

# The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ  
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### **Worship Schedule:**

Canceled until further notice  
due to COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Pastor's Message**

**July 2020**

Would it be an understatement to say that "it has been quite a year"? Probably so. Between the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent unrest over injustices in our country, it can be difficult to just stop for a few minutes and place our focus upon those things that are ultimately most important – eternal truths. My desire is to provide the impetus to help us do that more often, as I'm getting ready to launch a new sermon series taken from the Book of Ecclesiastes.

Now this is not a very well-known book, yet it has tremendous value for us in this day and age. It is known as "Wisdom literature". I like this particular definition: "It is the attempt to reflect upon, to philosophize about, and to appreciate the joys, sorrows, fears, and struggles of daily life and the human experience." I believe that this record of King Solomon's attempt to find meaning in life will be of tremendous benefit for all of us as we take time over the next few months to discover how his search is in many ways, our search as well.

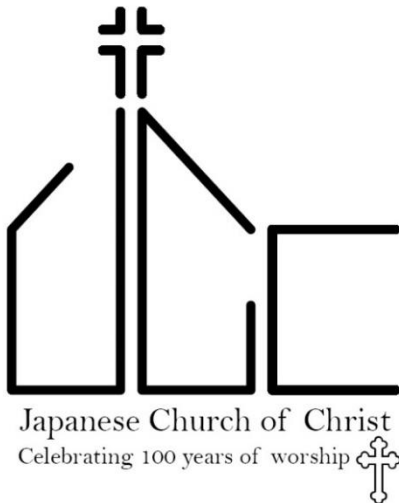
I would encourage you to locate our web page at [Jccslc.net](http://Jccslc.net), simply hit "play" on the sermon picture, and allow the word of God to challenge and transform you. I intend to begin recording this sermon series, July 11.

God Bless You Richly,  
Pastor Brad

**The JCC Mission Statement**

To proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and seek spiritual growth for the entire congregation through:

- Worship, prayer, and Bible study
- Outreach and evangelism
- Loving service to the Church and community
- Fellowship
- Cultural activities unique to our ethnic congregation



**THE HERALD**

A monthly publication of the Japanese Church of Christ, Salt Lake City, UT.

**Pastor Brad Kramer**

**Clerk of Session: Allyn Nakashima**

**Session**

- Pauline Vosburgh, Finance
- Lorraine Crouse, Worship
- Keiko Ikeda, Nichigo
- Patricia Arakaki Price, Membership
- Steve Fukumitsu, Building
- Yoko DeRose, Nichigo
- Daniel Cheung, Personnel

**Deacons**

Jan Aramaki, Moderator; Wilma Kimura, Karen Okawa, Akiko Oki, Misako Bowker, Julee Mori, Jean Kobayashi

Newsletter articles are due on the last Saturday of each month at **noon**. Send your articles to [jccherald \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:jccherald@gmail.com)

Website: [www.jccslc.net](http://www.jccslc.net)

**Update from Session**

Salt Lake City and County still remain “orange” in reopening the economy, including gatherings of faith communities, so there will be no “live” worship service yet as spikes in positive cases continue to be of concern.

Session will revisit reopening plans as they look for guidance from the Presbytery of Utah, state health department and Center for Disease Control (CDC). A task force has been formed and will be meeting shortly to discuss options and the feasibility of returning to the JCC facilities.

In the meantime, we strongly ask family members or friends to bring over a laptop, iPad or smart phone to allow their senior family members or those that do not have access to electronic devices to view and listen to the sermons posted to the JCC website ([jccslc.net](http://jccslc.net)). The sermons are accessible at any time and can be viewed at your convenience. The Zoom bible study conducted by Greg Paige every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. is also a good way to connect with others and see faces live. (See page 4 for access instructions.)

As always, thank you for continuing to remit your pledges and offering to the JCC mailing address, **268 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101.**

**Congratulations Graduates - Class of 2020**

Congratulations to the following graduates!

**High School**

- Nichole Kramer, Ogden High School
- Shoji Mori, Rowland Hall
- Audrey Nagasawa, Judge Memorial High School
- Carter Titmus, Judge Memorial High School
- Joel Umemura, North Utah STEM
- Tyler Uyeda, Olympus High School



**College**

- Brian Ithiong, University of Utah, MPA
- Ally Jee, University of Utah, B.S. Mathematics
- Maxwell Sueoka, Santa Clara University, B.S. Commerce, major in Finance

These names were submitted as of the press deadline for this newsletter. We apologize if anyone was overlooked (but you needed to submit the names!).

**Remember in Your Prayers**

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

- |                  |                 |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Toshiko Marse    | Chris Miya      | Kai Ronning     |
| Yolie LaFontaine | Susan Fukushima | Marie Matsukawa |
| Kenta Naraoka    | Steve Fukushima | Tracy Barnes    |
| Toy Shimizu      | Susan Rosvall   | Saeko Nakashima |
| Betty Morishita  | Sumiko Rosvall  |                 |

## Second Navajo Nation Collection

On Saturday, June 13, a second collection for Navajo Nation took place. Greg Paige's entire back end of his Sequoia was packed full! And that is with the back 2 seats laid flat! Here is a tally of some of the donated items:

- 16 cases of water
- Toothbrushes, tooth paste and dental floss
- 4 bags of flour/sugar
- Packing boxes
- 4 large garbage bags full of water bottles
- Bleach
- Hand Sanitizer
- A grocery size bag of masks, boxes of gloves
- Paper towels

The Angel Flight organization was thrilled to receive these donations. A heartfelt thanks to the people of JCC for your generosity and genuine love for others, even though we don't know the Navajo Nation personally!



