



# Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after  
Pentecost**

**September 17,  
2023  
9:30 AM**



*...how often should  
I forgive?  
"Not **SEVEN** times,  
but, I tell you,  
**SEVENTY-  
SEVEN**  
times."*

*Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV*

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[YouTube](#) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

# Welcome to Worship!

**We want you to feel safe when we go back to worshipping indoors** 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.

**In the readings assigned for this 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost we reflect on the power of sin and the gift of forgiveness.** Paul questions why we judge one another when we all stand before the judgment of God since we have all sinned and fall short of what God asks of us. In Exodus we read about how Joseph forgave his brothers, not from some little slight, but from selling him into slavery! And Jesus challenges us to forgive at the same extravagant level – not just seven times, but seventy times seven! How can we meet such a challenge? Only through the power of God whose boundless mercy is the subject of our Psalm today. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

**YOU are more important than your money!** Showing up for events is just as important and sometimes more important than writing a check, so please think about that when you are invited to participate in events listed in these announcement pages!

**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 chapter 5. The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at [SalemBridgeport.org](http://SalemBridgeport.org).

# Gathering

## GATHERING SONG One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)

*Verse 1* Higher than the mountains that I face Stronger than the power of the grave  
Constant in the trial and the change One thing remains One thing remains

*Interlude* Your love Your love Your love will never change

*Chorus* Your love never fails It never gives up Never runs out on me (REPEAT) Your love

*Verse 2* On and on and on and on it goes It overwhelms and satisfies my soul  
And I never ever have to be afraid One thing remains One thing remains

*Bridge* In death in life I'm confident and Cover'd by the power of Your great love  
My debt is paid there's nothing that Can separate my heart from Your great love  
(REPEAT)

*Ending* Your love

*CCLI Song # 5508444*

*Brian Johnson | Christa Black Gifford | Jeremy Riddle*

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*Performance #1 by David Wesley, 01/19/13*

*as found at this link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPxEYmk\\_zqg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPxEYmk_zqg) [4:27]*

*Performance #2 by House of Bread Church's Children's Choir, Thanksgiving 2014*

*Music Director: Miroslav Chernyetsky; Mix/Master: Alex Anisav Studios*

*as found at this link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqv\\_4iiGtYY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqv_4iiGtYY) [3:29]*

## BRIEF WELCOME TO IN-PERSON WORSHIPPERS

Welcome, in the name of the God who created us out of love,  
in the name of Jesus who understood and lived and taught that God is love,  
and in the name of the Spirit who empowers us to love.

St. John's Lutheran Church in New Britain is closing  
and they are having their final service today at 10:00.

It's a congregation that I served for 5 years,  
and where our oldest son, Hans, was baptized by my father,  
and where he received his first communion.

So that I can join my family for part of that worship service,  
we'll be doing the parts of the service that require my presence first,  
and then Cindy, the Lansings, and Cake, will continue leading you in worship.  
We'll begin for the Confession and Forgiveness and Holy Communion.

# Meal

## 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**

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

## **BRIEF WELCOME TO ONLINE WORSHIPPERS**

Welcome, in the name of the God who created us out of love,  
in the name of Jesus who understood and lived and taught that God is love,  
and in the name of the Spirit who empowers us to love.

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 & 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 of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT in the US.

To find out more about our ministry or to contact us,  
you can go to our website [SalemBridgeport.org](http://SalemBridgeport.org), to our Facebook page, SalemBridgeport,  
and to our YouTube channel, Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT.

Links to our donate page and worship bulletin –  
which has both the order of worship and announcements – as well as other resources  
are included on our website at [SalemBridgeport.org/Live](http://SalemBridgeport.org/Live).

We'll have announcements, prayer requests, and God-sightings later on in the service today,  
**but let's begin now with prayer.**

God, you are the God whose power knows no bounds  
for you created, you are still creating,  
and you will continue to create all that was, is, and will ever be!

You are also the God whose love knows no end.

No matter how many times we let you down, no matter how many times we sin and fall short,  
no matter how many times we deny you, betray you, abandon you, or ignore you,  
you are always ready to re-establish and renew your relationship with us.

And so we come here to thank and praise you, bless and adore you.

Enlighten our minds, enlarge our hearts, enliven our spirits, and enable our bodies right now,  
that we might leave here this day, wholly transformed,  
to live lives of complete submission and obedience to you,  
for only when we follow you will we know the abundant life you offer.

