

The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ
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Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
SLC, Utah
Permit No.1645



Pastor Brad Kramer
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Worship Schedule:

Canceled until further notice
due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Pastor's Message

August 2020

I was recently asked to speak to our Deacons on the subject of prayer: specifically how to feel more comfortable when praying in front of others. This is such a good issue, that I jumped at the opportunity. In the midst of our time together, one of the Deacons asked if I would write an article for the Herald based on this subject. So I thought I might give you some of the high points of our discussion, in hopes of encouraging you to consider the value and joy of public prayer. Now I understand that many of you are already rejecting this idea, because prayer in a public setting can be at the very least uncomfortable and in many cases downright terrifying. So let me say that no one should feel obligated to pray out loud. However, I do believe there are some steps we can take that might ease the discomfort of such an intimidating activity, and actually allow us to find joy in adding another dimension to our Christian life.

Step 1. Simple and short is best - Like me, you have undoubtedly heard pastors and laypeople alike offer some of the most beautiful and "spiritual", as well as lengthy prayers. These are fine, but should not be seen as standard offerings to which all God's people should aspire. You may recall Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount warning people against prideful public prayers that are long on content but short on substance and heart. I truly believe God is honored by the simplest of prayers, when they are true and sincere. This is not to devalue longer prayers. However, on a personal level, I really appreciate a prayer under 30 seconds that reveals a desire to honor and please God.

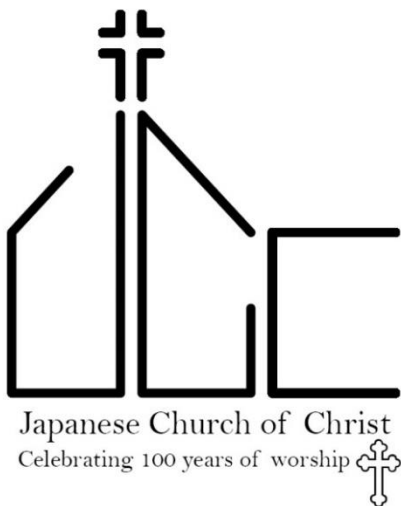
Step 2. Gratitude is key - I often begin my prayers with gratitude. A grateful heart seems to be most appropriate for even a brief "talk" with our Lord. There are many moments throughout the course of a day where I become forgetful of what God has done for me, and beginning my prayer by saying "thanks" sets the tone for the rest of the prayer. My suggestion is that you begin your prayers with thankfulness; and you will hopefully find the rest becoming easier.

Step 3. See prayer as conversation with God - Finally, instead of trying to be spiritual or religious, approach your prayer as a conversation with God. I don't mean that it should be sloppy or thoughtless as if we're just making casual small talk with a friend. *(Continued on Page 2)*

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[at]gmail[dot]com)

Website: www.jccslc.net

Pastor's Message Continued (from page 1)

No, I am approaching a holy God, so there should be a sense of reverence. At the same time, it should be Brad Kramer saying the prayer instead of Charles Spurgeon or Billy Graham. I need to be expressing my heart in conversation. So I talk to my Lord; I don't try to insert lofty or impressive sounding words into my prayer. I try to make it natural.

I offered the following as a sample prayer for the Deacons that I believe is appropriate for almost any occasion in which someone may ask you to "say a few words in prayer":

Dear God,

Thank you so much for this day you've given us. Thank you for how you show your love toward us. Please guide us in this time, and help us to honor You. In Jesus' great name we pray, Amen.

I hope this helps you as you seek to step out of your comfort zone just a little... or a lot.



May God Bless You Richly,

Pastor Brad

JCC COVID-19 Task Force

Unfortunately, there is no change in the status of reopening the church from last month – Salt Lake City and County still remain in the "orange" phase (as of this writing), so the JCC will not be opening for live services anytime soon. However, a task force has been formed to discuss and make plans for a safe return once we can.

This task force is chaired by Paul DeRose and committee members are Pastor Brad Kramer, Daniel Cheung, Lorraine Crouse, Karen Okawa, and Greg Paige. The team has met twice already and is working on a proposal to present to the Session.

It is important to hold any kind of "reopening" lightly and prayerfully. We will include information about how COVID-19 spreads, the "right" way to mitigate risks, and where we are as a state. These factors all change on a daily basis. The team is mindful of the need to balance the safety of our congregants with the needs of those sheltering at home.

