



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*1st Sunday in
Advent*

*December 3, 2023
9:30 AM*

**MY
WORDS**

WILL NEVER

**PASS
AWAY.**

MARK 13:31, NIV



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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 2 units of the best air cleaner on the market in the sanctuary (the third is out for repair). There is also one running in the lounge for when we have worship, coffee hour, or adult forums there. Also, you are most welcome to wear a mask at worship if you'd like.

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

We welcome Pastor Maria Hammons to preach and preside at worship today. A Special Congregational Meeting was held on 10/29 at which the congregation voted to close and Pastor Maria is here today in her role as Congregational Consultant for Holy Closure and Merger for the New England Synod. She met with our Executive & Finance Committees on 11/21, and with our Council on 11/27. Today she will meet with the congregation following worship to explain the process of dissolution which will begin in January. There are practical and legal procedures which must be followed, and as the synod leads us through these, we ask your patience and your prayers.

Pastor Kari Keyl and LuMin (the Lutheran Ministry at Yale) invite you to a Service of Lessons and Carols TODAY at 5:00 pm, Battell Chapel, corner of College and Elm Streets in New Haven, featuring Yale Divinity School's Marquand Chapel Choir and The Episcopal Church at Yale Chapel Singers. An offering will be received for the CT Food Bank and Chapel on the Green. For more info, contact luninatyale.org.

Pastor Marjo is taking vacation time 11/29-12/1 and 12/3-12/6. Should you need emergency pastoral care, please call or text the church phone at 203-336-3300, or contact Jeanette "Momma J" Harris at 203-366-6778.

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 pray silently and anonymously, ask for particular prayers, or offer your own prayers.

You are invited to join the Anti-Racism Accountability Group hosted by Pastor Marjo and Jeanette Harris on Mondays 4:00-5:00 on zoom. The group began in the fall of 2020 as a response of our Southern CT Lutheran pastors to the murder of George Floyd, but has grown into a diverse group that includes people who are White and Black, Christian, Jewish, Unitarian, and Rastafarian, clergy and lay, and from CT, MA, and DE. Some come every week while others drop in as their schedule permits. The link is on Salem's calendar, so please drop in and see what God is doing to help us fulfill our baptismal call to work for justice!

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

The King Shall Come

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 260)*

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.
- 2 Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.
- 3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn when Christ, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death, despite the rage of foes.
- 4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn shall dawn upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes, and we shall see his face.
- 5 The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: come quickly, King of kings.

*Text: based on Isaiah 60:1-3, Revelation 1:12-16, 22:4, 22:20; John Brownlie, 1859-1925;
Meter C M*

*Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816;
Arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003*

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Performance # 1 by Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church, 12/06/20

Voices: Shana Tischaefter, Sharon Dahl, Mindy Kim, John Cassidy, Sung Lee

Organ: Susan Wolbrecht

Coordinating, Film Editing, Audio Mixing, Mastering & Production: Sung Lee

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkUwetwTkq8> [2:09]

Performance # 2 by the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd in Singapore's Children's Choir,

11/28/20; Arranger: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1835; Conductor: Angela Lim

Organist: Alphonsus Chern; Video: Jared Lim

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEe5f614OOM> [2:23]

Performance # 3 by Chris Brunelle, 11/09/16

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VsnEHqkwtc> [2:04]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of the God who holds boundless power over all creation,
in the name of Jesus Christ, who laid aside that power to become one of us,
and in the name of the Spirit who allows Jesus to live through us.

It is so good to be here!

Thank you for joining us today! Thank you, those of you who are here in person with us!
And thank you, those of you out there in cyber space, wherever – and whenever! – you are!

For those of you who don't know me,

I'm Cindy Roberts, President 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.

**We welcome Pastor Maria Hammons who will be filling in today
while Pastor Marjo takes a vacation Sunday.**

Pastor Maria is the Consultant for Holy Closure & Merger for the New England Synod
and will be meeting with us after worship today
to explain the process of dissolution which will begin in January.

**Pastor Kari Keyl & the Lutheran Ministry at Yale invite you to a Service of Lessons & Carols
TODAY at 5:00 pm at Battell Chapel in New Haven**

Every Monday-Friday at noon you're invited to join us on our conference line for prayer.

**There are 2 opportunities for anti-racism work tomorrow on zoom,
the Anti-Racism Accountability Group**

hosted by Pastor Marjo and Jeanette Harris at 4:00,

and the semi-monthly Synod Anti-Racism Prayer Gathering at 7:15.

