



Salem Lutheran Church

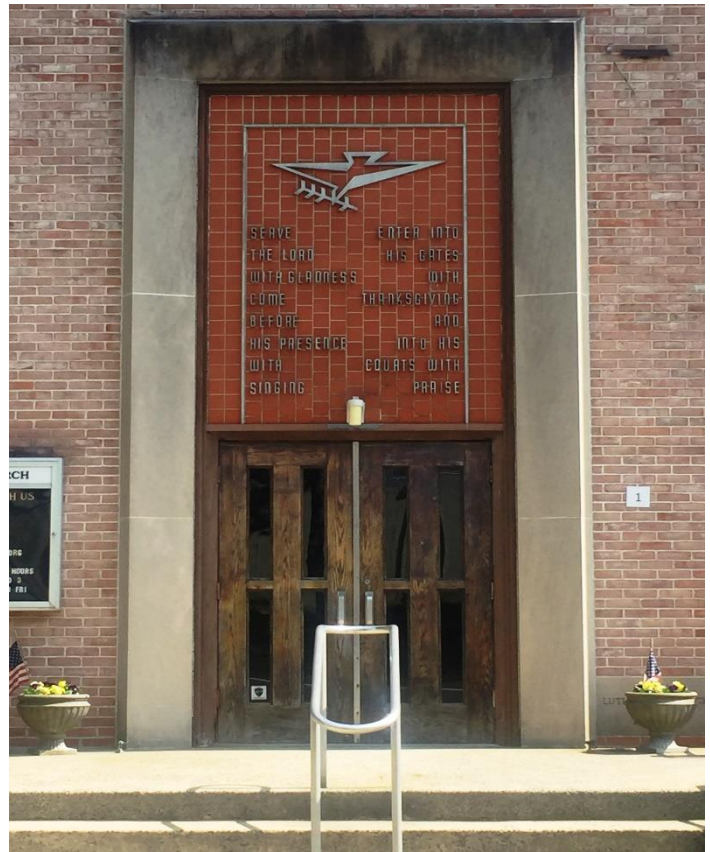
shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*Celebrating
Salem*

*(our last
public worship)*

*April 7, 2024
9:30 AM*



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor
marjoanderson@aol.com
203-982-3441 (cell)

3160 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604
Telephone: 203-336-3300;

Karl Kraft, Office Manager
salemsec123@sbcglobal.net

www.salembridgeport.org
www.facebook.com/salembridgeport
[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/salembridgeport) – 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.

We come here to worship and praise the God of boundless power and endless love! Every time we come in through the main doors of the church, we are reminded to "Enter into God's gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise" and indeed to come into God's very presence with singing. We come first to praise God for who God is and second to give thanks for what God has done, is doing, and will do. As Salem stands at this great crossroads of our history, we pray that "the LORD our God be with us, as he was with our ancestors", and that "he not leave us or abandon us, but incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways." And even as we pray, "we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" because "nothing in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." It is our prayer that each and every one of you will encounter the risen Lord right here today, and leave excited to go and tell the world: 'Jesus has been raised from the dead, and...is going ahead of you" and "you WILL see him"!

Today 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 next Sunday for current active members only), we have much to celebrate and be thankful for during our time together in this place. All of you have had some part in God's ministry at Salem over the years, and we are grateful that you have joined us on this special occasion. Our worship will be followed by a time of fellowship and refreshment when you'll have the chance to renew relationships and share reminiscences.

Current active members, 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 introduction if you so desire.

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. You can sign up for the various dates/times at <https://volunteersignup.org/YXRFK> or by contacting Rich Lansing at (203) 520-3751 or rlansing@optonline.com.

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

Mark Adamy

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Pastor Marjo

**Today we continue to celebrate the most important event in human history –
that God raised Jesus from the dead!**

**And if God can do that, then God has the power and the love to do absolutely anything
for those who love God and are called according to God's purpose.**

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 am 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.

Today is Salem's final public worship, followed by refreshments and fellowship time,
and we are grateful that so many of you –

former pastors, musicians, members & their families

as well as friends from the wider church and the local area – have joined us this morning.

Next Sunday will be our leave-taking worship & lunch for current active members only.

Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings?

