



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

4th Sunday in Lent

March 10, 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. You are most welcome to wear a mask at worship if you'd like. And if you are a worship leader, please know that there are disposable covers for the microphone available as well.

This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. On the first Sunday in Lent ago we looked at the covenant God made with Noah. On the second Sunday we looked at the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Last week we looked at the covenant God made with those freed from 400 years of slavery, the gift of the law that they might live well in the promised land. Today we reflect on a fourth promise in the Hebrew scripture, the promise God makes to Moses that those who look upon the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel, Jesus says he will be lifted up on a cross like the serpent, so that those who look upon him in faith will find healing, wholeness, and hope as we enter into the kingdom of God – right here and right now.

Counting today there are just 6 Sundays left for us to gather together as Salem. If you have decided which congregation God is calling you to join, please give us written notice, either by text, email, or letter no later than April 14th. You may text the church phone 203-336-3300 and Pastor Marjo 203-982-3441, or send an email to salemsec123@sbcglobal.net and marjoanderson@aol.com, or mail a letter to the church at 3160 Park Avenue, Bridgeport 06604. For those of you who discern a call to another ELCA congregation, Pastor Marjo will transfer your membership. For those of you who discern a call to a congregation in another denomination, we can't transfer you, but we can give you a letter of good-standing if you so desire.

You are invited to join us for a Celebratory Service on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 9:30 a.m., as we gather together to rejoice and remember the 137 years of our congregation's life and service in Bridgeport, CT. Although Salem will be concluding its ministry (with a leave-taking service on April 14), we have much to celebrate and be thankful for during our time together in this place. We hope you can join us on this special occasion. Our worship will be enriched by your participation since you have been a part of God's ministry at Salem over the years. Our service will be followed by a time of fellowship and refreshment when you'll have the chance to renew relationships and share reminiscences. If you will be able to join us, please text or call the church office at 203-336-3300 or email the church at salemsec123@sbcglobal.net. Your response by Saturday, March 30th would be appreciated.

Gathering

GATHERING SONG **Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)**

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me; God's Word my hope secures.
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;
but God, you called me here below, will be forever mine, will be forever mine.
You are forever mine. We are forever thine.

My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.
unending love, amazing grace, , unending love, amazing grace.

CCLI Song # 4768151 – Words and Music by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio

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Performance # 1 by the Virtual Choir of Mount Carmel Christian Church, 06/25/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IjWPJl4dU> [4:40]

Performance # 2 by Brigham Young University's BYU Noteworthy, director Keith McKay Evans

if you enjoyed this, please purchase BYU Noteworthy recordings!

2015-16 members: Allyssa Jex Blake, Sarah Cunha, Alyssa Flake, Alyssa Aramaki Hazen, Rachael Holt,

Jessica McKay Johnson, Janae Klumpp, Tressa Roberts, Taylor Whitlock Smith

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6Mtpk4jeVA> [4:30]

Performance # 3 by Pentatonix – if you enjoyed this, please purchase Pentatonix recordings!

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Obp-9BEZe1c> [4:40]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of God from whom and with whom and to whom we journey!

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.

We invite you to join or regular weekly activities:

Our Mon-Fri noon prayer on our conference line will continue while Pastor Marjo is away

Please check Salem's bulletin & calendar for up to date info on Wed noon prayer on zoom,

Wednesday Bible Study, and Monday's 4:00 Anti-Racism Accountability Group.

Also, please remember that Salem's day

in the Lenten Ecumenical Rotational Fast & Prayer for Bridgeport is Sunday.

There will be no Inner-View Chat & Chew for Genesis Gospel Café this Saturday,

Links to the above events are found on our calendar at 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:

Holy God,

We come to worship you for who you are and to thank you for all that you do!

Thank you for loving us, not for what we do, but simply because we are your children.

Thank you for adopting us into your covenants with Noah and with Abraham and Sarah.

Thank you for giving us the Law that enlightens us so we can love you more dearly.

Thank you for sending Jesus who enables us to see you more clearly.

Thank you for your Holy Spirit who empowers us to follow you more nearly

Open our eyes & ears and our minds & hearts this day

as you continue your work of transforming our lives,

that you might work in us to transform the world.

