecumenical city-wide 2023 Vacation Bible Camp "Son-Shine" for 4-12 year olds is just a few weeks away! It runs from 12 – 4 pm Monday-Friday, August 14th-18th and will be held under the big tent in Washington Park, 318 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport 06808. The days will include arts & crafts, games & prizes, and fun for all. New this year will be a drama component which will bring the Biblical story alive in a new way!

Last year the camp served over 100 children, not only providing help with reading and math skills, but introducing children to the love of God in Christ Jesus! Half of the children attending had never been to church before! Salem has already committed up to \$1000 to purchase water and snacks to supplement the government supplied lunches and there are other ways individual members can get involved. Among the volunteers from Salem last year were Jean Larson who coordinated the lunches and snacks, and Nancy Headford, Sandra Brown, Bruce and Diane Tomasko, and Pastor Marjo who helped her, as well as others who arranged for coolers and the purchase of water and snacks.

For those who would like to volunteer, you are invited to the weekly planning zoom calls at 6 pm on Mondays 7/17, 24, 31 and 8/7. A training session will be held online Saturday August 5th from 9:00-10:15. If you can't make the meetings, notes can be forwarded to you. For more info talk with one of the Salem members who helped last year or call 203-984-7499 or email Info@RiseToRead.net . If you need zoom links call the number above or contact Pastor Marjo.

In addition to the city-wide Rise to Read Vacation Bible Camp, Bishop Theodore and First Lady Madison Plummer and the Full Gospel Church (who is providing the tent and the overnight security) invites you to their old-fashioned Tent Meeting right there at Washington Park, 318 Barnum Avenue, with prayer meeting and worship services as follows:

Sun	August 13	11:30 am	with preacher Pastor Gabrielle Beam
Sun	August 13	5:00 pm	with preacher Pastor Micheon White Bernard
Mon	August 14	7-9 pm	with preacher Pastor Charles Stallworth
Tue	August 15	7-9 pm	with preacher Apostle Kelvin Newton
Wed	August 16	7-9 pm	with preacher Bishop Robert Middleton
Thu	August 17	7-9 pm	with preacher Pastor Shon Clay
Fri	August 18	7-9 pm	with preacher Bishop John Thompson
AND Gospel Rap Artist Jehoshaphat King			

The outline of the prayer meetings and worship services is as follows:

- 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting
- 7:00 pm Praise and Worship
- 7:15 pm Offerings
- 7:20 pm Preached Word
- 8:30 pm Altar Call
- 8:45 pm Benediction

For more info on the prayer meetings and worship services, call 1203-520-1718

If you enjoyed New Paradigm Theatre's production of The Little Mermaid last summer, you'll want to purchase tickets for this summer's show, "Grease", Friday August 18th at 7:00 or Saturday August 19th at 2:00 and 7:00, at Black Rock Church, 3685 Black Rock Turnpike in Fairfield. Given the popularity of the movie and the state-of-the-art theatre at Black Rock Church, this show will be a fun combination of live and movie-style experiences. Sing along with your favorite songs as cast members perform, dress up in 50s era costumes, AND EVEN enjoy a pre-show car show of 50s car in the parking lot! General admission is tickets are \$10-35; VIP tickets, including the best reserved seats, and a backstage/onstage tour before the show are \$50, and for \$100 you can sit Onstage during the Act 2 prom scene for those 16 years and older! As NPT partnered last year with the Norwalk Maritime Center for Little Mermaid, this year's theme has led it to partner with a non-profit that helps victims of domestic abuse. For tickets go to nptheatre.org or speak with Pastor Marjo.

**the new
paradigm
theatre^{co}**
PRESENTS



Book, Music, and Lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

AUGUST 18 (7PM) & AUGUST 19 (2PM AND 7PM)

PERFORMED AT BLACK ROCK CHURCH - 3685 BLACK ROCK TURNPIKE, FAIRFIELD, CT

For tickets visit us at nptheatre.org

or



"Grease" is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company.
www.concordtheatricals.com

NPT PARTNER NON-PROFIT:

GREAT FUTURES START HERE!



Refill the Pantries has already scheduled four drives for the September-October period this fall for the same four pantries we helped last year, and plans to have volunteers from five churches assist. Mark your calendar – the drive for Operation Hope is October 28, details to follow. It's truly amazing what can be accomplished when working together. Thank you!

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.

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 & 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 at Salem 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.

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.

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!**

CREDITS

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 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 United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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