



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*The Baptism of Our
Lord
(Second Sunday after
the Epiphany
of Our Lord)*

*January 14, 2023
9:30 AM*



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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 3 units of the best air cleaner on the market in the sanctuary. (A big thank you to Bill Winter for getting our 3rd one repaired!). 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.

Today we celebrate the feast of The Baptism of Our Lord, a second “epiphany” that revealed to Jesus that he was God’s beloved son. Last week we celebrated the first “epiphany” as a star announced his birth and drew non-Jews from outside Israel to find the One born King of the Jews. Today our reading from Genesis reminds us that our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark’s gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit’s movement that distinguishes Jesus’ baptism from John’s. When the Spirit comes upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, we come to know ourselves as God’s beloved children who are called to live under God’s reign working for justice and peace on earth as in heaven. The season of Epiphany will conclude on February 11th when we celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord, the third “epiphany” when it was revealed to Peter, James, and John that Jesus was God’s beloved Son.

Please note that Pastor Marjo has prepared an Affirmation of Baptism take-home insert for you so that you may reaffirm your baptism as we remember the baptism of Jesus. **You can also take home an Epiphany House Blessing take-home insert** so that you may bless your home in this New Year. **She also has a “Star Word” for each of you and there will be star-shaped York peppermint patties** available at lunch!

Upcoming services at our regular time include:

Sundays Jan 21, Jan 28, & Feb 4 – Sundays after Epiphany

Sunday Feb 11 – The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Wednesday Feb 14 - Ash Wednesday – Our Saviour’s Lutheran, 160 Hill Farm Rd., Ffd

Today, following worship, we will have a congregational meeting which will be conducted by Pastor Maria Hammons. Lunch will be served part-way through the meeting. This is part of the specified process of dissolution to which we committed when we signed a covenant with the synod as part of the vote to close on 10/29/23. There are practical and legal procedures laid out by the state, our synod, and our constitution which must be followed, and as the synod leads us through these, we ask your patience and your prayers.

Tomorrow we commemorate the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, who was martyred in 1968. An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

We open our worship today with “Lift Every Voice and Sing”, commonly known as the Black national anthem, as we recommit ourselves to our baptismal call “to work for justice and peace in all the world”.

Gathering

GATHERING SONG Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 800)

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art; And make me love thee as I ought to love.

Hast Thou not bid us love Thee God & King? All, all Thine own soul, heart & strength & mind.
I see Thy cross there, teach my heart to cling. O let me seek Thee and O let me find.

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love. One holy passion filling all my frame.
The baptism of the heaven descended dove, My heart an altar and Thy love the flame.

*Text: based on Matthew 3:13-17, 22:37; Mark 1:8-11, 12:30, Luke 3:15-22, 10:27,
Romans 8:26 by George Croly, 1780-1860; Meter 10 10 10 10*

Music: MORECAMBE by Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

Text & Music are in the Public Domain.

Performance # 1 by 16 Singing Men - Dick Anthony

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wvoa_WfBy-o [2:10]

Performance # 2 by Biola University Chorale Alumni, 08/08/20

Arranged by Loren Wiebe

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=piUHVTZchYE> [2:15]

*Text: based on Matthew 3:13-17, 22:37; Mark 1:8-11, 12:30, Luke 3:15-22, 10:27, Romans
8:26 by George Croly, 1780-1860; Meter 10 10 10 10*

Music: MORECAMBE by Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

Text & Music are in the Public Domain.

Performance # 3 by Sue Nixon with Walt Wagner, 10/12/15

Provided to YouTube by CDBaby, © 2000 SEMAPHONE, Released 01/01/00

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeZcdxKKzOU> [3:13]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of the God who names us beloved children,
in the name of Jesus into whose death we are baptized and into whose life we are raised,
and in the name of the Spirit, who sends us out to proclaim the gospel in word and deed!

It is so good to be here!

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

For those of you who don't know me,

I'm Pastor Marjo Anderson of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT in the US.

To find out more about our ministry or to contact us,

you can go to our website, SalemBridgeport.org, to our Facebook page, SalemBridgeport,
and to our YouTube channel, Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT.

Links to our donate page and worship bulletin –

which has both the order of worship and announcements – as well as other resources
are included on our website at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.

Last Sunday we celebrated the Epiphany of Our Lord,

**Today we celebrate the 2nd festival in the season of Epiphany, the Baptism of Our Lord,
and on 2/11 we'll close out the season with the 3rd great festival, the Transfiguration.**

**Please don't forget to take home your 2024 Epiphany House Blessing & personal Star word
and your Affirmation of Baptism insert**

so that you may reaffirm your baptism this week as we remember the baptism of Jesus today.