**On Wednesday, you are invited to our weekly Prayer Gathering at noon on zoom,
and to our regular Bible Study at 7 on zoom.**

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

Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings?

Then let's begin our worship with prayer!

Holy God, we come to praise you for who you are and to thank you for all you do.

You have complete power over all things – us, your church, your world, and even time and space.

Yet you sent Jesus to show us that we can trust your love in all things great and small.

Open us to the transformative work of your Holy Spirit

that we might experience you so powerfully right here and right now

that we are forever changed, unable to keep from proclaiming your grace and glory.

We pray all these things in the Name of Jesus and by the Power of the Spirit. Amen

OPENING HYMN Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, # 246)*

- 1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
all you children of the day!"**

- 2 Wakened by the solemn warning,
from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.**

- 3 See the Lamb, so long expected,
come with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all, to be forgiv'n;**

- 4 So, when next he comes in glory
and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy
and with words of love draw near.**

- 5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son
with the everlasting Spirit
while unending ages run!**

*Text: based on Luke 21:25-36, John 1:29, Romans 13:11-13, Revelation 4:11
 Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878; Meter 8 7 8 7*

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Text and Music are in the Public Domain

Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 11/22/22

Accompaniment Style: 80's Pop Rock

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AS73G0EUCRw> [2:16]

(CHILDREN'S SERMON ?)

YEAR B – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – HOPE
ADVENT WREATH CANDLELIGHTING

Leader 1: Today is the first Sunday of Advent,
the Sunday in which we recall the hope we have in Christ.

Leader 2: The first candle in our Advent Wreath is the Candle of Hope
to remind us that we can trust the One who fulfilled all of God’s promises.

Leader 1: The prophets of Israel all spoke of the coming of Christ,
of how a savior would be born, a king in the line of David.
They spoke of how he would rule the world wisely and bless all nations.
On Christmas day the Christ of our hope was born.
On Good Friday the Christ of our hope died.
On Easter day the Christ of our hope rose from the dead.
He then ascended into heaven.
On the last day, the Christ of our hope will come again
to establish his kingdom over all things on earth.
As the follower of Christ, we await his return



Leader 2: We light this candle to remember
that as he came to us humbly in the manger at Bethlehem and gave light to the world,
so he is coming again in power to deliver his people.
We light this candle to remind us to be alert and to watch for his return.

Leader 1: Let us pray. *(a brief silence)*
Loving God, we thank you for the hope you give us through Jesus.
Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him.
Bless our worship. Guide us in all that we say and do.
We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. **Amen**

(Leader 2 lights the 1st candle.)

ADVENT SONG

“Light One Candle”

Natalie Sleeth

All: **Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to ev’ry heart, He comes, He Comes!
Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to ev’ry heart, He comes, He Comes!
Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy,
Ev’ry nation will find salvation in Beth’lem’s baby boy.
Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love,
He brings love to ev’ry heart, He comes, He Comes!
He brings love to ev’ry heart, He comes, He Comes!**

Text & Music by Natalie Sleeth, 1930-1992; © 1976 by Hinshaw Music Inc.

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*Performance by the Ferguson family, Ella & Eva, vocals; Amanda, violin; Homer, piano; 12/06/20
as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_thZGERq2g [1:45]*

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence — as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.
Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Mark 13:24-37 *You may stand if you so desire.*

[Jesus said:] “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

SERMON

Please be seated.

Pastor Maria Hammons

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR ADVENT

(based on John 1 and John 14:19-26)

Let us affirm our faith together.

**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing was created.
The life that was in him became light for all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**To all who receive him, who believe in him,
is given the power to become children of God.**

**The Word became flesh, a man named Jesus.
He lived among us, full of grace and truth.
From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace.**

**In the name of Jesus, God has sent the Holy Spirit to teach us
and to remind us of all that he said and did.
We believe that because he lives, we shall live also,
to the glory of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. 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.

With hope and expectation,
we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

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

Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things.

Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion,
especially those who serve as missionaries near and far.

Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new.

We pray for our mission partners,

especially today for Kids Empowered with Your Support, and the New Paradigm Theatre.

We pray for an excellent teaching staff at Fairchild Wheeler High School and our other city schools
that is reflective of Bridgeport demographics.

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

Elijah Caragol, Barbara Howard, and Dale Danowski

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

All creation signals your presence, O God:

the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish.

Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let the nations tremble at your holy presence that justice prevail in all corners of the earth.

Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems,
and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing.

Stay close to those who await healing or relief, especially Austin, Barbro, Barry, Boni, Bob, Cliffy,
Clyde, Dave, David, Dennis, Diane, Dolores, Dorothy, Francesca, Hans, Pastor Harv & his family,
Ivy, Janice, Jean, Jeff, Jessica, Jim, Joe, Joey, John, Karen, Marija, Mary Anne, Mary Lou, Melvin
Jr, Melvin Sr., Natalie, Pastor Paul, Pastor Paula, Sara, Sasha, VL,
& all we name in our hearts & on our lips. Deliver all in any need.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be with those who keep awake at night:

nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers,
those who are anxious, or those who are traveling.

Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place,
calling them into one fellowship of saints.

Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

O God of hosts, listen to these & all our prayers & restore us with your great everlasting mercy. **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 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

My Lord, What a Morning

(as found in the ELCA worship books, This Far by Faith #40 & Evangelical Lutheran Worship #438)

**Refrain: My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.**

- 1: You will hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. Refrain**
- 2: You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. Refrain**
- 3: You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. Refrain**

Text: based on Isaiah 64:1-8, Matthew 24:29-44, Mark 13:24-37, Luke 21:25-36,
1 Corinthians 15:50-57, Revelation 6:12-13
African American spiritual; Meter 6 8 7 7 and refrain

Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

Text and Music are in the Public Domain

Performance by Mary Munson, 11/09/23

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pS3RnDjxxuM> [2:54]

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Pastor Maria the Consultant for Holy Closure & Merger for the New England Synod will be meeting with us after worship today

to explain the process of dissolution which will begin in January.

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and the semi-monthly Synod Anti-Racism Prayer Gathering at 7:15.

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

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 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 our reading today

from the 1st chapter of St. Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians:

God has called you into the fellowship of Christ Jesus and will strengthen you to the end, that in every way you might be enriched in knowledge and speech that your testimony might be strengthened. 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**

SENDING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 244)*

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.**

**The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
Around the thorn of glory the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.**

**Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

*Text: based on Isaiah 40:3-5, Matthew 25:1-13, Revelation 4:9-10, 21:23-24
by Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722, tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907, alt.
Meter 7 6 7 6 D*

Tune: Swedish folk tune HAF TRONES LAMPA FARDIG)

Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

Text & Music are in the Public Domain

*Performance by Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Worcester, MA, 11/28/10
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAFg-4M47eQ> [2:16]*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace but keep awake. Keep alert to what God is doing!
Thanks be to God!

PEACE

As Christ reconciles us with God,
let us be reconciled with each other by sharing the peace of the Lord!
The peace of the Lord be with you always!
And also with you!

Please share that peace!!

POSTLUDE MUSIC **Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending**

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 435)*

Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold him robed in glorious majesty;
those who set at nought before him, pierced & nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall their true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his Passion still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshippers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory, claim the kingdom as thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

*Text: based on Daniel 7:13-14, Zechariah 12:10, Matthew 24:29-31, Mark 13:26-27,
Luke 21:25-28, John 19:37, 1 Thessalonians 4:17, Revelation 1:7,
by Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.; Meter 8 7 8 7 12 7*

*Music: HELMSLEY by Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799
Text & Music are in the Public Domain.*

*Performance by St. Bartholomew's Choir, Choristers & St. Bart's Singers, 12/03/20
Dr. Paolo Bordignon, Organist and Choirmaster
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88ZR9O0vogE> [5:22]*

Announcements

You are also invited to join members of the New England Synod on Monday 7:15-7:45ish on zoom as we undergird the anti-racism work of our synod with prayer. The group gathers semi-monthly on the first Monday and third Thursday of the month. The link is on Salem's calendar, so please consider joining us.

On Wednesday our regular evening Bible Study continues at 7:00 on zoom as we continue to make our way through the book of Romans, picking up with chapter 8. The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org . **Please join us!**

You have another opportunity for Bible Study as well on zoom on Tuesday evenings 7:30-8:30. This group, led by Pastor Rip Hoffman, looks at the gospel for the coming Sunday. For the link, contact Pastor Marjo or Pastor Hoffman.

Thank you for donating to our collection for "Seafarers Christmas at Sea". A packing party will be held on Saturday December 9th, following the Lutherans & Friends breakfast at 9:00 at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford. If you have questions, contact Carol Lansing at 203-520-3752.

