



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

3rd Sunday in Lent

*March 3, 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.

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. Two Sundays ago we looked at the first covenant, the one God made with Noah. Last Sunday we looked at the second, 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. The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

Pastor Marjo is on vacation from 02/24-03/06. Should you need emergency pastoral care, you may call the church cell 203-336-3300 or Pastor Chris Files at 203-767-4189.

TODAY WE WELCOME THE REV PAUL SINNOTT to preach and preside at worship. Pastor Sinnott served on the staff of 3 different bishops (Isaksen, Payne, and Hazelwood), and after retiring, has served interims at St. James in Southbury and Immanuel in Oxford. He is one of the most active participants in our Anti-Racism Accountability Group hosted by Pastor Marjo and Jeanette Harris.

Pastor Marjo, our Officers, and our Council would like to offer praise to God and thanks to all of you for your participation in Salem's final congregational meeting on February 11. Our heartfelt prayer was that the Spirit would be mightily present, that everyone would be respectful, expressing their truth in love, that the difficult and challenging work of Salem's leadership would be truly appreciated, and that everyone would leave the meeting feeling that God's will had indeed been done. We thank almighty God for answering our prayer!

Update on our regular weekly activities:

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

Our Wednesday noon prayer on zoom will likely also continue,
but please check Salem's calendar to confirm.

Our Anti-Racism Accountability Group will also continue on zoom at 4:00 on Mondays,
but again, please check Salem's calendar to confirm.

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

More Precious Than Silver

Chorus 1 (Oh) Lord You are More precious than silver Lord You are More costly than gold
Lord You are More beautiful than diamonds And nothing I desire Compares with You

Verse 1 And who can weigh the value Of knowing You
Oh who can judge the worth Of Who You are
Lord who can count the blessing Of loving You
Who can say just how great You are, How great You are

Chorus 2 (Oh) Lord You are More precious than silver Lord You are More costly than gold
Lord You are More beautiful than diamonds And nothing I desire Compares with You
Ooo nothing I desire Compares with You Ooo nothing I desire Compares with You

CCLI Song # 11335

by Lynn DeShazo

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*Performance #1 by Dr. Linda Beckman, piano, and Michelle Bessemer, violin,
arr. Mark Hayes, 0/10/15*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLtLklttIYI> [3:14]

Performance # 2 by Clearfield Presbyterian, 05/18/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wn8bl77VgUY> [2:15]

Performance #3 by Randy Ekstedt for Antelope Springs Church, 07/08/20

Just me and my guitar - enjoy!

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXsqNrOpZ2g> [1:38]

*Performance #4 by the Chancel Choir & Orchestra of Hayes Barton Baptist Church,
Raleigh, NC, 12/16/18*

(<https://vimeo.com/306082263>) titled "Portraits of The King"

at Hayes Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC <http://www.hbbc.org/>

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOH0gTU8-s4> [1:45]

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 Cindy Roberts, President 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 and calendar for up to date info on Wednesday noon prayer on zoom,

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

Our Anti-Racism Accountability Group will also continue on zoom at 4:00 on Mondays, unless we notify you otherwise.

Also, please remember that Salem's day

in the 40-day Ecumenical Rotational Fast & Prayer for Bridgeport is Sunday.

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:

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 the freedom you have given us to choose between good and evil, life and death.

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.

As your Word is a lamp to our feet, may our light so shine

that others may see our good works and glorify you in heaven.

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

OPENING HYMN

O God, My Faithful God

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 806)*

- 1 O God, my faithful God, true fountain ever flowing,
without whom nothing is, all perfect gifts bestowing:
give me a healthy frame, and may I have within
a conscience free from blame, a soul unstained by sin.**
- 2 Give me the strength to do with ready heart and willing
whatever you command, my calling here fulfilling--
to do it when I ought, with all my might--and bless
whatever I have wrought, for you must give success.**
- 3 Keep me from saying words that later need recalling;
guard me, lest idle speech may from my lips be falling;
but when, within my place, I must and ought to speak,
then to my words give grace, lest I offend the weak.**
- 4 When dangers gather round, oh, keep me calm and fearless;
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheerless;
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,
and, by your Spirit's might, to live at peace with all.**

*Text: based on Matthew 10:38, Mark 8:34, Luke 14:27, 1 Corinthians 1:4-9
Colossians 3:17, James 1:22, James 2:9-10
by Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt
Meter 6 7 6 7 6 6 6 6*

*Music: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT by Ahasuerus Fritsch, 1629-1701
Text & Music are in the Public Domain*

*Performance by Choirmaster Zack, St John's Lutheran Church, Richlandtown, PA,
02/28/21*

as found at this link: [4:05]

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Exodus 20:1-17

God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work — you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language,

and their voices are not heard,

their sound has gone out into all lands,

& their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;

nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;

the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,

sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened,

and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can detect one's own offenses?

Cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;

let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our thoughts

be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, our strength and our redeemer.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: John 2:13-22

You may stand if you so desire.

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me”. The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up”. The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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.

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest.

Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence
and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Kids Empowered with Your Support,
& the New Paradigm Theatre and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land.

We pray for Fairchild Wheeler High School and other schools,
that there be timely exposure and effective intervention of any violent act being planned
before it can be carried out.

And we pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Jeanette Harris.

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

You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace.
Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation.
Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

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

You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land.

Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace
and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict.

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

You bring healing and hope.

We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers
who prevent and treat illness.

We pray for any who are in need, 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.

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

You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions:
marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change,
or a death in the family.

We pray for those preparing for baptism.

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

You bring life from death.

We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you.

May we trust that nothing can separate us from your 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 SONG

Thy Word

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
This Far by Faith # 132 and Worship & Praise # 144)*

Chorus

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path**

Verse 1

**When I feel afraid
And I think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear
As long as You are near
Please be near me to the end**

Verse 2

**I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end**

CCLI Song # 14301

*Text: based on Psalm 119:105, Amy Grant, b. 1960; Music: Michael W. Smith, b. 1957;
arr. Keith Phillips, Worship and Praise # 144, Augsburg Fortress;*

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Performance by The Mullett Family, 12/04/17

Join Chantaya (8) & Kyra (7) as they sing about the importance of God's Word.

Order the full DVD: TheMullettFamily.com/DVD

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Afz0q0cQjll> [3:05]

Sending

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We invite you to join or regular weekly activities:

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Please check Salem's bulletin and calendar for up to date info on Wednesday noon prayer on zoom,
Wednesday Bible Study, and Monday's 4:00 Anti-Racism Accountability Group.
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unless we notify you otherwise.

**Also, please remember that Salem's day
in the 40-day Ecumenical Rotational Fast & Prayer for Bridgeport is Sunday.**

**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

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 **Pastor Marjo**,
you can reach **her** 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 1st letter to the Corinthians, chapter 1:

No matter what you are going through,
no matter what chaos you see,
no matter how long you have been waiting for God to act,
*remember that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God,
and that God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,
and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. 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

Canticle of the Turning

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Worship & Praise # 26 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 723)*

1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. *(Refrain)*

3 From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. *(Refrain)*

4 Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. *(Refrain)*

*Text: based on the Magnificat in Luke 1:46-55, and also Revelation 21:4,
by Rory Cooney, b. 1952; Meter Irregular*

Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional

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Performance by An Episcopal Diocese of Georgia staff quartet, 04/17/21

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZkouDIMn-g> [3:10]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
giving thanks for God's grace, and responding with love – the fulfillment of the law!
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 HYMN God of Grace and God of Glory

- 1 God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.
- 2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.
- 3 Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal
- 4 Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

*Text: based on Joshua 1:9, 1 Kings 3:5-12, Psalm 27:14, 46:91, Proverbs 9:13-16, Isaiah 2:4-11, Micah 4:3
by Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969, Meter 8 7 8 7 8 7 7*

Music: CWM RHONDDA by John Hughes, 1873-1932

Text & Music are in the Public Domain

*Performance by First-Plymouth Church Choir & Congregation, Lincoln, Nebraska, 07/10/22
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IyyNowMPx6E> [3:26]*

CREDITS

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Announcements

Our Wednesday 7 pm Bible study is on hold for Lent, so instead...

**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.

02/19-22 Week 1 – Genesis 8 – The Flood Subsides –

Rafaela Radcke, LLM Santuario / Nueo Amanecer, Synod Council

02/26-29 Week 2 – Ezekiel 37:1-14 – The Valley of Dry Bones –

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

03/04-08 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

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

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

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

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

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

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 March 15th.* The link is on Salem’s calendar.

You are invited to join Lay Licensed Minister Jeanette Harris for the next Genesis Gospel Café’s Inner-View Chat & Chew on Saturday March 16th. For more info or to RSVP, please contact “Momma J” at 203-366-6778 or jharris524@yahoo.com.

Like our prayer breakfasts, a lunch is held each month to build relationships among Lutheran and other congregations in our area at noon at Old Towne Restaurant in Trumbull. **The next lunch will be on March 23.** 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.*

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!

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!

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202 Thursday, March 7, 2024

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa.

They, with four other catechumens,

had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

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.

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.

**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

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Week 4 - John 3: Nicodemus Visits Jesus

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

Week 5 - Luke 24: The Walk to Emmaus

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Inquiries and Zoom registration: mwhyte@nesynod.org