We invite you to join or regular weekly activities:

our Monday-Friday noon prayer on our conference line,

our Wednesday weekly prayer at noon on zoom,

and our Wednesday evening Bible study at 7:00 on zoom,

as well as the Anti-Racism Accountability Group on zoom at 4:00 on Mondays.

**Jeanette Harris and Genesis invites you to gather at 11:00 am this Saturday, January 20th,
at Open Door Tea, 3552 Main Street, Stratford. Space is limited, so please RSVP ASAP**

Links to the above events are found on our calendar a SalemBridgeport.org

**For more details on these announcements or to hear about other upcoming events
please see our worship bulletin at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.**

Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings?

Then let's begin our worship with prayer:

Gracious God, you are the Fount of Living Water,

and you made us creatures dependent on water for our very physical existence.

But even more than the water that sustains life on earth, that cleanses, and that provides power,
our spirits need the Living Water that only you can supply.

Thank you for the gift of baptism, in whose waters we are buried with Christ into death
and then raised again to new life.

Through your Living Water, sustain us, cleanse us, and empower us
to offer that Water to all who are thirsty.

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

OPENING HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 841, and This Far by Faith # 296)*

Please stand, if at all able.

**Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.**

**Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

**God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.**

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938; Meter PM

Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING; J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

Performance by Abyssinia Baptist Church, New York, NY

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGaEV_ir3KQ [4:54]

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Genesis 1:1-10

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 29

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;

worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;

the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;

the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;

the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,

and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD

bursts forth in lightning flashes.

The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;

the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe

and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying,

"Glory!"

The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;

the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

O LORD, give strength to your people;

give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit”. Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus”. On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied — altogether there were about twelve of them.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Mark 1:4-11

You may stand if you so desire.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased”.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR EPIPHANY

Let us affirm our faith together.

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

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

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

*The Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia
Taken from A New Zealand Prayer Book, The Church of the Province of New Zealand, p 481.
https://prodigal.typepad.com/prodigal_kiwi/2011/06/sunday-an-affirmation-of-faith.html*

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.

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form,
we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

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

Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth.
Let the leaders of your church be trustworthy and accountable stewards,
that all its resources and outreach bring hope and healing to communities.
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for the New England Synod,
Region 7 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
& the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.
We pray for healthy, life-giving relationships to be strengthened
with educators, staff, students, and parents at all schools, especially Fairchild Wheeler High School.
And we pray for Salem members & their families.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of fig trees and fertile soil.
Heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering from natural disaster.
Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom.
Give them visions of justice and unity.
Lead them to action that promotes equitable partnership and uplifts those on the margins of society.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Hold in your care any who suffer and struggle, God of compassion.
You who know our inner hearts, be present with any who are oppressed,
victims of racism or cultural bias, and all who long for respite or restoration,
especially Austin, Barbro, Barry, Bob, Boni, Bud, Christopher, Cindy, Cliffy, Clyde, Dave, David,
Dennis, Diane, Dolores, Dorothy, Francesca, Hans, Ivy, Janice, Jasmina, Jeanette, Jeff, Jessica, Jim,
Joe, Joey, John, Karen, Kevin, Lynn, Marija, Pastor Marjo, Mary Lou, Melvin Jr, Melvin Sr, MJ,
Natalie, Pastor Paul, Pastor Paula, Sara, Sasha, VL, & all we name in our hearts & on our lips.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Give the members of this congregation the passion and commitment of Martin Luther King, Jr.,
to do whatever it takes to stand up against the evils of discrimination and oppression,
and to courageously take up our cross
as we live out our baptismal covenant to work for justice and peace in all the world.
Make us faithful as we build communities of inclusion and mutual care.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting God who raised Jesus and will also raise us in spirit and truth,
we remember all who have died and are at peace among the saints.
Continue to comfort those who grieve, especially the families & friends of Joe, Jim, Phyllis, and Anne.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us,
we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen

Thanksgiving

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you said, “Give and it will be given to you...
for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

**Give us the confidence to cheerfully give
our tithes and offerings of time, talent and treasure
to your work in this place, trusting that you will provide abundantly for all our needs.
We pray this in the power of your Spirit. Amen**



OFFERING INVITATION

Please be seated.