Then we will continue with greetings from Cindy Roberts, followed by Pastor Steven Wilco

GREETINGS

Cindy Roberts, President of Salem

Pastor Steven Wilco, Associate to the Bishop, New England Synod, ELCA

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Pastor Wilco

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Wilco

Let us pray.

Most Gracious and Merciful God,

As we celebrate 137 years of ministry as Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT, we give thanks to you for the ministry of this congregation.

We thank you for those you called to begin this community of faith, for those who have sustained its ministry,

and for those who will carry the mission of your Church forward into the future.

We thank you for all those who are here today who have been part of this Salem family and we ask that you would bless each and every one

with an experience of your life-transforming presence.

We pray all these things in the Name of Jesus and by the Power of your Spirit. **Amen**

Please join in our opening hymn, "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee".

OPENING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 836)*

You may stand if you so desire.

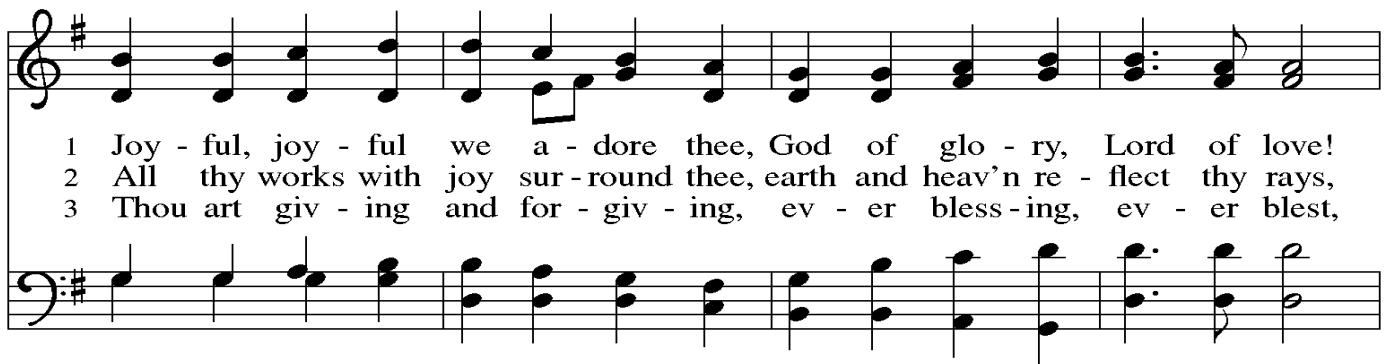
- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**
- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.**
- 3 Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!**

Text: Psalm 148, by Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933; Meter 8 7 8 7 D

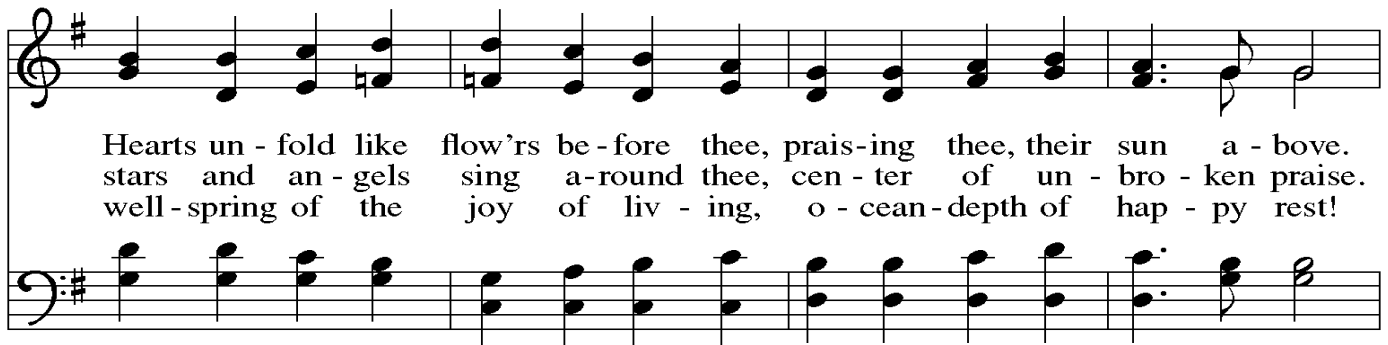
Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt

Text and Music are in the Public Domain

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

And also with you!

KYRIE & HYMN OF PRAISE from "Now the Feast and Celebration" by Marty Haugen

Assistant: In peace, in peace...

