



# Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after  
Epiphany*

*January 28, 2024  
9:30 AM*



**HE TAUGHT  
THEM AS ONE  
WHO HAD AUTHORITY**

**MARK 1:22**

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[www.facebook.com/salembridgeport](https://www.facebook.com/salembridgeport)  
[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) – 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**The season of Epiphany is about revelation, not only about who Jesus was revealed to be during the time he lived as a human on earth, but about who Jesus continues to be revealed to be in the present time and place – specifically as he is revealed to us.** But it doesn't stop with the revelation. Once it has been revealed to us, then we become agents of God's continuing revelation. In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. When we have received the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to act, not on our own human authority, but by Christ's authority.

**We hope that last week you picked up your personal Star Word (which can serve as your guiding light throughout the year), as well as both your Epiphany House Blessing and Anniversary of Baptism inserts. If not, please remember to pick up yours today.**

**Upcoming services at our regular time include:**

Today & 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

**Thank you to everyone who participated in the Legacy Workshop 2 weeks ago and to the Council who met with Pastor Maria last week to complete step two of the process. The third step in the Legacy process will be a congregational meeting after worship on Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup> to officially vote on the distribution of our cash assets.** This is all 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.

**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!

# Gathering

## GATHERING MUSIC

## `Made a Way

*Verse 1:* Standing here not knowing how We'll get through this test  
But holding onto faith You know best  
Nothing can catch You by surprise, You've got this  
Figured out, and You're watching us now

*Verse 2:* But when it looks as if we can't win You wrap us in your arm and step in  
Ev'rything we need, You supply, You've got this In control, and now we know that

*Chorus 1:*  
You made a way when our backs Were against the wall And it looked as if it was over  
You, You made a way and we're standing here Only because You made a way

*Verse 3:*  
Now we're looking back on Where we've come from Because of You and nothing we've done  
To deserve the love and mercy You've shown But Your grace was strong enough to pick us up

*Bridge 1:*  
You move mountains, You cause walls to fall With your power, You perform miracles  
There is nothing that's impossible And we're standing here Only because You made a way

*Bridge 2:*  
You move mountains, You cause walls to fall With Your power, You perform miracles  
There is nothing that's impossible  
And we're standing here Only because You made a way  
And we're standing here Only because You made a way  
We're standing here Only because You made a way

*Chorus 2:* You made a way, You made a way You made a way, You made a way

*Tag:*  
Don't know how, but You did it, made a way Don't know how, but You did it, made a way  
Don't know how but You did it Don't know how but you did it  
Don't know how but You did it Don't know how but you did it

*Chorus 3:*  
Don't know why but I'm grateful (*repeat 4 times*)

*Tag* And we're standing here only because You made a way

*CCLI Song # 7071768. Travis Greene*

*Text & Tune Reprinted / Streamed with permission under CCLI #11092038.*

*Performance # 1 by Eastgate Church's Virtual Choir, 04/26/20  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tB1tBze-8yA> [6:08]*

*Performance #2 on March 8, 2020 by New Direction Ministries musicians:  
Wayne Reid, Jr, soloist; Davis Good, keyboard; Derron Simmonds, percussion; Bishop Eron Simmonds, guitar.  
Wayne or JR is one of the youth who developed his musical gifts  
at Salem's SummerSong & Musical Theatre programs under the direction of Mark Adamy & Sarah Fox.[7:17]*

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

## WELCOME

Welcome in the name of the God our Heavenly Parent,  
in the name of Jesus revealed as God's own beloved child,  
and in the name of the Spirit which reveals that we, too, are God's beloved children.

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](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).

**Please don't forget to take home your 2024 Epiphany House Blessing  
and your Anniversary of Baptism inserts if you haven't already done so.**

**Also make sure you get your personal Star Word to shine light on your path this year.**

**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.

**Please put February 11 on your calendar as that is the date of Salem's final  
congregational meeting.**

**Links to the above events are found on our calendar a [SalemBridgeport.org](http://SalemBridgeport.org)**

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

**Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings?**

**Then let's begin our worship with prayer:**

God of boundless power and endless love,

thank you for revealing yourself in the person of Jesus.