We will once again be collecting hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens for our "Mitten Tree" from today until 12/17. There will be a box in the narthex on Sunday mornings for your contributions. Thank you for your support!

Join New Paradigm Theatre for their Annual Holiday Show Saturday Dec 9th at 8pm (<https://fairfieldtheatre.org/shows/stageone/new-paradigm-theatre-co-holiday-show-3>)
or Sunday December 10th at 2pm at Fairfield Theatre Company, 70 Sanford St, Fairfield. (<https://fairfieldtheatre.org/shows/stageone/new-paradigm-theatre-co-holiday-show-4>)
For tickets click the above links. To see a video from past shows, click on this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CedbDJNtTcw&fbclid=IwAR345IwG0UWAaOs0Z80Skv99QuC1Bp-ornFsCkfk9rc8HpD3dFh0iUTfK2g>

Like our prayer breakfasts, a lunch is held each month to build relationships among Lutheran and other congregations in our area at noon at Old Towne Restaurant in Trumbull. The upcoming date 12/16. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Bruce Tomasko, bltomasko@yahoo.com.

St. Matthew Baptist Church invites you to their Christmas Concert Sunday December 17, 1:30-2:30 pm, at 126 Washington Avenue.

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. If you have financial needs, please contact Pastor Marjo or Parish Nurse Carol Lansing.

We are grateful to God for answering our prayers that there would once again be a food pantry in this building. Here's how it happened! While the Ephraim French Seventh Day Adventist Church that purchased the building from us wanted very much to start a food pantry, they were unable to get permission from CT Food Share who said there were too many pantries in the area. They and we kept praying. Meanwhile a food pantry to which members of our congregation used to deliver food closed, and they began delivering to the Bishop Jean Williams Food Pantry which operated out of a church on Worth St. Three years ago that church building was sold and purchased by Transforming Lives Church. While they knew that as their congregation grew they would eventually need all of the building, they agreed to allow the food pantry to stay for three years. As the end of that time period approached, the Bishop Jean Williams Food Pantry needed a new space. That's when we discovered how God had been using Salem to be an answer to our own prayers and those of the Ephraim French Seventh Day Adventist Church and the Bishop Jean Williams Food Pantry! The pantry is now renting space from the SDA church right here at 3160 Park Avenue! Because of how God has worked, over 500 families came by to pick up food the week of Thanksgiving, and food was delivered to an additional 200 families! Thanks be to God!

CREDITS

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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 prayer. You can pray silently & anonymously, ask for particular prayers, or offer your own.
OR join our weekly prayer gathering on Zoom, Wednesdays at noon, at this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3eII2ZmtiZEpadz09>
- 3. Begin a 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.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552 **Sunday, December 3**

A native of the Basque region of Spain,
Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines.
He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749 **Monday, December 4**


A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works.
One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342 **Wednesday, December 6**

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey.
According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor,
and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397 **Thursday, December 7**

While a governor of northern Italy,
Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized.
He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today,
and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.



The Episcopal Church at Yale
LuMin at Yale
The University Church in Yale

Invite you to a

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 3, 2023

5:00 PM

Battell Chapel

corner of College and Elm Streets–New Haven, CT

The Episcopal Church at Yale Chapel Singers
Ethan Haman, *Organist and Director*

Marquand Chapel Choir
Alex Whittington and Mahima Kumara, *Co-Directors*

The University Church Choir
Sarah Shapiro, *Director*, Rachel Segman, *Asst. Director*
Mengfei Xu, *Organist*
A. Nathaniel Gumbs, *Director of Chapel Music*

Offering will be received for the Connecticut Food Bank and Chapel on the Green
church.yale.edu • episcopalyale.org • luminatyale.org

Seafarers

Christmas at Sea

Collection dates: **September 10 – December 3**

Gift Suggestions:

- Woolen caps
- Sweatshirts (L-XL)
- Thermal or White Socks
- Chocolates
- Canned Nuts
- Hard Candy
- Christmas Cards
- Money



If you have questions, contact Carol Lansing at (203) 520-3752

Please place items in the marked box in the Narthex

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

Holiday Show!

AT FAIRFIELD THEATRE COMPANY

December 9th and 10th

TICKETS: WWW.NPTHEATRE.ORG

**"Oh what fun...
for the whole family"**