Regardless of what the situation is, a detailed plan will be approved and in place so we are ready for action when and if the time comes that we can reopen the church facilities. The team will discuss different scenarios for reengaging members of the JCC family. While we don't know when things will improve, whether it is next month or next year, the task force will do so in a carefully thought out manner.

If you have any concerns or ideas regarding reopening, please contact one of the task force members. We welcome your input!

Weekly Sermons and Bible Study

Remember that the weekly sermon is posted every Sunday through a YouTube link. It is easily accessed directly from the JCC website, jccslc.net. The current sermon is found right on the home page. Just click on the "play" arrow.

If you want to view past sermons, from the home page task bar, click on "Sermons" and then click "Sermons from 2020."

Zoom Bible Study is ongoing each week. Go to the JCC website, jccslc.net and click on "Online Bible Studies Instructions" from the home page. 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.

Condolences

Condolences are extended to the family of Joseph "Joe" Kamaya, who passed away on July 9, 2020 at the age of 84. Please keep his wife Rose and children Shauna, Kevin and D.J. in your prayers.

Sympathy is also expressed to the family of Michael Miya, who passed away in Ogden on July 8, 2020. Keep his sons Chris and Matt Miya and sister Joy Titmus in prayer as well.

Remember in Your Prayers

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

Toshiko Marse	Chris Miya	Kai Ronning
Kenta Naraoka	Susan Fukushima	Marie Matsukawa
Toy Shimizu	Steve Fukushima	Tracy Barnes
Betty Morishita	Susan Rosvall	Saeko Nakashima
Miya family	Sumiko Rosvall	Kamaya family

Thanks Greg!

During the July 12 worship video, Pastor Brad acknowledged the work and service of Greg Paige, who chaired the Fellowship Hall remodeling committee. Greg conducted meetings with members of the committee, coordinated efforts with the architect and construction crew, and followed through on the entire project from start to finish; often with daily visits to the church to view drawings, take measurements and look at equipment. His dedication to the project has resulted in a beautiful new Fellowship Hall, shiny commercial kitchen, accessible restroom facilities, drapes for the stage and renovations to the pastor's and business offices.

Japanese Books to Lend

Dear Nichigo members,
Tomoko Moses has the following books you can check out if you are interested in:

Memoirs of Japanese women who married American men in the 1950s and 1960s:

「戦争花嫁 五十年を語る」草の根の親善大使
「戦争七嫁 国境を越えた女たちの半世紀」
「神風特攻隊員になった日系二世自伝」

Japanese classical novels slightly revised for junior high school students, easier to read:

「二十四の瞳」壺井栄
「伊豆の踊子」川端康成
「吾輩は猫である」夏目漱石
「潮騒」三島由紀夫
「ビルマの竪琴」竹山道雄
「次郎物語」下村湖人

その他

よろしく。

モーゼス・トモコ、携帯電話・テキスト

801-712-3450

Contact Tomoko at (801) 712-3450 if you are interested in borrowing these Japanese books to read while you are sheltered in. Coordinate pick up directly with her.

Lost and Found

It has been 4 months since we have last attended worship service at the church, so you may not remember losing/leaving something belonging to you. Here are some items in the "Lost and Found."



If any of these items belong to you, they will be in the basket in the chapel waiting for you upon our return! But now you know where the lost item is at!

Fellowship Hall Remodeling Done!

Here are some photos of our "new" Fellowship Hall. A stainless steel kitchen with new equipment; Fellowship Hall with new flooring, lighting and curtains; 2 new accessible restrooms on the main floor - all waiting for our return to the JCC!



New 3 compartment kitchen sink and shiny new cabinets. All photos courtesy Greg Paige.



New flooring, stage curtains, track lighting along the wall and Asian inspired lights in the main hall area.



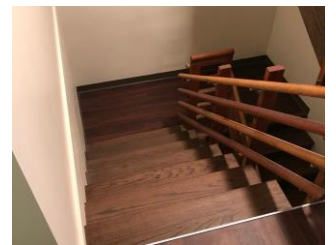
New flooring, stove, and stainless steel all around.



Pastor Brad's office, redone after extensive water damage and mold were discovered.



Business office and entry to Pastor's office.



Left: New working filtered drinking fountains!

Above: Back stairway to basement.