



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

*February 11, 2024
9:30 AM*



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor
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www.salembridgeport.org
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 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.

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words, naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the light of God in the face of Jesus Christ, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. As Elisha was given double the Spirit that Elijah had, so Jesus promises that through the Spirit we will do even greater works than he!

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.

Ash Wednesday worship is 7:30pm THIS week at Our Saviour's Lutheran, 160 Hill Farm Rd., Ffd

Today after worship we will have our final congregational meeting here at Salem at which we will vote on the distribution of our cash assets, severance packages for our staff, and give Council authority to complete the dissolution process. 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.

Due to Lay Licensed Minister Jeanette Harris' seminary class schedule, there will be no Inner-View Chat & Chew for Genesis Gospel café this Saturday. The next regularly scheduled date (the third Saturday of the month) is March 16th. For more info or to RSVP, please contact "Momma J" at 203-366-6778 or jharris524@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 24th 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.



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.

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

Beautiful Savior

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 838)*

- 1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

*Text: based on Psalm 45:2, Ephesians 1:3-10, Hebrews 1:3-4,
from Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904; Meter 5 5 7 5 5 8
Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, CRUSADER'S HYMN, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.
Text and Music are in the Public Domain.*

*Performance # 1 by the Virtual Choir & Orchestra of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
directed, mixed & produced by David E. Chávez, Music & Worship Minister
with background video clips courtesy StoryBlocks.com
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoMSAHocTlc> [4:00]*

*Performance # 2 is a 1941 recording of F. Melius Christiansen conducting the St. Olaf Choir
in his own arrangement of "Beautiful Savior"
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xxNW67UReQ> [4:03]*

*Performance # 3 by St. Olaf Choir (Virtual), 05/29/20
Please enjoy this virtual performance, featuring members of the 2019-2020 choir.
© 2020 St. Olaf College. All Rights Reserved. ©MorningStar Music Publishers
Website: <https://wp.stolaf.edu/choir/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stolafchoir/> Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stolafmusic/>
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndUv80ALGps> [3:25]*

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of the God who spoke Light into the darkness,
in the name of Jesus, the Light of the World,
and in the name of the Spirit who desires to shine in our hearts that all the world may see!

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.

**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 Mon-Fri noon prayer on our conference line, our Wed 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 remember that TODAY is the day of Salem's final congregational meeting.

Ash Wednesday worship is 7:30pm THIS week at Our Saviour's Lutheran, 160 Hill Farm Rd., Ffd

Due to Jeanette's seminary class schedule, there will be NO InnerView Chat & Chew Saturday.

Please add 2 other dates to your calendars:

**Sat 2/24 9 am is the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport's
SCHOLARSHIP PRAYER BREAKFAST at 40 Logan Street.**

**Tues 2/27 7 pm on zoom Dr. Jemar Tisby will join our synod's discussion of his book,
How to Fight Racism.**

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

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

Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings?

Then let's begin our worship with prayer:

God, we praise you for the light that you spoke into being that allowed all of creation to unfold!
We praise you for calling the small & inconsequential people of Israel to be a Light to the Nations!

We praise you for sending your beloved Child, Jesus, to be the Light of the World!

We praise you for sending the Spirit to enlighten our minds and empower our spirits!

Shine your light on each and every person gathered here

that we may leave this day with healed and hopeful hearts,
trusting in your boundless power and your endless love.

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

OPENING SONG

City of God

- 1. Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The people in darkness have seen a great light.
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.**

Refrain: **Let us build the city of God. May our tears be turned into dancing!
For the Lord, our Light and our Love, has turned the night into day.**

- 2. We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.
The one who has loved us has brightened our way.
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be
a light for his people to set their hearts free.**

Refrain: **Let us build the city of God. May our tears be turned into dancing!
For the Lord, our Light and our Love, has turned the night into day.**

Bridge: **God is light; in him there is no darkness.
Let us walk in his light, his children, one and all.**

- 3. O comfort my people; make gentle your words.
Proclaim to my city the day of her birth.**

Refrain: **Let us build the city of God. May our tears be turned into dancing!
For the Lord, our Light and our Love, has turned the night into day.
Let us build the city of God. May our tears be turned into dancing!
For the Lord, our Light and our Love, has turned the night into day.**

OneLicense Song # 80676

Text based on Isaiah 9, 40:1-9, & 1 John 1 by Dan Schutte, S. J.

Music by Dan Schutte, S. J

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and New Dawn Music, P.O. Box 13248, Portland, OR 97213;

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Performance by Dr. Thomas Conroy

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel”. But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you”. So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent”.

Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho”. But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you”. So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent”.

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan”. But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you”. So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you”. Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit”. He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not”. As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 50:1-6

The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;

calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God shines forth in glory.

Our God will come and will not keep silence;

with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

God calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgment of the people.

“Gather before me my loyal followers,

those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause, for it is God who is judge.

