

DECEMBER 2018

Okay, I admit it. I love Christmas songs. In fact, I can be found listening to Christmas music in the middle of summer. I think the main reason for this unconventional behavior is that the music and lyrics take me back to a time that was sweet and innocent (at least in my mind). I've always loved the Christmas season; and at 60 years old, it still has a certain "magic" to it. In the classic Peanuts Christmas Special, Charlie Brown laments how he becomes depressed during Christmas. I never understood that.



Anyway, where was I? Christmas songs. Well, as nice as it is to reminisce and find temporal pleasure in a special holiday, we of course understand what gives Christmas its' true meaning and depth. One song in particular speaks to the "reason for the season" as well as any other Christmas hymn; the song O' Holy Night.

I'm not sure I've ever heard the Christian gospel expressed so well in a "seasonal" song. Consider the first verse:

*O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!*

That is a wonderful and often overlooked truth: that everyone who has ever lived is utterly lost in sin unless Jesus appears to rescue us. And it's because of that, our souls rejoice.

So when you sing and listen to the great Christmas hymns this year, pay close attention to what the lyricist is trying to tell you about God and his great love for you in spite of your sin. You may soon find yourself listening all year round.

May God bless you richly this Christmas Season.

Pastor Brad



December 2018 - Worship Service Participants

	December 2	December 9	December 16	Christmas Service December 23	Music Worship December 30
Liturgist	Greg Paige	Ron Nishijima	Hiro Iwasaki	Patty Price	Steve Fukumitsu
Scripture Readers	E) Daniel Cheung J) Toshiko Marse	E) Zach Paige J) Akiko Oki	E) Bob Jones J) Shigeko Ota	E) Carson Kawabata J) Misako Bowker	E) Chris Lund J) Yoko DeRose
Greeter	Karla Paige	Karen Okawa	Dorthie Conway	Betty Murakami	Wilma Kimura
Ushers	Misako Bowker Motoko Lochner	Mary Tabata Pauline Vosburgh	Zach Paige Lorraine Crouse	Karen Okawa Julee Mori	Betty Kubota Al Kubota
Special Music	---	---	---	---	Nichigo Choir
Pianist/Organist	Yas Iwamoto	Daniel Cheung	Yoko DeRose	Allyn Nakashima	Keiko Ikeda
Communion Servers	Al Kubota Ron Nishijima Laura Olson	---		---	---
Ed Bldg Monitor	*	*		*	*

*Make sure there is someone in the Fellowship Hall during service or that the door is locked.

JCC December Calendar

JCC December 2018 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 -Mochi Making, 9am -Parking, Jim Galligan, 8pm
2 -Communion, 10:30am	3 -Taiko practice, 6pm	4 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	5	6 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	7 -Taiko practice, 6pm -Parking, Jm Galligan, 8pm	8 -Mochi Making, 9am -Parkng, College Basketball, noon
9 -Agape Christmas Lunch, 12:30pm	10 -Taiko practice, 6pm	11 -Remodel Comm Mtg, 4:30pm -Session Mtg, 6pm	12 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	13	14 -Taiko practice, 6pm	15 -Tongan Church Christmas Dinner
16	17 -Taiko practice, 6pm	18 -St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen, 11:15 am	19 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	20	21 -Taiko practice, 6pm	22 -Herald Deadline -Parking, Jazz, 7pm
23 -Christmas service, 10:30am -Christmas potluck and program, 5pm	24 -Christmas Eve service, 5pm	25 CHRISTMAS DAY -Parking, Jazz, 8:30pm	26	27 -Parking, Jazz, 8:30pm	28 -Taiko practice, 6pm	29 -Parking, Jazz, 6pm
30 -Music Worship, 10:30am	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE					

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 11/25/18.

For up to date building use information, go to www.jccslc.net, Events/Activities tab, JCC Building Usage Schedule link

Thanksgiving Recap

This year, the annual JCC Thanksgiving Dinner became Thanksgiving Lunch to combine the annual gathering with the Nichigo retreat and guest speaker held that same weekend on Sunday, November 18. Many thanks to Jerry Mori for cooking the turkeys. A good time was had by all.



Playing in the leaves! Photos courtesy: Lorraine Crouse



Reverend and Mrs. Fujii, Nichigo Retreat guests.



As always, there was plenty of food!

Your Generosity

Thank you to all who filled shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child program. We set a record this year – a total of 143 shoeboxes were delivered to be shipped to locations all over the world. Thank you to the Tongan Free Wesleyan Church who also filled 25 boxes! Your contributions will bring joy to so many children this Christmas.

Congratulations Jani!

Or should we say Senator Iwamoto? Jani was re-elected to her Utah State Senate seat representing District 4 during the elections last month. Congrats on this achievement!

Ninety is the New Seventy?

On Sunday, November 11, members who turned 90 this year were recognized during worship service: Lillian Nakamura, Betty Murakami, Bea Ichiuji, and Faye Aoyama.



Lil Nakamura and Betty Murakami; may we all look as good at 90! Photo courtesy: Jan Aramaki

Ozoni Fundraiser

The annual Ozoni Fundraiser will be held on Sunday, January 6. Mark your calendars! More information will be posted next month.

