



# *Salem Lutheran Church*

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*

*March 17, 2024*

*9:30 AM*



**The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor**  
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[www.salembridgeport.org](http://www.salembridgeport.org)  
[www.facebook.com/salembridgeport](https://www.facebook.com/salembridgeport)  
[YouTube](#) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

# Welcome to Worship!

**We want you to feel safe** so please know that we have 3 units of the best air cleaner on the market in the sanctuary. (A big thank you to Bill Winter for getting our 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. 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. On the third Sunday 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. Last week we reflected on a fourth promise in the Hebrew scripture, the promise God makes to Moses that those who look upon the bronze serpent will live. Today we read how God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" that will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. It's not enough to attend worship or serve the needy. It's about a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ by the power of the Spirit – a relationship that is nurtured by personal and group prayer and Bible study, and results in seeing, hearing, and experiencing God intervening in our daily lives.

**Counting today there are just 5 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 14<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:salemsec123@sbcglobal.net). Your response by Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> would be appreciated.

# Gathering

## GATHERING HYMN Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, # 321)*

- 1 Eternal Lord of love, behold your church walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,  
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:  
far off yet here—the goal of all desire.
- 2 So daily dying to the way of self, so daily living to your way of love,  
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,  
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:  
so we are dead and live with you in God.
- 3 If dead in you, so in you we arise, you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;  
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,  
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flow'r,  
so into life and glory shall we wake.

*Text: based on Exodus 13:21-22, 14:24, Romans 6, Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003  
Meter 10 10 10 10 10*

*Music: OLD 124<sup>TH</sup>, Trente quatre pseumes de David, Geneva, 1551*

*Text © Thomas H. Cain. Used by permission of estate.*

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*Performance #1 by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 09/05/20  
222/655 in our hymn series*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyvRcCQ7beU> [3:06]*

*Performance #2 by Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN, 02/26/20*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7K-x0wzQs> [3:31]*

*Performance #3 by Samm Hills Music, Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church, 02/21/21*

*Voices: Anna Morris, Cora Tischaefter; Organ: Carol Churchill*

*Coordinating, Film Editing, Audio Mixing and Mastering: Sung Lee*

*Produced by Samm Hills Worship (Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church)*

*We pray that the worship and music materials from 'Samm Hills Music' is a blessing to you.*

*If you would like to use it in your setting (worship, class, etc), please do so.*

*If you do, please let us know so that we can better understand  
the depth and breadth of God's reach through our ministry.*

*You can reach us at sammamishhillslutheranchurch@gmail.com*

*If you would like to help us to continue to produce these kinds of materials,*

*you are invited to make a donation at <https://secure.myvanco.com/YK2T/home>*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXbBtRMtlkc> [3:05]*

***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.

### **THIS THURSDAY, you are strongly encouraged to attend the CCGB's Delegates Meeting**

from 5-6:30 at St. John's Episcopal church, 768 Fairfield Ave. **Please RSVP TODAY!**

### **Following the CCGB meeting, you're invited to join in our synod's anti-racism zoom call**

at 7:15-7:45.

### **On Sat there will be a Lutherans & Friends luncheon @ Old Towne Restaurant in Trumbull**

at noon. Please RSVP to Bruce Tomasko.

### **And Saturday evening at 7, Pastor Gabrielle Beam invites you to Mary of Bethany's**

launch of their public worship service at the Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Ave.

### **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

## My Song Is Love Unknown

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Lutheran Book of Worship, # 94)*

- 1 My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?**
- 2 He came from his blest throne, salvation to bestow;  
but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.  
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend;  
who at my need his life did spend!**
- 3 Sometimes they strew his way and his sweet praises sing;  
resounding all the day hosannas to their King.  
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry,  
and for his death they thirst and cry.**
- 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.  
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise;  
themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.**
- 5 They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made away;  
a murderer they save, the prince of life they slay.  
Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes, that he his foes from thence might free;  
that he his foes from thence might free.**
- 6 In life, no house, no home my Lord on earth might have;  
in death, no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav'n was his home; but mine the tomb wherein he lay;  
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.**
- 7 Here might I stay and sing – no story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend!  
I all my days could gladly spend!**

*Text: Matthew 11:5, 21:8-9, 26:1-27:22, Mark 11:8-10, 14:1-15:46, Luke 7:22,  
Luke 19:29-38, 22:1-23:24, John 15:12-14, Philippians 2:5-11  
Samuel Crossman, c. 1624-1683; Meter 6 6 6 8 8 8*

*Music: RHOSYMEDRE, John D. Edwards, 1806-1885*

*Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Halifax  
03/27/23, Accompaniment Style: 8 Beat Ballad 1*

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

# Word

*Please be seated.*

## **A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD”, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

## **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 51:1-12**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

**in your great compassion blot out my offenses.**

Wash me through and through from my wickedness,

**and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my offenses,

**and my sin is ever before me.**

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;

**so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,

**a sinner from my mother’s womb.**

Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,

**and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

**wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.**

Let me hear joy and gladness;

**that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,

**and blot out all my wickedness.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence,

**and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation

**and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

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

## **A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Hebrews 5:5-10**

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;  
as he says also in another place,  
“You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: John 12:20-33**

*You may stand if you so desire.*

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus”. Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name”. Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again”. The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him”. Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself”. <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