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

OPENING HYMN When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
(tune = Rockingham)

*(text as found in the ELCA worship books
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 803 and This Far by Faith # 79;
tune as found in the ELCA worship book Lutheran Book of Worship # 482)*

**When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down,
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er his body on the tree;
Then am I dead to all the Globe,
and all the Globe is dead to me.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an off'ring far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

*Text: based on Mt 27:29, Mk 15:17, 39, Jn 19:2, 1 Cor 1:18, 27-31, Gal 6:14, Eph 3:7-9
by Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Meter L M*

Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, adapt. Edward Miller, 1731-1807

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance courtesy of Saint Andrew's Cathedra & Choir, Sydney, Australia, 04/09/20
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCiucN8spqg> [4:01]*

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: 107:1-3, 17-22

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God’s mercy endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim

that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe, gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.

They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death’s door.

Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.

You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

Let them give thanks to you, LORD,

for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.

Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: John 3:14-21

You may stand if you so desire.

[Jesus said:] “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR LENT

(from The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa and from Indonesia)

As people of the household of God, in faith, and love, and with goodwill to all,
let us in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ
give ourselves afresh to him and to one another in joyous covenant,
promising to walk together with God and one another.

We believe in God, who is love and who has given the earth to all people.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us, & to free us from all forms of oppression.

We believe in the Spirit of God,

who works in and through all who are turned toward the truth.

We believe in the community of faith, which is called to be at the service of all people.

We do not believe in the right of the strongest, nor in the power of oppression.

We believe in human rights, in the solidarity of all people.

We denounce, stand, and work against racism,

in the power that comes from wealth & privilege,

or in any established order that enslaves.

We believe that all people are equally human,

that order based on violence and injustice is not order.

We do not believe that hunger and poverty are inevitable and peace unattainable.

We dare to believe, always and in spite of everything, in God's power to transform,

fulfilling the promise of a new heaven and a new earth

where justice and peace will flourish.

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.

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things,
let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

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

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission.
Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog.

Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Reconciling Works,
Seafarers & International House and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

We pray for effective psycho-social treatment and intervention
for anyone suffering from mental illnesses and considering engaging in violent acts
on any school campus, especially Fairchild Wheeler High School.

And we pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Tracy Hintz and Todd DeWalt.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your love enlivens.

Make us good stewards of the earth, helping us to cleanse oceans and rivers,
preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife, and restore balance to earth's fragile habitats.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, your love liberates.

We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love.

Inspire and empower each one of us, and your church as a whole,
to work to free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, your love heals.

Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation.

Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers.

Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain.

Today we pray especially for 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 Paula, Sara, Sasha, VL, and all we name in our hearts & on our lips.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith.

Encourage each of us to pass on the faith to the next generation.

Deepen our love for you and for one another. Move us to pray for our enemies.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, your love saves.

We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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 HYMN

There in God's Garden

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 342)*

**There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations:
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all beauty.**

**Its name is Jesus, name that says, "Our Savior!"
There on its branches see the scars of suff'ring;
see where the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its lifeblood.**

**Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it.
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not destroyed it nor fire consumed it.**

**See how its branches reach to us in welcome;
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow, I will give blessing."**

**This is my ending, this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for; now I can possess it. This ground is holy.**

**All heav'n is singing, "Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!" Amen! My Master!**

Text: Kiraly Imre von Pecselyi, c. 1590; tr. Erik Routley, 1917-1982;

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Music: SHADES MOUNTAIN, K. Lee Scott, b. 1950;

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*Performance by the Choir and Congregation of First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln, NE,
accompanied by the Plymouth Brass & organist Tom Trenney. Conductor - Jeremy Bankson.*

Arrangement by Jeremy Bankson, 04/13/14

as found at this link: [5:32]

Sending

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We invite you to join or regular weekly activities:

Our Mon-Fri noon prayer on our conference line will continue while Pastor Marjo is away. Please check Salem's bulletin & calendar for up to date info on Wed noon prayer on zoom, Wednesday Bible Study, and Monday's 4:00 Anti-Racism Accountability Group.

Also, please remember that Salem's day

in the Lenten Ecumenical Rotational Fast & Prayer for Bridgeport is Sunday.

There will be no Inner-View Chat & Chew for Genesis Gospel Café this Saturday,

Links to the above events are found on our calendar at 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 from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, chapter 2:

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved you even when you were dead through your trespasses, made you alive together with Christ. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. So be what God has made you to be, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be your way of life.