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

**We continue with the reading of God's Word.**

# Word

*Please be seated.*

## **A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 50:15-21**

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you'. Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves". But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

## **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 103:1-13**

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
**and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.**  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
**and forget not all God's benefits—**  
who forgives all your sins  
**and heals all your diseases;**  
who redeems your life from the grave  
**and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**  
who satisfies your desires with good things  
**so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.**  
O LORD, you provide vindication  
**and justice for all who are oppressed.**  
You made known your ways to Moses  
**and your works to the children of Israel.**  
LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**  
you will not always accuse us,  
**nor will you keep your anger forever.**  
You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
**nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
**so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**  
As far as the east is from the west,  
**so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**  
As a father has compassion for his children,  
**so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.**

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

## **A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 14:1-12**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God". So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 18:21-35**

*You may stand if you so desire.*

Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy times seven.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe'. Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you'. But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

**SERMON**

*Please be seated.*

**Pastor Marjo**

SONG

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

(as found in the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's* worship book,  
*Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 721*)



Good -ness is stron - ger than e - vil; love is stron - ger than hate;



light is stron - ger than dark - ness; life is stron - ger than death; vic - t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic - t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

*Text: based on 1 Corinthians 15:57 from An African Prayer Book selected by Desmond Tutu  
Meter 8 6 7 6 4 4 5*

*Music: GOODNESS IS STRONGER by John L. Bell, b. 1949*

*Text from An African Prayer Book selected by Desmond Tutu, © 1995 by Desmond Tutu.*

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*Music © 1996 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive agent.*

*7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.*

*www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

*Performance by Halifax Lutheran Church, 03/30/21 (525/655 in our hymn series)*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uVypu0a9Wc> [1:22]*



*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.*

Remembering the caring and generous works of God,  
we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

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

We pray for the church.

Grow the diversity of this and all congregations

that your Church would be a sign of your reconciling love which bridges every divide.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Project Learn, Project Nueva Vida, and its Bridge Building programs.

We pray for protected, safe and nurturing educational environments

which promote flourishing, growth, wellbeing, health, and creativity for ALL students,

teachers, paraeducators, administrators and staff, especially those at Fairchild Wheeler High School.

And we pray for Salem members and their families.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation.

Give us the wisdom and motivation to work together to prevent climax collapse.

Teach us how to live in harmony with the earth,

so that its soil remains healthy and invasive species are rooted out

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who govern.

Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and work for justice.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for our neighbors who face suffering of any kind – for those under financial strain,  
those living with chronic pain, mental illness, addiction, and all who cry out for mercy.

Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick, especially

Barbro, Barry, Cliffy, Dave, David, Dennis, Diane, Dolores, Dorothy, Eric, Francesca, Janice, Jeff,

Jim, Joe, Joey, John, Karl, Marija, Mary Anne, Melvin Jr, Natalie, Pastor Paul, Pastor Paula, Sara,

Sasha, and VL, and all those we name in our hearts and on our lips.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation.

Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment.

Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the saints who died in faith.

Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*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 & 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 1st, 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.

## OFFERING HYMN

### Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW 359



- 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
- 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God’s char - i - ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God’s ho - ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
- 5 Let us for - give each oth - er’s faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ’s love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God’s the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

*Text: based on Matthew 18:21-35, Romans 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 1:10-11, James 3:13-18  
James 5:16, 1 John 4:16; Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.  
Meter C M*

*Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842*

*Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Halifax, 02/12/21  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cEjeBMp1xQ> [2:35]*

# Sending

*Please be seated.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, GOD-SIGHTINGS, and PRAYER REQUESTS.**

**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**

**Sandra, will you tell us about the Council of Churches' Raising the Bar book study?  
And after that, Rich, will you update us on Refilling the Pantries?**

Again, more information on all of these events is included in our worship bulletin for today  
which can be found at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.

## **THANK YOU**

Before we end the live-streamed portion of our worship,  
I want to especially thank those of you out there in cyberspace  
who have worshipped with us.

I hope you will join us again.