Greg and Karla Paige deliver JCC donations to Angel Flight. Photo courtesy: Angel Flight.

## Japanese American Pilgrimage Website

An organization, Japanese American Pilgrimages, has a website where it is hosting a "Community Virtual Pilgrimage" from June 13 through August 16, 2020. The program is called "Tadaima" ("I'm home").

In the midst of the pandemic, each of the annual pilgrimages to the sites of the relocation camps has been canceled. Recognizing the on-going significance of these events, the goal of this program is to share the pilgrimage experience as a learning experience. There are short documentaries, interviews and live Zoom discussions scheduled, as well as videos on other cultural aspects, such as cooking.

Go to [jampilgrimages.com](http://jampilgrimages.com) and you will find a link to Tadaima and the programming for the week.

## Devotional for JCC

*Wait for the Lord;  
be strong and take heart  
and wait for the Lord.*

Psalm 27:14

I recall the first time I really read this Psalm. I was grieving over a devastating breakup with a girl. And even though I knew that she was not the right woman for me, I still mourned the loss and began to wonder if I would ever find a soul mate with whom I could share my life. It was the preacher Charles Stanley who, through one of his sermons, pointed me to Psalm 27:14. The idea of waiting patiently on God to work in my life was relatively new to me; I just hadn't given it much thought. Probably because, like most people, I didn't like waiting.

But God got a hold of me with this passage, as well as a few others. I began to see that God deeply loved me, that he would take care of me, and in His time, he would provide whatever or whomever I needed. Now it didn't remove the grief immediately. But I had a fresh way of surveying my situation – and I began to gain strength: somewhat like the picture painted by the prophet Isaiah in chapter 40:31:

*but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

As members of JCC, we are all in full waiting mode, aren't we? We're waiting for the time when we can come back together and worship and fellowship as a family again. It has been a difficult 3-4 months. I never imagined being faced with such a discouraging situation. And the sobering reality is that we don't know when our doors will open. And so we wait.

But God is working through this pandemic. Specifically, I believe He desires to bring about spiritual growth in all of our hearts as we learn to wait on Him. Perhaps, it would be helpful for each of us to take a few minutes each day and ask our Lord to help us learn to be strong and take heart; and to reveal those things He wants to teach us. God is honored when His people learn to wait; and we will be blessed for doing so.

With Hope,  
Pastor Brad

## Things to Do While Stuck Inside

(Excerpts from USA Today)

There are many articles listing activities we can do while staying at home – cleaning the closets, organizing drawers, puzzles, catching up on reading, DVDs and videos; but here are a few new suggestions:

- Learn to use your non-dominant hand to brush your teeth or eat dinner.
- Cook something you haven't cooked before; have you ever made your own pasta from scratch?
- Watch every Best Picture Academy Award winner.
- Detail your car; take a Q-tip to every corner of each air vent.
- Sew face masks that display your personality and interests. They will be around for a while.
- Make your own ice cream.
- Camp out in the backyard.
- Take a virtual trip; there are a ton of websites posting virtual tours of museums, national parks and cities of the world.
- Learn origami. Make cranes for your loved ones.
- Start a journal or a blog – chronicle your life under coronavirus.
- Write poetry.
- Learn a foreign language.
- Coloring books. Not just for kids.
- Stretch. Work on your flexibility; can you do the splits?
- Make a list of things for which you are grateful.
- Do you know all of the books of the Old and New Testaments in order?
- Update or write your will and organize your affairs. Yes, it sounds melodramatic, but face it – this is a task many of us avoid because we never have the time. Now we do.

Stay  
HEALTHY

## “Zoom” Bible Study Instructions

Zoom Bible Study is ongoing. The last session on June 21 was week number 12 as these online classes started on April 5, 2020. Praise God! Encourage others to attend if they would like to. Help older parents, grandparents, or other relatives get set up and run Zoom.

Go to the JCC website, [jccslc.net](http://jccslc.net) and click on “Online Bible Studies Instructions” from the home page. There you will find installation instructions for various devices (iPad, iPhone, Android, etc.) and browsers. Then email [jccherald\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:jccherald[at]gmail[dot]com) to request an invitation to join the meeting. Also be sure to include your email address in the message.

Before Sunday, Greg Paige will send an “invitation” to you via email to join the meeting along with a list of biblical references. On Sunday morning at **9:30 a.m.**, click the link in the invitation or enter the Meeting ID number found in Greg’s email and then you will join the bible study.

We are currently studying the book of John. Please join us!

## Behind the Scenes

Every week since April 5, weekly worship sermons have been posted to the JCC website at [jccslc.net](http://jccslc.net). Every preceding Saturday morning, the services are recorded as a YouTube video by Paul DeRose, Greg Paige and Pastor Brad. Daniel Cheung provides a musical number monthly. We are grateful for the dedication of these individuals to bring prayer and sermon to us all every week. Also thanks to Halley Malison for linking the video on the website.



Video Director Paul DeRose – Lights, Camera, Action!