



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*The Resurrection
of Our Lord!*

*April 17, 2022
9:30 AM*

*Christ
the
Lord is
RISEN
Today*

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[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Welcome to Worship!

Today we 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. When we come to know how much God loves us, we are able to let go of fear and live by faith, not knowing what our future holds, but only that the God who holds our future loves us with a love that shines light in the darkness, that breaks the power of sin, and that brings life out of death.

Salem is still recommending masks. We know that some are only comfortable coming into a place where people are masked, and we want to provide an environment where everyone feels safe. While it is true that Covid case numbers are down, much of that is due to those who can afford to self-test not reporting positive results and due to those who cannot afford to self-test finding it more difficult to find free testing sites. New England is expecting a new surge in covid cases and Holy Week and Easter services certainly have the potential of contributing to that if we do not exercise caution. While the current variants may cause only mild symptoms in most people, those who are older and who have underlying conditions remain at risk for more serious illness, including long covid. We will continue to re-evaluate based on what happens with the pandemic and what the latest advice is concerning singing protocols.

THERE WILL BE A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWING 9:30 WORSHIP (10:30ish) ON April 24th (the Sunday after Easter) FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF VOTING ON WHETHER WE STAY AT 3160 PARK AVENUE OR MOVE TO ANOTHER LOCATION. This will be an in-person meeting ONLY. Vote will be by written ballot. We have closed on the sale of our property to the Ephraim French Seventh Day Adventist Church and we are currently renting back space from them. They have graciously offered us all that we need to stay here, including time in the sanctuary for 9:30 Sunday worship and time in the lounge following that for coffee hour and/or adult forum. They have also offered us the former music director’s office for Pastor Marjo and Karl to share, half of the workroom behind what will now be their church office for such things as our copier, printers, router, and file cabinets, a section of the paper supply closet in the workroom, storage for larger items in one of the closets off the stage, as well as a temporary “staging area” in the former food pantry space for things we will be moving off-site to long-term storage. First Presbyterian in Fairfield has also made us an offer. **This is a chance for you, the congregation, to choose where you wish to worship.**

Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study will resume this week in a novel way! The members of CCITCAY (the characters from our Virtual Dinner Theatre Lenten Experience, “Looking for the Joy in Lent”) will return to share with us how the revival that began in their congregation has led them to a study on the book of Acts – which is exactly what we are studying! **So please join us at 6:30 on zoom for a short reader’s theatre and a discussion of how God has been using Acts 1-2 to transform our lives during this Lenten season. At 7:15 we will share in Communion and then have some time to catch up with each other.**

Gathering

PRELUDE: Ode to Joy Beethoven, arr. David R. Thomas

*We welcome our brass players this morning:
Paul Marino Trumpet; John Pearson Trumpet; Scott Benson Trombone*

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

*EASTER PROCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 365)*

*You may stand if you so desire.
As long as you are masked, you may sing softly.*

- 1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**
- 3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he's king, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**
- 4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

*Text: based on Matthew 28:6, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-7,
Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt.;
Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4; Meter 7 7 7 7 and alleluias*

*Music: EASTER HYMN by J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, 1708
The Text and Music are in the Public Domain.*

WELCOME

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 65:17-25

- ¹⁷“I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.
- ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.
- ¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.
- ²⁰No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
- ²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
- ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
- ²³They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD — and their descendants as well.
- ²⁴Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.
- ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God’s mercy endures forever....
- ¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.
- ¹⁵ Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous....
- ¹⁶ **The right hand of the LORD is exalted!...**
- ¹⁷ I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.
- ¹⁸ **The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.**
- ¹⁹ Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD....
- ²⁰ **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.**
- ²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone...
- ²⁴ **This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all! That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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

You may stand if you so desire.

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 24:1-12

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This is the Gospel, the Good News, the AMAZING news, of the risen Christ!
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Please be seated.

Pastor Marjo

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 376)*

As long as you are masked, you may sing softly.

**1 Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
 endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!
 Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
 kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.**

Refrain **Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
 endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!**

**2 Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb!
 Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;
 let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
 for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting!**

Refrain **Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
 endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!**

**3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
 life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
 make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love;
 bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.**

Refrain **Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
 endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!**

*Text: based on Joshua 3:14-17, Matthew 28:2, Luke 24:1-12, John 14:3, 20:11-18, 20:27-28
 Romans 8:37, 1 Corinthians 15:55,
 by Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939;
 Meter 5 5 6 5 6 5 6 5 & refrain*

Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, by George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

Text and Music are in the Public Domain

Setting by Robert A. Hobby

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together.