Thank you for revealing who Jesus was to the magi and to those present at his baptism.

Thank you for revealing who Jesus was through the healing power he exerted

over every kind of sickness of body, mind, heart and soul.

Thank you for revealing who Jesus is to us through the power of your Spirit.

We ask that you pour your Spirit into us this day, that we might do justice and love kindness

on your authority, as we walk humbly with you.

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

## OPENING HYMN      Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 310)*

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
manifested by the star to the sages from afar,  
branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:  
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**
- 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding guest in thy Godhead manifest;  
manifest in pow'r divine, changing water into wine;  
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**
- 3 Manifest in making whole palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;  
manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill:  
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**
- 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word;  
grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;  
that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,  
and may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.**

*Text:            based on Matthew 2:1-3, 3:13-17, 4:1-11, Mark 1:8-11, 12-13,  
                     Luke 3:15-22, 4:1-13, John 1:14, 2:1-11,  
                     by Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt; Meter 7 7 7 7 D*

*Music: SALZBURG by Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702;  
                     arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750*

*Text & Music are in the Public Domain.*

*Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,  
Halifax, 12/27/22, Accompaniment Style: Brass Band  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGZrzDvZ6TY> [2:51]*

# Word

*Please be seated.*

## **A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

[Moses said:] The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die”. Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak — that prophet shall die.”

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

## **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 111**

Hallelujah!

**I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,**  
in the assembly of the upright,  
**in the congregation.**

Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.

**Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.**

You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.

**You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.**

You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.

**The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.**

They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.

**You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;**  
**holy and awesome is your name.**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

all who practice this have a good understanding.

**God's praise endures forever.**

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

## **A READING FROM THE LETTERS OF SAINT PAUL: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge”. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists”, and that “there is no God but one”. Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as in fact there are many gods and many lords — yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Mark 1:21-28**

*You may stand if you so desire.*

[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching — with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

**SERMON**

*Please be seated.*

**Pastor Marjo**

*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](https://prodigal.typepad.com/prodigal_kiwi/2011/06/sunday-an-affirmation-of-faith.html)*

## **PURPOSE STATEMENT**

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.*

Loving God, we pray for an infilling of your Spirit  
that we may be empowered by the authority of the risen Christ.

In our work for justice,

may each member of your church be committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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

We pray for the safety, protection, thriving and wellbeing

of elected/appointed officials and their families in our city, state, country and world.

And we pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:  
Christiane Wolff, Keith Murphy, and Hailey DeWalt.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation,

that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed.

May each of us grow in our thoughtful care of the earth.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership,  
that they lead with integrity and compassion for the least and the lost.

May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection,

those who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain,

those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer, 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, Mary Lou, Melvin Jr, Melvin Sr, MJ, Pastor Paul, Pastor Paula, Sara, Sasha, VL,  
& all we name in our hearts & on our lips.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation,

for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers,

that all our gifts are used to your glory as we recognize your image in those most different from us.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers and mentors to us in the faith.

We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care.

Continue to comfort those who grieve, especially families & friends of Joe, Jim, Phyllis, & Ann.

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 & offerings of time, talent & 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

In response to God’s grace, it is our joy to return to God our tithes and offerings. Although our building at 3160 Park Avenue in Bridgeport, CT is closed at present, our ministry continues because of your generosity.



If you are watching and are part of another faith community, we encourage you to give your tithes to your own church first, and, if in addition to that, you would like to support our work here at Salem, we would be most grateful.

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

**Majesty**

**The Source**

**Majesty! Worship his majesty! Unto Jesus be glory, honor and praise!  
Majesty! Kingdom authority flows from his throne unto his own -- his anthem raise!  
So exalt! Lift up on high the name of Jesus!  
Magnify! Come glorify Christ Jesus the King!  
Majesty! Worship his majesty – Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings!**

*(Repeat song as desired.)*

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Arr. © 1997 Rocksmith Music admin. Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc  
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Performance by the Reverend Marjo Anderson, 01/31/21*

# Sending

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**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.**

**Please put February 11 on your calendar  
as that is the date of Salem's final congregational meeting.**

**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.**

## 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 our reading today of Psalm 111:

Give thanks to God with your whole heart in the presence of the congregation  
and God who is gracious and full of compassion and who remembers his covenant forever,  
will cause his wonders to be remembered and his power to be shown.