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

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 304)*

- 1 Christ, when for us you were baptized,
God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove, and yet
as urgent as a flame,
as urgent as a flame.**

- 2 God called you, "My beloved Son";
you are God's servant true,
sent to proclaim the reign of heav'n,
God's holy will to do,
God's holy will to do.**

- 3 Straightway and steadfast until death
you then obeyed the call
to serve with free and willing heart,
to give your life for all,
to give your life for all.**

- 4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord;
your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find,
may perfect freedom find.**

Text: Matthew 3.13-17, Mark 1.8-11, Luke 3.21-22, by F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt.;
Meter 8 6 8 6 6

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTE, Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561

Text © 1985 The Church Pension Fund

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Music is in the Public Domain

Performance by Salem Lutheran Church Catonsville-MD, 01/12/21

Sarah Garrett Krey and Micah Krey, Vocalists; Mary Miller, Organ

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkxEGSmGM-4> [2:14]

Sending

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please don't forget to take home your 2024 Epiphany House Blessing & personal Star word and your Affirmation of Baptism insert

so that you may reaffirm your baptism this week as we remember the baptism of Jesus today.

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THANK YOU

Before we end the live-streamed portion of our worship,

I want to especially thank those of you out there in cyberspace who have worshipped with us. I hope you will join us again.

If you'd like to know more, or if you'd like to talk or pray with me, you can reach me 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 the theme of Baptism today.

Baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, may the Spirit empower you to love and praise and worship God with all of your heart and soul and mind and body, to continue to grow into a living knowledge of God's Word, to passionately pass on the good news of God's boundless power and endless love to everyone you know, and especially to the generations that follow, to give generously of your gifts and gratefully receive from the gifts of others, and to courageously strive for justice and peace in all the world. 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,
whose 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 We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
With One Voice # 698 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 451)*

**We are baptized in Christ Jesus, we are baptized in his death;
that as Christ is raised victorious, we might live a brand new life.
And if we have been united in a dreadful death like his,
we will all be reunited, for he lives.**

**In the water and the witness, in the breaking of the bread,
in the waiting arms of Jesus who is risen from the dead,
God has made a new beginning from the ashes of our past;
in the losing and the winning we hold fast.**

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,
glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one;
as it was in the beginning, glory now resounds again
in a song that has no ending. Amen**

Text: based on Romans 6:1-11 by John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937; Meter 8 7 8 7 8 7 11

Music: OUIMETTE by John C. Ylvisaker

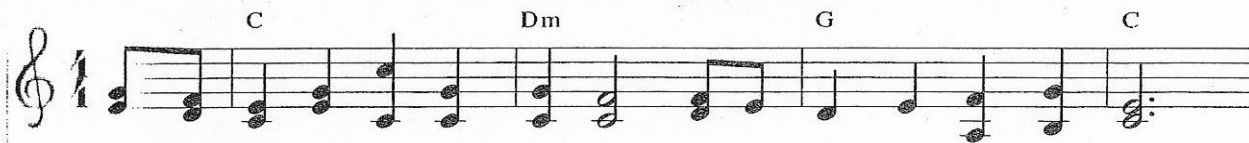
Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

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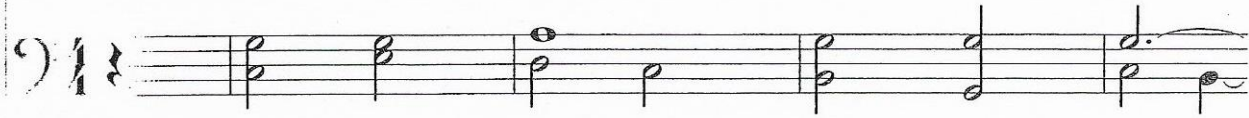
Performance by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 12/22/20

*Ben Swart, vocals | Chris Kremer and Eric Gonzalez, guitars | Steve Fahnstock, bass |
Mike Dubbert, drums | Ken Holdt, piano | Jake Jervis, director of photography
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7W6BvttXGgQ> [2:00]*

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus



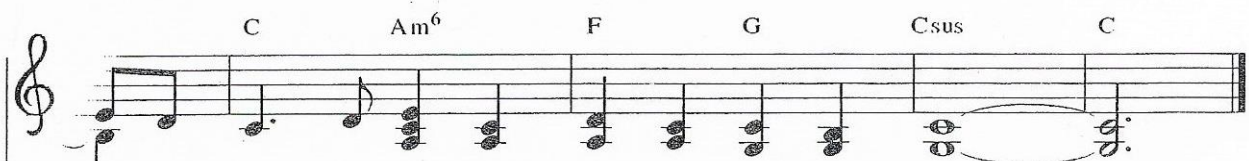
1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;
 2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,
 3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.
 in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,
 glo-ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,
 God has made a new be - gin-ning from the ash - es of our past;
 as it was in the be - gin-ning, glo-ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
 in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
 in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. And may it be with you according to God's word!