If you'd like to know more, or if you'd like to talk or pray with Pastor Marjo,  
you can reach her through our 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 online,  
this blessing based on our reading today from Psalm 103:

Know that when you submit to God,  
God will be full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;  
God will not always accuse you nor will God be angry forever.  
God has not dealt with you according to your sins nor repaid you according to your iniquities.  
As far as the east is from the west, so God has removed your transgressions from you. Amen

*Here ends our Facebook live stream.*

## SENDING SONG

## Go, My Children, with My Blessing

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,  
With One Voice # 721, This Far by Faith # 161, and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 543)*

- 1 **“Go, my children, with my blessing,  
never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you,  
you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river  
I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing,  
you are my own.”**
  
- 2 **“Go, my children, sins forgiven,  
at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you,  
what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son's story,  
here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven,  
at peace and pure.”**
  
- 3 **“Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
closer to me.  
Grow in love and love by serving,  
joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you,  
here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
joyful and free.”**

*Text: based on Matthew 19:13-15, Mark 10:13-16, Luke 18:15-17,  
by Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.; Meter 8 4 8 4 8 8 8 4*

*Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958*

*Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House*

*Tune is in the Public Domain.*

*Outside USA: Arr. from The English Hymnal, © Oxford University Press 1906*

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*Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Halifax  
09/07/20, 229/655 in their hymn series*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8vWC5uOaBew> [2:10]*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace, forgiving EVERYONE as fully as God has forgiven you!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## 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!

## POSTLUDE HYMN

### Awake, O Sleeper

*(from the Hymnal Supplement 1991 # 813)*

Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;  
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

Once you were darkness, once you were lost in the shadows.  
Once you were darkness, now you are children of light.

Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;  
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

Live as God's people, live as God's justice and mercy,  
filled with compassion, filled with the power of love.

Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;  
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

Shine out with the splendor of love, shine with justice and righteousness.  
Sing the music your spirit has heard, the songs of glory and light.

Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;  
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

*OneLicense Song # #03165*

*Text: based on Ephesians 5 by Marty Haugen, b. 1950;*

*Music: AWAKE, O SLEEPER by Marty Haugen, b. 1950;*

*Text and Music: © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.)*

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*Performance by Marty Haugen on Meditation Music's YouTube Channel, 06/05/19*

*from his album: Anthology II: 1985-1989 – The Best of Marty Haugen*

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*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3X-ApQ289Fc> [3:30]*

# Announcements

**Please join the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Raising the BAR (Becoming Anti-Racist) Team for a sacred conversation on race as they discuss Clint Smith's book How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America.**

In this book Smith recounts his travels to "8 places in the US as well as one abroad to understand how each reckons with its relationship to the history of American slavery."

For more info on the book, go to: <https://www.clintsmithiii.com/how-the-word-is-passed>

**5 Online Sessions - Every Other Thursday - September 14 - November 9 - 7:00 - 8:00 pm**  
*"Monticello" and "Whitney Plantation" were discussed this past Thursday.*

Register by going to: <https://ccgb.org/rtb>

**Since the Refill the Pantry program began,**

we have collected over 5 ½ tons of food and nearly \$8,200 in donations for food pantries.

Refill the Pantry program will continue to help our local food pantries this fall.

We added another Bridgeport food pantry, Nourish Bridgeport.

Collections for five food pantries are scheduled from 9/2 - 10/28 every other Saturday.

If you have any questions,

feel free to contact Rich Lansing at (203) 520-3751 or [rlansing@optonline.com](mailto:rlansing@optonline.com).

**To sign up as a volunteer or driver, please sign up as indicated below:**

- ~~—Sep 02 Nourish Bridgeport, Stop&Shop 1160 Kings Hwy Cutoff, Fairfield (Completed: 2,400 pounds of food and \$1,480 in cash)~~
- ~~—Sep 16 Bishop Jean Williams, Stop&Shop 4531 Main Street, Bridgeport [volunteersignup.org/FC9RT](https://volunteersignup.org/FC9RT)~~
- **Sep 30 Sterling House, Stop&Shop 200 E. Main St, Stratford [volunteersignup.org/3RQKH](https://volunteersignup.org/3RQKH)**
- **Oct 14 Trumbull Food Pantry, Stop&Shop 110 Quality St, Trumbull [volunteersignup.org/AD3L4](https://volunteersignup.org/AD3L4)**
- **Oct 28 Operation Hope, Stop&Shop 760 Villa Ave, Fairfield [volunteersignup.org/8DXYW](https://volunteersignup.org/8DXYW)**

**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.

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

### **Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179**

**Sunday, September 17, 2023**

A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

### **Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961**

**Monday, September 18, 2023**

A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.

### **Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996**

**Wednesday, September 20, 2023**

A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.

### **Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**

**Thursday, September 21, 2023**

Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.

## CREDITS

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