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

Lift High the Cross

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 660)*

Refrain: **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

- 1. Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.**

Refrain: **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

- 2. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine.**

Refrain: **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

- 3. All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died.**

Refrain: **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

- 4. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.**

Refrain: **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

- 5. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!**

Refrain: **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

CCLI Song # 5169

*Text: based on John 12:32, 1 Corinthians 2:1-2, Ephesians 1:13, Philippians 2:10-11
by George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; Rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956;
Meter 10 10 10 10*

Music: CRUCIFER by Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947

Text and Music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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*Performance by the Plymouth Choir & Congregation of 1st Plymouth Church, Lincoln, NE
Tom Trenney, organist, 03/05/17*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C59j6p6iOZ4> [3:33]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, giving thanks for God's steadfast love
and telling everyone of God's wonderful works!

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

This Is Amazing Grace

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness? Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of Glory the King above all kings!

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder and leaves us breathless in awe & wonder?
The King of Glory the King above all kings!

(Yeah) (Oh) This is amazing grace! This is unfailing love
that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross!

You laid down Your life that I would be set free!

Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me!

Who brings our chaos back into order? Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of Glory the King of Glory!

Who rules the nations with truth and justice, shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory the King above all kings! (*Refrain*)

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave! (*repeat twice*)
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy! Worthy! Worthy! (*Refrain*)

CCLI Song # 6333821 – by Jeremy Riddle | Josh Farro | Phil Wickham

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Performance by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, 11/10/15

as found at this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bqqMOPnrj0&list=RD2bqqMOPnrj0&start_radio=1 [6:30]

CREDITS

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Announcements

Our Wednesday 7 pm Bible study is only meeting occasionally during Lent, so...

You are invited to join in a Lenten Bible Study from our New England Synod,
“Encountering God: Moving Forward with a Changing Church”

Videos will be sent out on Mondays with discussion on Thursdays on zoom.

03/11-15 Week 4 – John 3 – Nicodemus Visits Jesus –

Cassandra Wilson, Synod Council, Member of Redeemer, Woburn, MA

03/18-22 Week 5 – Luke 24 – The Walk to Emmaus –

Ryan Heckman, Christian Education Director, St. Matthew, Avon, CT

For more info and to register, contact mwhyte@nesynod.org

While there will be no Inner-View Chat & Chew this month, please remember to put 11:00 am on the 3rd 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 April 20. For more info or to RSVP, please contact “Momma J” at 203-366-6778 or jharris524@yahoo.com.

All Church delegates, representatives, and community leaders are strongly encouraged to attend the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's March Delegates Meeting on Thursday, March 21 from 5-6:30 at St. John's Episcopal church, 768 Fairfield Avenue. We will be sharing major CCGB programming and operation updates and need your input. If you can't come, please make sure to send someone from your congregation in your place! Please RSVP to coleenlande@ccgb.org or 203-334-1121 by Friday, March 15.

Celebrating Pastor Ruth Setaro, Seafarers Chaplin. Join us in honoring the remarkable journey of Pastor Ruth Setaro by celebrating her 27 years of devoted service to Seafarers International House. Her unwavering commitment, compassion, and tireless efforts have made a profound impact on the lives of countless seafarers arriving at the New Haven port.

Date: March 17, 2024; Time: 10:15 am

Location: Trinity Lutheran Church, 292 Orange Street, New Haven

A special reception to honor Pastor Ruth follows the service. Your presence will truly make this occasion memorable. Contact Carol or Rich Lansing (203) 520-3751 if you wish to carpool.

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 Thursday March 21. 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 March 23 and April 27.** If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Bruce Tomasko, bltomasko@yahoo.com.

Pastor Gabrielle Beam and Mary of Bethany Church invite you to join the launch of their public worship service at the Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Avenue, at 7 pm on Palm Sunday Eve Saturday March 23. Their Anglican bishop will be there as well as many local clergy from Bridgeport and beyond. Your presence would be greatly appreciated!

Looking ahead to Holy Week!

Palm Sunday, Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday...

Remember back in the day when there were Holy Week services every night of the week? Well, there still are! The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport will be hosting *an ecumenical service at the Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Ave, at 7 pm every night in Holy Week, beginning on Palm Sunday 3/24 & continuing thru Good Friday 3/29. We invite Salem members to specifically attend Sunday through Wednesday.*

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday...

As we worshipped with *Our Saviour's Lutheran Church* on Ash Wednesday, so we will also join them at *7:30 pm on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, 160 Hill Farm Road, Fairfield.*

The Need is Great - You Can Help. Over 10 percent of Connecticut adults say they do not have enough money to buy food. According to estimates from Feeding America, more than 380,000 Connecticut residents struggle with hunger; more than 83,000 children are food insecure. These people include your neighbors. You can make a difference. You can help **"Refill the Pantries."** Ten collections are planned in 2024 to support five food pantries in the area. Last year's nine food drives contributed 17,700 pounds of food and over \$12,000 to the pantries. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, April 6.** Our first collection will be at the Stop&Shop at 4531 Main Street, Bridgeport, for the Bishop Jean Williams Food Pantry. Volunteer time slots are available 9-11, 11-1, 1-3, and 3-5:00. You can sign up at <https://volunteersignup.org/YXRFK> or by contacting Rich Lansing at (203) 520-3751 or rlansing@optonline.com.

Camp Calumet is hosting the first Fruits & Roots midweek adult retreat. The retreat will be April 22-25, 2024. The focus will be on one of the fruits of the Spirit, JOY, as we meet for theme sessions led by Rev. Maren Tirabassi, a pastor, poet, and mystery writer from Kittery, Maine. Deacon Judy Smith will be coordinating the program, including devotions and retreat activities. Gary Benevides, long time Calumet summer guest in our campground and music director at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vernon, CT, will be our retreat guest musician. Opportunities are already scheduled to experience various art media facilitated by guest artists in Calumet's new Pippi Art Space in the Oasis and/or to participate in writing workshops led by Rev. Tirabassi. On Monday evening we will enjoy and participate in a joyful concert by the Funky Divas of Gospel who will get our feet tapping, our hands clapping, and our voices singing with their gospel, soul, and rock music rooted in universal stories. Our Wednesday evening program "Maple, New Hampshire's Medicine of Connection" with Vermont theologian, Dr. Damian Costello, will connect us to the land, our ancestors, and all that surrounds us. We will learn about indigenous wisdom, a communal medicine of connection. We are grateful to the New Hampshire Humanities to Go Program for sponsoring this evening program open to the public.

We encourage you 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 when we 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 evening Bible Study Wednesdays at 7:00 on zoom as we continue to make our way through the book of Romans.** Due to Pastor Marjo's and Jeanette Harris' schedules we will only be meeting some Wednesdays during Lent, so please check the calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org . You'll find the zoom link there, and, 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!

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

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society March 10

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery,

helped about 300 to escape slavery ‘til the institution was abolished.

Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher.

Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604

Tuesday, March 12

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome.

Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590.

He influenced public worship

by establishing a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings.

Gregorian chant is named in his honor.

**ENCOUNTERING GOD:
Moving Forward with a Changing Church
A Lenten Collaborative Bible Study
Five weeks starting Feb. 19th through March 21st**

Week 1 - Genesis 8: The Flood Subsides

Rafaela Radcke, LLM Santuario/ Nuevo Amanecer, Synod Council

Week 2 - Ezekiel 37:1-14: The Valley of Dry Bones

Rev. Elizabeth Nees, Transition Consultant, Coach (PCC), Dean Boston Metro

Week 3 - Matthew 15: 21-27: The Canaanite Woman's Faith

Rev. Dr. Richard Simpson, Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of Western MA

Rev. Jennifer Gregg, Missioner for Servant Leadership

Week 4 - John 3: Nicodemus Visits Jesus

Cassandra Wilson, Synod Council, Member of Redeemer, Woburn, MA

Week 5 - Luke 24: The Walk to Emmaus

Ryan Heckman, Christian Education Director, St. Matthew, Avon, CT

Inquiries and Zoom registration: mwhyte@nesynod.org

LAUNCHING..

**THE
RIVER
PRAYER SERVICE**

**SATURDAY NIGHTS STARTING:
MARCH 23rd at 7PM! (DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM!)**

**•LOCATION: CATHEDRAL OF FAITH
2319 FAIRFIELD AVENUE
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06605**

PASTOR GABRIELLE BEAM gbeam@the-rivers.org