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

Wade in the Water

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
This Far by Faith # 114 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 459)*

Refrain: Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,
wade in the water, God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

1. See that host all dressed in white, (God's a-goin'-a trouble the water!)
the leader looks like the Israelite. (God's a-goin'-a trouble the water!) *Refrain*
2. See that band all dressed in red, (God's a-goin'-a trouble the water!)
looks like the band that Moses led. (God's a-goin'-a trouble the water!) *Refrain*
3. Look over yonder, what do I see? (God's a-goin'-a trouble the water!)
the Holy Ghost a-coming on me! (God's a-goin'-a trouble the water!) *Refrain*
4. If you don't believe I've been redeemed, (God's a-goin'-a trouble the water!)
just follow me down to Jordan's stream! (God's a-goin'-a trouble the water!) *Refrain*

Text: based on John 8.36, African American spiritual; Meter Irregular

*Music: WADE IN THE WATER, TROUBLE THE WATER,
African American spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood, b. 1949;*

Text and Music are in the Public Domain

Performance by Chancel Choir, Rejoice Lutheran Church, Coppell, TX, 06/19/21

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzpzOr_jmKY [2:42]

CREDITS

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Announcements

Jeanette Harris says, “Let's Get Together at 11:00 am this Saturday, January 20th, at Open Door Tea, 3552 Main Street, Stratford. Space is limited, so **please RSVP ASAP** to 203-366-6778 or jharris524@yahoo.com . We will begin as close to 11 am as possible in order to make the best use of our time at this amazing place! Imagine! We have not been together since last year! I hope you can join us! Of course there will be fun, food and fellowship!”

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

*** our prayer line at noon Monday-Friday** for a time of prayer. You can pray silently and anonymously, ask for particular prayers, or offer your own prayers. The number 681-999-0232, access code 673980#, is also listed on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org.

*** our weekly Prayer Gathering Wednesdays at noon on zoom.** The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org . If you cannot access zoom just let Pastor Marjo or Jeanette Harris know and you can join one of us via speakerphone; and

*** our regular evening Bible Study Wednesdays at 7:00 on zoom as we continue to make our way through the book of Romans, picking up with chapter 8, verse 18.** The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org . Again, if you cannot access zoom just let us know and you can join one of us via speakerphone.

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.

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!

You are invited to join members of the New England Synod on the first Monday and third Thursday of the month 7:15-7:45ish on zoom as we undergird the anti-racism work of our synod with prayer. *The next date is January 18th.* The link is on Salem's calendar.

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 dates are January 27, February 24 and March 23.** If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Bruce Tomasko, bltomasko@yahoo.com.

As Salem continues its ministry through April, expenses continue as well. If we are to give the maximum amount of our assets, we are depending on YOU to fulfill your pledge for this year & to continue your giving in 2024. While we can cover expenses from our endowment, we would much rather be able to celebrate the commitment and generosity of each & every one of our members!

As important as your financial contributions are, please remember that YOU are even more important than your money! Showing up for prayer, Bible study, Salem activities, and ecumenical events – either in person or on zoom or on conference calls – is just as impactful and sometimes more impactful than writing a check, so please think about that when you are invited to participate in events listed in these announcement pages!

Thank you for contributing to our collection of hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens for our “Mitten Tree”!

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.

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

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968 Monday, January 15, 2024

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356 Wednesday, January 17, 2024

One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.

Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346 Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.

Confession of Peter Thursday, January 18, 2024

Today the church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God". This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week in which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in faith and witness.

Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, died 1156 Friday, January 19, 2024

When Erik, King of Sweden, determined to invade Finland for the purpose of converting the people there to Christianity, Henry went with him. Henry is recognized as the patron saint of Finland.



Building Dreams in Fairfield

Your Gift Matched Dollar-for-Dollar!



Still time to give!



There is still time to make the dream of homeownership in the Town of Fairfield possible for four families!

We need to raise **\$800,000** to build these homes in the Tunxis Hill neighborhood located at 240-246 Greenfield Street. **The Elizabeth and Joseph Massoud Family Foundation** and an anonymous **Fairfield family** are offering a **dollar-for-dollar match for donations up to \$400,000!** If Habitat CFC can raise \$400,000 through our Annual Appeal, the money will be matched, and we will have the funds needed to complete the Fairfield homes! Please donate **TODAY** to support our goal to help four low-income, working families achieve their dream of homeownership in the Town of Fairfield!

Give Online! Scan the QR code or visit [habitatcfc.org/donate](https://www.habitatcfc.org/donate).

If you've recently given, please know we appreciate your gift.



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www.habitatcfc.org