Assistant: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have
mer - cy.

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all...

Assistant: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have
mer - cy.

Assistant: For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word...

Assistant: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have
mer - cy.

Assistant:

Help, save and de - fend us, O God.

Congregation:

A - - - men.

If Kyrie was sung *Congregation:*

men. Now the

feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion sings for

joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;

praise and glo - ry for ev - er - more!

Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,

whose blood has freed and u - nit - ed us

to be one great peo - ple of God.

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion sings for

joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;

praise and glo - ry for ev - er - more!

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and

glo-ry to Christ for ev - er.

Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion sings for

joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;

praise and glo - ry for ev - er - more!

For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

God; to make all things new.

Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion sings for

joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;

praise and glo - ry for ev - er -

more.

Word

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Steven Wilco

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: I Kings 8:56-61

⁵⁶Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel according to all that he promised; not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke through his servant Moses. ⁵⁷The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our ancestors; may he not leave us or abandon us, ⁵⁸but incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances, which he commanded our ancestors. ⁵⁹Let these words of mine, with which I pleaded before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires; ⁶⁰so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other. ⁶¹Therefore devote yourselves completely to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day."

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 100

(inscribed over the outer doors to this worship space)

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness;

come into his presence with singing.

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he that made us,

and we are his;

we are his people,

and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him,

bless his name.

For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 8:24-39

²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 28:1-10

You may stand if you so desire.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me"....

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Neither Death nor Life

Refrain - All

Nei-ther death, nor life, nor an-gels, nor rul-ers, nor
 trials in the pres-ent, nor an - y trial to come, nei - ther height, nor
 depth, nor all of cre - a - tion can ev - er sep - a - rate us
 from the love of God poured out in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.

Leader or All

1 Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead; though your
 2 All who are led by the Spir-it shall live as
 3 All of the suf - f'ring we now must en - dure is
 4 All of cre - a - tion a - waits the new birth, the
 5 Who can sep - a - rate us from the love of Christ? Will

bod-y shall die, in Christ you shall rise through the
 chil - dren of God, and heirs with Christ Je - sus, God's a -
 noth - ing to the glo - ry so soon to be re - vealed when cre -
 full - ness of re - demp - tion, through la - bor pains of love, and
 hard - ship or dis - tress, per - se - cu - tion or fam - ine, or

Spir - it who brings you to life. *Refrain*
 dopt - ed and cho - sen and loved. *Refrain*
 a - tion it - self is set free. *Refrain*
 so we wait in pa - tience and hope. *Refrain*
 na - ked - ness or per - il or sword? *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Romans 8
 Music: NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, Marty Haugen
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You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(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.

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear,
let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

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

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen.

As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day.

Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for the Ephraim French 7th Day Adventist Church
& the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

We pray for every student and family, especially those at Fairchild Wheeler High School,
that they know that God loves them and has a beautiful plan for good things for their lives,
to give them a future and a hope.

We pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Marija Kolar and Kristen LaDue.

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

Your creation cries out, O God, & you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, & all growing things.

Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life.

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

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen.

Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders

to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person,
that no one may need to live in fear.

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

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen.

Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression,
and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain.

We pray especially today for Austin, Barbro, Barry, Bob, Boni, Bruce, Bud, Christopher, Cindy, Cliffy,
Clyde, Dave, David, Dennis, Diane, Dolores, Dorothy, Francesca, 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.

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

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen.

Renew pastors, deacons, lay licensed ministers, musicians, administrators, and volunteers
who facilitated Holy Week and Easter and this final public worship.

Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve.

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

Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you,

especially Dietrich Bonhoeffer & all whose lives have been given in faithfulness to the gospel.

Grant us your peace amid our fears.

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

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

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **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 and offerings of time, talent and 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 INVITATION *Please be seated.*

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 witness through our online presence
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.

AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

Refrain
a tempo

As the grains of wheat once

scat - tered on the hill were gath - ered in - to one to be -

come our bread; so may all your peo - ple from

all the ends of earth be gath - ered in - to one in

1., 2. *To verses* 3.

you. you.

Verses

1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

poco rit. *D.S.*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

Because Lutherans believe that Holy Communion expresses the unity we have in the body of Christ, and is therefore not only about the vertical relationship we have with God in Christ through the Holy Spirit, but the horizontal relationship we have with each other, we do not livestream the communion part of our worship.