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

A READING FROM THE LETTERS OF SAINT PAUL: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness", who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Mark 9:2-9

You may stand if you so desire.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah". He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

You may either stand or remain seated as you prefer.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY*

Let us affirm our beliefs together as the community of Christ:

**We believe in God whose grandeur and glory are beyond our knowing:
the creator of all life's richness, abundance, and variety,
We believe in a God who is never confined to our imagining,
is never in bondage to our beliefs,
and never held fast in our dwelling places.**

**We believe in Jesus, the infinite God in finite human form,
in whom we glimpse the mystery of the unity of divinity and humanity,
of truth and mercy,
of freedom and responsibility,
of power and vulnerability,
of crucifixion and resurrection,
exploding in love to shine in the darkness and be light for the world.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the spark of energy, the breath of life,
that enables our bodies, enlightens our minds, enlivens our hearts, & empowers our spirits
to transform us so that we may transform the world.**

**We celebrate this God in whose light we find
healing for the past, help for the present, and hope for the future. 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.

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.

We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people.
May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space.

We pray for our mission partners,
especially today for Camp Calumet Lutheran, and United Lutheran Seminary
and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

We pray for the people of Bridgeport to be represented by elected officials
who have the courage, conviction, and integrity to lead justly.

And we pray for Salem members & their families,
especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Bill Winter, Kerry Schulz, Ann Martin, and Carol Lansing.

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

We pray for the creation, thanking you for swirling wind and bright sun.
Teach us to honor all you have made
and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance
of our towns, states, and countries,
that they will strive for goodness & justice in their calling and indeed all the days of their lives.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for any who are sick and suffering, especially Austin, Barbro, Barry, Bob, Boni,
Bruce, 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, and all we name in our hearts & on our lips.
Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community.
May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in word and deed
in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting that all the saints, prophets, and those who die in faith are held in your care,
we remember in thanksgiving those who have died.
Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory.
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 and all our prayers 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. 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 SONG

Come to the Mountain

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Worship & Praise # 32)*

**Jesus took Peter, James, and John
up to the mountain to be alone.
While they were watching Jesus was changed;
and they saw Moses face to face.**

**Come to the mountain to see the light.
Come to the mountain to hear God's word.
Go to the valley, it is your home.
Go to the valley to serve the Lord.**

**"This is my Son!" said a voice from the cloud.
"Listen to him...and do what he says!"
Soon as it came...that vision was gone,
and they saw Jesus standing alone.**

**Come to the mountain to see the light.
Come to the mountain to hear God's word.
Go to the valley, it is your home.
Go to the valley to serve the Lord.**

**We will be changed like Jesus our Lord,
and live with him...in heaven above.
But while we live on this earthly home,
our work as servants never is done.**

**Come to the mountain to see the light.
Come to the mountain to hear God's word.
Go to the valley, it is your home.
Go to the valley to serve the Lord.**

*Text: based on Matthew 17.1-8, Mark 9.2-8, Luke 9.28-36, 1 Corinthians 15.51-52,
by Scott Tunseth, Meter Irregular*

*Music: MOUNTAIN AND VALLEY, by Kathy Donlan Tunseth
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Performance by Andy Vaaler, Wendy, and Chad, St. John's Music, Minneapolis, 02/14/21

*Music Image: <https://stjohns-mpls.org/wp-content/u...>
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlV7wt3Gi5I> [2:38]*

Sending

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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 our reading today from Psalm 50:

Our God will come and will not keep silence.

With a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm,

the heavens will declare the rightness of God's cause,

for it is God who is judge and God who will shine forth in glory! 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

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 400)

- 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; Meter 8 7 8 7 8 7 7;
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Music: CWM RHONDDA by John Hughes, 1873–1932.

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

OR

*Performed by Mark Fideldy, organist & Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Hopkins, MN, 05/27/12
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7e0kFP_JYU [3:39]*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, seek the Spirit, and let the light of God shine on you, in you, and through you!
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

Shine, Jesus, Shine

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
With One Voice # 651, This Far by Faith # 64, Worship & Praise # 123,
and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 671)*

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining:
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now bring us
shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!

2. As we gaze on your kingly brightness so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory: mirrored here, may our lives tell your story
shine on me, shine on me. (*Refrain X 2*)

Text: based on Isaiah 60:1-11, Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-9, Luke 9:28-36,

2 Corinthians 3:12-18, by Graham Kendrick, b. 1950; Meter 9 9 10 10 3 3 and refrain

Music: SHINE, JESUS, SHINE by Graham Kendrick

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*Performance by musicians of Tabor Lutheran Church, Branford, CT:
Charles Stack, keyboard; Kiersten Bjork, alto; Lane Shoemaker, soprano*

CREDITS

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Announcements

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 27th at 7 PM and February 28th at 9:30 AM. *Please note that Dr. Tisby himself will be joining us on the 27th!* To sign up, go to 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 9.** 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 15th. 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.

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!

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

Cyril, monk, died 869 and Methodius, bishop, died 885

missionaries to the Slavs

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people.

In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport and Vicinity Presents:



Black History Month

Scholarship Prayer Breakfast

SATURDAY. FEBRUARY 24, 2024
9:00AM

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

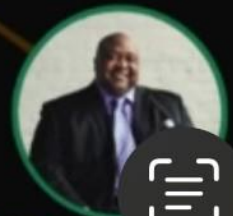


Guest Speaker:
Rev. A. Iona Smith-Nze
Bethel A.M.E. Church



Scan QR Code For Tickets

TICKETS: \$35



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

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



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

FEB 27 or FEB 28

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

HOW

TO

*Courageous Christianity
and the Journey
Toward Racial Justice*

FIGHT

RACISM

JEMAR TISBY

www.calumet.org/howtofightracism