**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.*

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community.  
We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather.  
Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship.  
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for  
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land,  
and The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport  
as we seek through our delegates' meeting this week and the ongoing board meetings  
to discern your will for the future of the organization.  
We pray for protected, safe and nurturing educational environments  
which promote flourishing, growth, wellbeing, health, and creativity  
for ALL students, teachers, para-educators, administrators and staff,  
especially those at Fairchild Wheeler High School.  
And we pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:  
Laila Hietala and Stephan Dow.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty.  
Empower us to preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things.  
Move us to support local, national, & international efforts to protect the environment for future generations.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people.  
Set a hedge of protection around those who challenge oppression and expose corruption.  
Provide support for advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of good will, you restore what is broken.  
We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships.  
Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions.  
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.**

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support our prayer gatherings and Bible studies.  
Be with the members of this congregation as each discerns to which congregation you are calling them.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us.  
Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

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

### As the Grains of Wheat

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, # 465)*

*Refrain* **As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill  
were gathered into one to become our bread;  
so may all your people from all the ends of earth  
be gathered into one in you.**

**1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,  
may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain***

**2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come  
when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain***

*Text:* based on Isaiah 25:6-9 & 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, Didache, 2nd cent  
Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Meter Irregular

*Music:* AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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*Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,  
Halifax, 02/25/21, 494/655 in our hymn series.*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzNxCL3JIVA> [2:08]*

# Sending

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**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 the prophet Jeremiah, chapter 31:

Seek the Lord, and God will write the law upon your heart,

The Lord will be your God, and you shall be God's child.

You shall know the Lord, and God will forgive your iniquity, and remember your sin no more.

*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**

**Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing**

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, # 545)*

- 1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,  
fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing,  
triumph in redeeming grace.  
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,  
trav'ling through this wilderness.**
  
- 2 Thanks we give and adoration  
for your gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of your salvation  
in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful  
to your truth may we be found.**
  
- 3 Savior, when your love shall call us  
from our struggling pilgrim way,  
let no fear of death appall us,  
glad your summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever  
reign with you in endless day.**

*Text: Numbers 6:24-26, Luke 2:29-32  
attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.  
Meter 8 7 8 7 8 7*

*Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, O SANCTISSIMA Sicilian, 18th cent.  
Text & Music are in the Public Domain*

*Performance by Jonathan Kopplin - vocalist & Mary Beth Berg – organist,  
St. John's Lutheran Church - Lakeville, MN, 06/27/21  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOvqygqIJzg> [1:43]*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, following Jesus!

**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 SONG**

### **Create in Me a Clean Heart**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from thy presence, O Lord, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and renew a right spirit within me.

*Text: from Psalm 51*

*Music: Eric Shanfelt*

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*Performance by Alastair Vance, 01/04/21*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qLlIDx4V6g> [3:05]*

## **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.*

**03/18-22 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](mailto:mwhyte@nesynod.org)***

**All Church delegates, representatives, and members 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](mailto:coleenlande@ccgb.org) or 203-334-1121 by Friday, March 15.**

**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](mailto: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!**

**Today Carol and Rich Lansing and Merlee Lange are joining in a celebration at Trinity Lutheran in New Haven to honor Pastor Ruth Setaro, Seafarers Chaplin for 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.**

**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](mailto:jharris524@yahoo.com) .**

## 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](mailto: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.

**Easter Bunny Breakfast. Saturday, March 23 9:00-11:00 am.** Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford, CT. Adult Breakfast: All-you-can-eat \$8; Child Breakfast: All-you-can-eat \$5; 3 and under are FREE. Egg Hunt is Free for children with an adult breakfast purchase. Reservations suggested. Call (203) 375-3151



**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  $4 \times 4$  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](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.

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461** **Sunday, March 17, 2024**

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age 16 and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry.

Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.

**Joseph, Guardian of Jesus** **Tuesday, March 19, 2024**

Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade.

He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus.

It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.

**Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556** **Thursday, March 21, 2024**

Cranmer's lasting achievement

is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion.

He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

**Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758**

**Friday, March 22, 2024**

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher.

Though his most famous sermon focuses on hell, he was more concerned with God's love.

He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts,

and as president of what was to become Princeton University.



All Church delegates, representatives, and community leaders are strongly encouraged to attend our  
**March Delegates Meeting**

**Thursday, March 21, 2024**

**5:00 to 6:30 PM**

*(Light supper right at 5 PM)*

St. John's Episcopal Church  
768 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, CT

Topics for Meeting

- Major CCGB programming and operation updates
- Next steps

If you can't come, please make sure to  
send someone from your congregation in your place!!

R.S.V.P. to [coleenlane@ccgb.org](mailto:coleenlane@ccgb.org) or 203-334-1121

**R.S.V.P BEFORE FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024**

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](mailto:gbeam@the-rivers.org)

The Interdenominational Alliance of Greater Bridgeport and Vicinity



## Holy Week Services

March 24-29, 2024  
Nightly

Cathedral of Faith  
2319 Fairfield Ave  
Bridgeport, CT 06605



Pastor William D. McCullough,  
President

\$IMABPT

Sun.  
Mar. 24  
\*6:00PM



Bishop John R. Thompson-  
Calvary Temple  
Christian  
Center

Mon.  
Mar. 25  
7:00PM



Pastor  
Yolanda  
Hernandez-  
Centro da Vida

Tues.  
Mar. 26  
7:00PM



Pastor Herron  
Gaskin-  
Summerfield  
United Methodist  
Church

Wed.  
Mar. 27  
7:00PM



Pastor James  
Logan- Messiah  
Baptist Church

Thurs.  
Mar. 28  
7:00PM



Bishop Willie  
Lee Johnson-  
English Chapel  
Cathedral of  
Miracles

Fri.  
Mar. 29  
7:00PM



Bishop Danny  
Bland-  
Revival  
Church



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[www.youtube.com- IMA Bridgeport](https://www.youtube.com-IMA%20Bridgeport)