**We believe in God who created us and all that is,
who loves us and desires our love in return.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.**

**And being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,**

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

& every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God our Creator.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who calls us into relationship with God,

who gathers us in relationship with the whole human family,

who enlightens our minds, enlarges our hearts, and enables our bodies,

and who sanctifies us by helping us to grow in faith and hope and obedience to God's will.

**It is this Triune God – the three in one and one in three – whom we worship and adore
and to whom we offer all that we are and all that we have. Amen**

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.

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

On this day of resurrection joy,
let us offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and our world.

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

Renewing God, the good news of your resurrection changed the world.
Give church leaders and all the baptized the same excitement as the women at the tomb,
and inspire us to share your abundant life.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for
The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport,
the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport,
every congregation in Bridgeport, and for the whole Christian Church on earth,
that we might together proclaim the love of God made known in Christ Jesus
and together work towards justice and peace through the power of the Spirit.
God of new life, **receive our prayer.**

Sustaining God, your creation abounds with signs of new life
in budding trees and newborn creatures.
Provide fertile soil, ample sunlight, and nourishing rain for the growth of plants,
and provide farmers with a plentiful harvest.
God of new life, **receive our prayer.**

Sheltering God, strengthen and sustain all who support vulnerable people across the world.
Empower government agencies and international organizations
that provide for refugees and migrants forced to leave their homelands.
God of new life, **receive our prayer.**

Encouraging God, you do a new thing among us.
We pray for those gripped by fear and anxiety or who suffer in any way,
especially Barbara, Bernedette, Christiane, Dolores, Frank, Grace, Jonathan, Linda, Steve,
and all we name in our hearts.
Send us as your healing presence to places of hunger, pain, illness, or overwhelming sorrow.
God of new life, **receive our prayer.**

Surprising God, you offer endless ways for us to delight in your grace.
Give this community of faith a sense of joy and wonder
in encountering you and building relationships with those different from us
that through us you might change the world
God of new life, **receive our prayer.**

Resurrecting God, you make us alive in Christ.
Thank you for blessing us with those who have brought us this far along the way.
God of new life, **receive our prayer.**

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

We offer to you these petitions and those we carry in our hearts,
trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy. **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 your home congregation 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 ANTHEM On the Third Day (from “At the Ninth Hour”) Allen Pote

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU AND BLESSING

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world Is become The kingdom of our Lord & of His Christ & of His Christ

And He shall reign for ever and ever! And He shall reign for ever and ever!
And He shall reign for ever and ever! For ever and ever! Forever and ever!
And He shall reign for ever and ever!

King of kings! (Forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
And Lord of lords! (Forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
King of kings! (Forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
And Lord of lords! (Forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
King of kings! (Forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
And Lord of lords! (King of kings!) And Lord of lords!

And He shall reign, And He shall reign, And He shall reign, And He shall reign forever & ever!

King of kings! (Forever and ever!) And Lord of lords! (Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
And He shall reign! (Hallelujah! Hallelujah!) And He shall reign forever and ever!

King of kings! and Lord of lords! King of kings! and Lord of lords!
And He shall reign forever and ever!

Forever and ever! Forever and ever!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!

*Messiah is an oratorio composed in 1741 by George Frideric Handel,
with a scriptural text compiled by Charles Jennens
from the King James Bible, and from the Coverdale Psalter,
the version of the Psalms included with the Book of Common Prayer.
The text and music are in the Public Domain.*

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Thanksgiving for Baptism, Communion & Dismissal

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

You may stand if you so desire.

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ,
and we are a new creation.

For this saving mystery let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fountain of resurrection.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.

Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.

Praise to you for your life-giving waters:

for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters

and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Praise to you for your powerful waters:

Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well.

The Israelites escape through the sea, and drink from your gushing rock.

Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At the river your Son is baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

Praise to you for your cleansing waters:

Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here that we may know the joy of new life.

We ask this in the name of Jesus and through the power of the Spirit. **Amen**

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **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.*

Thank you.

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

Amen!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, knowing that the risen Christ goes with you!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

This Is Amazing Grace

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

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

**(Yeah) (Oh) This is amazing grace! This is unfailing love
that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross!
You laid down Your life that I would be set free!
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me!**

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

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

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

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

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Performance by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, Nov 10, 201508/07/21

as found at this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bqqMOPnrj0&list=RD2bqqMOPnrj0&start_radio=1 [6:31]

CREDITS

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Announcements

Welcome to WONDROUS WEDNESDAYS! On Wednesday we have 3 wonderful opportunities to live into our mission of Encountering God, Building Relationships, and Changing Lives. The links are all on the calendar on our website at SalemBridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

*** First, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month through June, we begin with a Morning Bible Study 9:30-11:00 on zoom, led by Grace Dukenski.** There is time for sharing before we launch into our study of the book of Romans, and time for prayer at the end.