*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 SONG     God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind**

- 1 God of tempest, God of whirlwind,  
as on Pentecost descend!  
Drive us out from sheltered comfort;  
past these walls your people send!  
Sweep us into costly service,  
there with Christ to bear the cross,  
there with Christ to bear the cross!**
- 2 God of blazing, God of burning,  
all that blocks your purpose, purge!  
Through your church, Christ's living Body,  
let your flaming Spirit surge!  
Where deceit conceals injustice,  
kindle us to speak your truth,  
kindle us to speak your truth!**
- 3 God of earthquake, God of thunder,  
shake us loose from lethargy!  
Break the chains of sin asunder,  
for earth's healing set us free!  
Crumble walls that still divide us;  
make us one in Christ our Lord,  
make us one in Christ our Lord!**
- 4 God of passion, God unsleeping,  
stir in us love's restlessness!  
Where the people cry in anguish,  
may we share your heart's distress.  
Rouse us from content with evil;  
claim us for your kingdom's work,  
claim us for your kingdom's work!**

*Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923; © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.; Meter 8 7 8 7 8 7 7;  
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Music: CWM RHONDDA; John Hughes, 1873–1932; the Tune is in the Public Domain.*

*Performance by the Reverend Marjo Anderson, 01/31/21 [2:44]*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace and let the authority of Christ rule your life!

**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

### **Rise, Shine, You People!**

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 665)*

- 1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered  
our human story; God in him is centered.  
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.
- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;  
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.  
All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.
- 3 Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,  
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.  
To all the world go out and tell the story of Jesus' glory.
- 4 Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.  
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.  
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation God's new creation.

*Text: Isaiah 60:1, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.; Meter 11 11 11 5*

*Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ by Dale Wood, 1934-2003*

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*Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Halifax  
10/18/20; 290/655 in our hymn series*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgf2oAbEKAM> [2:06]*

## CREDITS

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# Announcements

Remember to put 11:00 am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month on your calendar so that you won't miss the opportunity to join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café for their monthly Inner-View Chat and Chew. The next date is February 17<sup>th</sup>. For more info or to RSVP, please contact "Momma J" at 203-366-6778 or [jharris524@yahoo.com](mailto:jharris524@yahoo.com) .

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 February 24 and March 23. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Bruce Tomasko, [bltomasko@yahoo.com](mailto:bltomasko@yahoo.com).

**YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH at the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport's SCHOLARSHIP PRAYER BREAKFAST at 9:00 AM Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at Creative Venue & Rentals, 40 Logan Street.** The Guest Speaker will be Rev. A. Iona Smith-Nze of Bethel AME Church. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased by scanning the QR code or via CashApp at \$IMABPT21 – just note BHM in the memo line.



**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE JOIN US in discussing Dr. Jemar Tisby's How to Fight Racism book.** Sponsored by the New England Synod's Anti-Racism Committee and Calumet Lutheran Ministries, 2 zoom options are being offered: February 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM and February 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. *Please note that Dr. Tisby himself will be joining us on the 27<sup>th</sup>!* To sign up, go to [www.calumet.org/howtofightracism](http://www.calumet.org/howtofightracism) .

**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 February 5<sup>th</sup>.*** The link is on Salem's calendar.

**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.

## **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

**Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274** **(Sunday) January 28**

One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.

**Presentation of Our Lord** **(Friday) February 2**

Forty days after the birth of Jesus, we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

**Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865** **(Sat) Feb 3**

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.



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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport and Vicinity Presents:



# Black History Month

## Scholarship Prayer Breakfast

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023**

**9:00AM**

**CREATIVE VENUE AND RENTALS  
40 LOGAN ST.  
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06607**



Guest Speaker:  
**Rev. A. Iona Smith-Nze**  
**Bethel A.M.E. Church**



Scan QR Code For Tickets

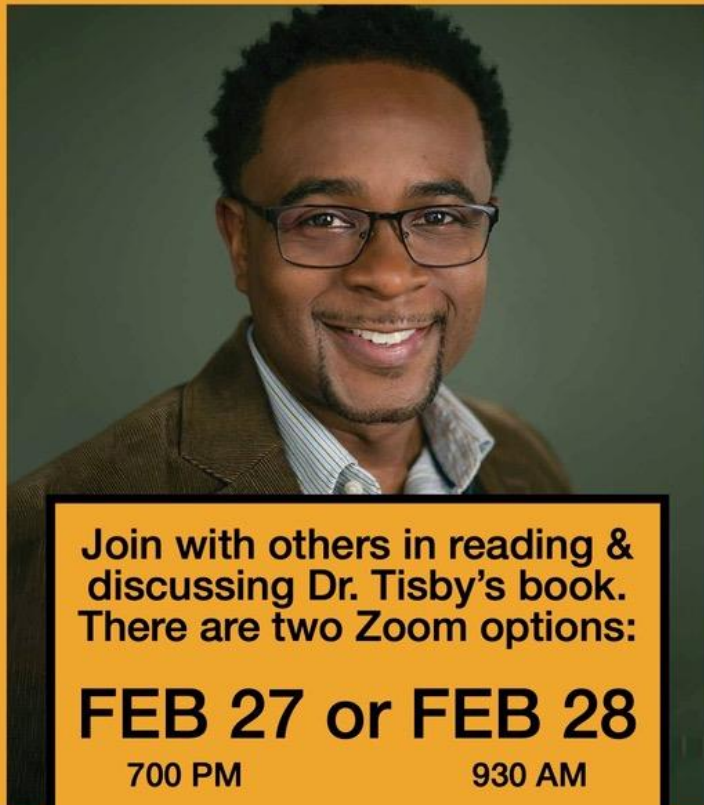
**TICKETS: \$35**



**Rev. William D. McCullough-President**  
**Rev. Brenda J. Barnes-Vice President**

**\$** **\$IMABPT21**

## **Dr. Jemar Tisby's "How To Fight Racism"**



Join with others in reading & discussing Dr. Tisby's book. There are two Zoom options:

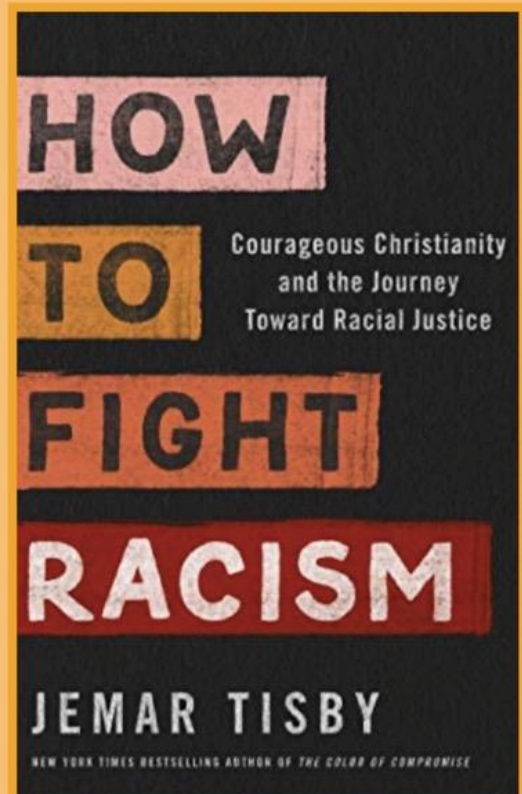
**FEB 27 or FEB 28**

700 PM

930 AM

Note that Dr. Tisby will be joining us on the 27th!

Sponsored by the Anti-Racism Advisory Board of the New England Synod, ELCA & Calumet Lutheran Ministries



[www.calumet.org/howtofightracism](http://www.calumet.org/howtofightracism)