So at this point we will have our “soft” close for our online worshippers, and after the livestream has ended we will end our in-person worship with Confession & Forgiveness, Holy Communion, a benediction by the Choir, a Dismissal, and the sharing of the Peace.

Then we invite you to join us for refreshments and fellowship time.

Again, we are grateful that so many of you – former pastors, musicians, members & their families as well as friends from the wider church and the local area – have joined us this morning.

Next Sunday will be our leave-taking worship & lunch for current active members only

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 from before the pandemic, through the pandemic, and in the years since.

While we will no longer be gathering for worship,

videos of our worship service will remain online on our FB page, Salem Bridgeport.

BLESSING

As we say good-bye to our online worshippers,

I'd like to offer this blessing to all who are worshipping with us, both in-person and online:

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope

✠ bless you now and always. 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,
who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

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!
Open your hearts!
Let us give thanks to the God of all!

And also with you!
We open them to God and one another!
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

*We eat, not at our own table, but at the table of Christ who welcomes all –
each and every one of you.*

What you believe and how you receive is a matter between you and God.

*According to Lutheran theology,
we teach that Christ is truly present in the gifts of this sacrament –
in the bread and wine and in the people gathered.*

As we are fed by Christ's body, we become his body.

*Nourished, strengthened & made whole by these gifts of God's forgiveness & grace,
we go with joy to share God's love for the world.*

You may come up the center aisle and return by the side aisles.

*If you prefer a prepackaged cup of grape juice with wafer on top,
you may pick up one from the baskets on either side of the aisle,
and stop in front of Pastor Marjo to receive the word accompanying the elements.*

*Or, you may receive the (gluten-free) wafer alone
which Pastor Marjo will place in the palm of your hand,
and then proceed to one of the people offering the chalice
to intinct/dip the bread into the wine.*

*Those who wish to receive only a blessing may indicate their desire
by crossing their arms over their hearts.*

Come! The feast is ready to begin! Jesus invites you to the table!

COMMUNION MUSIC

Mark Adamy

The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you.

The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in divine grace! **Amen**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have fed us with this heavenly food.
By the gift of your Child's body and blood through the power of your Spirit,
transform us into that which we have received, the Body of Christ, given for all.

**Send us out into all the world to witness to the boundless power of your Spirit
and the endless love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

COMMISSIONING ANTHEM

Go into the World

Natalie Sleeth

DISMISSAL

Go into the world and tell everyone that Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! And thanks be to God!

PEACE

As Christ has reconciled 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

Mark Adamy

CREDITS

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Kyrie, Now the Feast and Celebration, As the Grains of Wheat, and Neither Death Nor Life

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UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner.

In the Second World War,

he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement.

Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the pope,

Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines.

In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.

Announcements

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 .

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.

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 date is April 27.** If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Bruce Tomasko, bltomasko@yahoo.com.

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! We will be turning off our online giving on April 30, but you may want to also notify your bank to stop automatic payments after that date.

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!

Communion Preparation	Jean Larson, Christiane Wolff
Greeters	Sandra Brown, Nancy Headford, Tom Larson
Ushers	Carol & Rich Lansing
Pianist & Cantor	Mark Adamy
Pastor, Preacher and Presider	The Rev Marjo Anderson
New England Synod Representative	The Rev Steven Wilco, Associate to the Bishop
Salem President	Cindy Roberts
Assisting Ministers/Leaders/Readers	Bonnie McWain, David Schulz
Communion Assistants	Nancy D'Andrea, Cindy Roberts
Choir	Members of Salem and friends
Sound Technicians and Media Consultants	Vladimir Laguerre, Ephraim French SDA Changlet Chery, Ephraim French SDA David Charles, Ephraim French SDA
Celebration Task Force Members	Bonnie McWain Nancy D'Andrea Sandra Brown Nancy Headford Laurie Kulakowski Kristin LaDue Christiane Wolff Carol Lansing Rich Lansing
Officers of Salem	Cindy Roberts, President Sandra Brown, Vice-President Nancy Headford, Secretary Rich Kenyon, Treasurer
Non-Officer Council Members	Ray Anderson Cake Elie Steve Kuczo Tom Larson Bill Winter Carol Lansing Rich Lansing