*** Every Wednesday at 12:00 noon we meet on zoom for prayer.** You can pray out loud if you want, or you can simply ask others to pray for you or for the concerns on your mind or heart. The more we talk with God and the more we listen to God, the more God is able to work through us. And the more we pray TOGETHER the more the power of prayer is multiplied.

*** Resuming this Wednesday at 6:30 a diverse and interesting group of people meet on zoom for a Bible Study that seeks not to simply be informational but transformational.** We'll review Acts 1-2 on April 20th, and continue through the book on succeeding weeks.

The next breakfast and faith discussion will be held on May 14th at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford, at 8:00 (7:00 to help cook).

Please join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café at the next Inner-View Chat'n'Chew, Saturday May 21st at 11:00 am. Details forthcoming.

In our continuing quest to fight back against the power and fear of racism, especially in those who say they are followers of Christ, we present this opportunities of performance and dialogue sponsored by Fairfield University's Regina A. Quick Center's Open VISIONS Forum: "Caste: Examining Race, Culture, & Consequences" by Isabel Wilkerson.

Thursday, April 28, 8pm (\$30, \$15 Member)

Tickets and additional information is available at: <http://www.quickcenter.com>

The event will NOW BE HELD ONLINE. Ticket holders will be emailed a link.

Pastor Marjo Anderson and Jeanette Harris will host a discussion of this presentation and of the book in general on Sunday May 1st at 4:00 on zoom at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89975646418?pwd=ZG5nSVVmR3NVTXc5dTAWbWtqTWdrZz09>

or go to SalemBridgeport.org/Resources/Calendar and click on the event for more information

Let's stay connected! Much of Pastor Marjo's and Salem's Office Manager, Karl's work can be done from their homes, but generally Karl is here on Thursdays to take care of tasks that cannot be accomplished remotely, and Pastor Marjo is happy to meet with you in-person here should you so desire. If we can help in any way, please know that you can call Salem's church office at 203-330-3300 and leave a message and your message will be picked up remotely and your call returned. **Please also do not hesitate to call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441. She would be MORE THAN HAPPY to hear from you!**

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573;
renewers of the church
Tuesday, April 19, 2022**

These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.

**Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury,
died 1109
Thursday, April 21, 2022**

This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

**Day of the Creation (Día de la Creación)
Friday, April 22, 2022**

This observance invites us to notice & give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe. As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it.

**Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society,
died 1960
Saturday, April 23, 2022**

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

CITYFEST WEEK

• Outreaches:

- Affinity events for women
- Special gatherings for business and civic leaders
- Prison outreaches

• Culminating Events:

- 2-day CityFest in the heart of the city
- Andrew Palau presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ
- Well-known Christian musical groups
- Action sports
- Family Fun Zone

ONGOING IMPACT

- **Follow-up** – Collaborative effort between local churches and the Palau Association
- **Discipleship** – Face to face efforts as well as an email discipleship course managed by the Palau Association
- **CityServe** – Ongoing effort to continue building unity, collaboration, and good will throughout the region, focused on serving the city and sharing the Good News



Get ready because CITYFEST is coming! In addition to all the service opportunities we will have through CITYSERVE, we will also have the opportunity to participate in CITYFEST a week of outreach through gatherings for women, for business and civic leaders, and for those in prison. The week will culminate with a 2-day event in the heart of the city with worship that includes top-notch Christian musical groups and evangelist Andrew Palau preaching. And in addition to worship, there will be fellowship opportunities including Action Sports and a Family Fun Zone! Through our participation in this event God gives us 2 exciting opportunities – to build bridges which strengthen the work of all of our congregations in the Grater Bridgeport area and to invite family and friends to join us in a worship event unlike any we have seen in the area for years.

While serving people – feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, housing the homeless, welcoming the stranger, etc. – is a vital part of our Christian faith, it is only half of our call. You don't have to be a Christian to help those in need. And if all we Christians do is serve in silence, then those we serve will never hear about the amazing God we know and love.



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That's why the Luis Palau Association brings congregations to do both – to serve God through both Word and Deed. While bringing friends to CityFest could change their lives, such an experience is often just the first step in the journey. Following up to help people grow in their discipleship is the crucial next step. And of course the work of CityServe will continue for weeks, months, and years after CityFest. We invite you to start praying now that God would help all of the congregations in our city and its surrounding towns to realize that we are all part of the ONE holy Christian and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ.