

The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ
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Pastor Brad Kramer
info@jccslc.net

Worship Schedule:

Adult and Nichigo Bible Study
9:30 a.m.

Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

December Activities

Sunday, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 24

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting during worship service.

Participants:

- Dec. 1 – Aramaki Family and Narumi Kanabuchi
- Dec. 8 – Elaine and Hiro Iwasaki
- Dec. 15 – Youth Group
- Dec. 22 – Mary Tabata and Pauline Vosburgh
- Dec. 24 – Kramer Family

Sunday, December 8

Agape Christmas Luncheon

East West Connection Restaurant, 1400 South Foothill
(Foothill Village), 12:30 p.m.

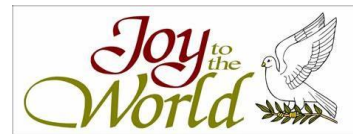
Cost TBD. A sign up sheet will be posted the first week in
December.

RSVP Suzanne Hata at suzhata@hotmail.com

Sunday, December 22

Christmas Service – Celebrate the birth of our Savior
during worship service beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The annual Christmas potluck will not be held this year
due to the Fellowship Hall remodeling, but join in
fellowship during coffee fellowship after worship service.



Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 p.m.

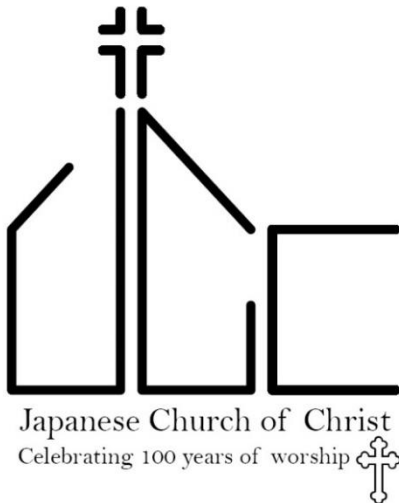
Candles and carols. Join us in
this annual event.



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: Greg Paige

Session

- Julee Mori, Finance
- Greg Paige, Personnel, Education
- Pauline Vosburgh, Worship
- Keiko Ikeda, Nichigo
- Patricia Arakaki Price, Membership
- Steve Fukumitsu, Building
- Yoko DeRose
- Allyn Nakashima
- Lorraine Crouse

Deacons

- Jan Aramaki, Karen Okawa, Akiko Oki, Misako Bowker, Wilma Kimura, Jean Kobayashi

Newsletter articles are due on the last Saturday of each month at **noon**. Send your articles to klokawa@msn.com

Website: www.jccslc.net

No Mochi

Please remember there will be no mochi fundraiser this year due to the Fellowship Hall remodel activities.

Remodeling Update

Submitted by Greg Paige

At press time, the framing and plumbing inspections were to take place (before 11/22) as well as upgraded electrical work to be inspected by 11/22. Once these inspections are signed off, sheetrock work will begin. The water lines to the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary were replaced. Several 1/4" to 1/2" diameter holes were found in the old, corroded galvanized piping. A new, larger water meter was installed in a vault in front of the church. All audio visual rough wiring is complete.

The Fellowship Hall Committee approved adding an option for approximately \$2500 that will allow strong internet service throughout the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary. Like the water and power upgrades, this will be valuable if, and when, the sanctuary is remodeled. The doors to the Fellowship Hall have been relocated too.

Work continues to try to sell (or donate to a worthy cause) our old stove, fridge and freezer. If anyone knows of a worthy cause, or potential buyer, please contact Greg Paige at gepaige@msn.com.

Condolences

Larry Harada passed away on November 11, 2019 after suffering from ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) for many years. Larry's keen sense of humor and laugh will be missed. He was always a willing volunteer with the Men's group at Easter breakfast and Thanksgiving dinner preparations. Keep Miki, Garin, Brach and Mariko in your prayers.

James Sugihara passed away at the age of 101 in Fargo, ND. He wed May Murakami at the JCC after WWII. Jim was the first person to receive a doctorate degree at the University of Utah. Private graveside services were held. Keep the Sugihara and Murakamis in prayer.

Wat Misaka passed away on November 20 at the age of 95. Wat was part of the University of Utah 1944 national championship team and was noted as the first person of color to play in the NBA. A devoted U of U fan, Wat was featured in a 2008 documentary "Transcending: the Wat Misaka Story" which told his story as a trailblazing athlete. A devout member of the JCC, we will miss seeing Wat attending bible study and seated in the back pew of worship service every week. Please keep Nancy and Hank in your prayers.

Remember in Your Prayers

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Toshiko Marse | Chris Miya | Miki Harada |
| Yolie LaFontaine | Susan Fukushima | Kai Ronning |
| Kenta Naraoka | Steve Fukushima | Marie Matsukawa |
| Toy Shimizu | Susan Rosvall | Tracy Barnes |
| Debbie Homma | Sumiko Rosvall | Nichole Kramer |
| Harada Family | Sugihara Family | Murakami Family |
| Misaka Family | | |

December 2019

As the holiday season quickly approaches, we are reminded again of the importance of giving thanks for the many blessings we enjoy. And it is true; as citizens of this country we have much for which to be thankful. I recently returned from a ministry trip to a country where many of the people do not enjoy the material blessings that we sometimes take for granted. In “soviet style” living, it appears that most everyone lives in small apartments, endures minimal job salaries, and would never think of having more than one car per family. In spite of all our problems, here at home, this is still a great nation in which to live.

But there is another “country” to which we will one day transfer our citizenship. The writer of Hebrews describes ancient heroes of the faith who sought a better country – “a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.” (Hebrews 11:16)

Those of us who have placed our trust in Jesus Christ as our Savior, can look forward with anticipation to a heavenly city; a glorious country that we will inhabit for eternity. As blessed as we are to live in this free and prosperous land, we can barely begin to conceive of what awaits us in Heaven. What a gift, Jesus has purchased for us!

So, as we celebrate the season of thanksgiving this year, let us be mindful of the Giver of all good gifts, as we declare with the Psalmist; “It is good to give thanks to the Lord.”

May God Bless You Richly,

Pastor Brad



December 2019 - Worship Service Participants

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	Music Worship December 29
Liturgist	Patty Price	Ron Nishijima	Julee Mori	Steve Fukumitsu	Laura Olson
Scripture Readers	E) Chris Lund J) Misako Bowker	E) Alison Cheung J) Yoko DeRose	E) Zach Paige J) Keiko Ikeda	E) Jan Aramaki J) Narumi Kanabuchi	E) Patty Price J) Toshiko Marse
Greeter	Mary Tabata	Betty Murakami	Karla Paige	Sadie Yoshimura	Wilma Kimura
Ushers	Misako Bowker Moto Lochner	Victor Homma Lorraine Crouse	Karen Okawa Sandy Ronning Brailynn Poorman	Mary Tabata Pauline Vosburgh	Lynne Crabbe Bryson Wilde
Organist/Pianist	Keiko Ikeda	Daniel Cheung	Greg Paige	Yas Iwamoto	Yoko DeRose
Offeratory Music					Nichigo Choir
Acolyte	---	---		---	---
Communion Servers	Al Kubota Ron Nishijima Laura Olson	---		---	---

JCC December Calendar

JCC December 2019 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 -Communion, 10:30am	2 -Taiko practice, 6pm	3	4 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	5	6 -Taiko practice, 6pm -Parking Brandi Carillon, 8pm	7 -Parking, Basketball, 1pm Jazz, 8pm
8 -Agape Christmas lunch, 12:30pm	9 -Taiko practice, 6pm -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	10 -Fellowship Hall Committee Meeting, 5pm	11	12	13 -Taiko practice, 6pm -Parking, Jazz, 8:30pm	14 -Parking, Beehive Classic, 1pm, 5pm
15	16 -Taiko practice, 6pm	17 -St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kit, 11:15 am	18	19	20 -Taiko practice, 6pm -Parking, Piano Guys, 7:30pm	21 -Herald deadline, noon -Parking, Jazz, 7pm
22 -Christmas Service, 10:30am	23 -Taiko practice, 6pm	24 -Christmas Eve Service, 6pm	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 -Parking, Jazz 8:30pm	27 -Parking, Cirque Musica, 7:30pm	28 -Parking, SLC Stars, 7pm
29	30 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	31				

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 11/25/19.

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

December Community Events

- **Saturday, December 7, 2019:** Mount Olympus JAACL Christmas Party, 12 noon at Dai Ichi Ward, 2005 South 900 East. Chapter provides chicken and drinks; bring a potluck item and can of food for the Utah Food Bank. There will be entertainment and guest appearance from Santa.
- **Saturday, December 14, 2019:** Nikkei Senior Center Christmas luncheon, to be held Red Maple Restaurant, 2882 West 4700 South, at noon. Seniors 85+ free, 65+ \$10.00.

Transcript from Rev. Fujii's Sermon

Reverend Hajimu Fujii was the guest speaker on Sunday, November 10, wrapping up the annual Nichigo retreat that weekend. Following is the transcript from his sermon.

Japanese Church of Christ Sunday Service Message "Grace of Living God's Plan"

Genesis 11:31-12:5 Theme Verse: Genesis 22:18

Thank you very much for inviting us for your worship service today. There are many problems in the world, and we have been struggling with the problems.

We have difficulties in dealing with our own problems and struggle sometimes. How can we overcome our lives' transitions, difficulties, and milestones?

Our church is now facing a major transition. We had 25 years anniversary on April 28, 2019. It is an important time for the church. We all face major transitions throughout our lives. We will learn how Abraham, our father of faith, overcame his life transitions and milestones. Let's learn from Abraham and we will have exciting and graceful life together.

1. Listening to God's words promptly is the first step to receive God's blessing

Certainly your work, education, family, and friends are important for you, but if they are more important than God, those will be idolatries.

When you cherish and adore something more than God, those will be idolatries. God knew that if Abraham stays in Uru with his family, he cannot accomplish God's plan.

Abraham decided to leave from his 'idolatries' when he heard God's words.

The first words I, Hajimu had heard from God was Genesis 1:1. When I heard the word, my eyes were wide-opened and understood that God is real; He created the heaven and the earth. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

My (Hajimu Fujii's) fingerprints are the only one uniquely created fingerprints in the world. That is the evidence that God created me. There is no doubt about that.

This scripture helped me to make a decision to leave from my own idolatries. Listening to God's words promptly is the first step to receive God's blessing.

Why don't we leave from our own idolatries today?

"Go to the land that I tell you to go." You can go to God's promised land (road) if you leave from your idolatries. Abraham left from his idolatries and departed to God's promised land, Canaan, the land that God showed him to go.

Where is the land that God shows you?

Ephesian 5:5 "For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."

When we leave from our idolatries, we can move toward the God's and Christ's land, the final destination, Heaven.

Are you aiming toward the land that God showed you?

2. Life following God's words.

"And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there." Genesis 11:31

A. Difficulties of following.

"and they came to Haran and dwelt there. "Abraham left Uru as following God's words with considerable effort, but after all he lived in Haran.

Abraham did not go to Canaan, he stayed in Haran, the middle way to Canaan. Maybe he needed to take care of his elderly father? or he simply liked Haran.

Did he forget the God's words?

I started my own pharmaceutical business when I was 26. After working hard as a pharmacist for 11 years or so I became a Christian when I was 37. After becoming a Christian for 6 months or so I had a calling from God.

The business was blessed and prospered. However, I had been very dissatisfied to continue my business, and prayed one day, "Lord. help me. Show me the way that I need to go." then surprisingly three pastors had visited me without any appointments on that day. I was thrilled.

I understood that God is leading me to become a pastor.

I chose to be a part-time seminary student for 8 years.

I was working as a pharmacist and also was studying at the biblical seminary.

Apparently I had difficulties to fully commit to the God's words.

However, God loves us and he chooses the best time for us to follow Him.

He chose the best time for me.

B. God who chooses the time

Abraham's dad passed away at age 205 when Abraham was 75-years-old.

God spoke to Abraham. "Abraham. Did you forget? I told you to go to Canaan. This is the time to go."

God told Abraham to follow God's plan.

(Fujii Transcript Continued)

Abraham decided to follow God's plan when he was 75 years old. Abraham's life was reset from his personal plan to God's plan. I had attended Biblical seminary in Japan as a part-time student for 8 years.

When I was 45 years old, I took many courses in one semester. I had stayed up till late at night to prepare for my final exams.

Then I sprained my lower back because of my sleep deprivation, and I could not study or work for a while.

"Do not wear two shoes." (Japanese proverb 'kotowaza': Means We can only wear one pair of shoes at a time.

We can only fully commit to one task/job).

At that time, God led me by the scripture "for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." Philippians 2:13.

Finally, I decided to fully commit to God. God knows the best timing for all of us.

I reseted my life at age 45, and decided to fully commit to God.

How about you? Are you stumbling somewhere in the middle of God's planned pathway, and not moving toward His goal?

How about making a decision today to commit to God?

3. Life receiving Lord's blessings.

If you follow God's words, your life will be blessed.

"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Genesis 12:2-3

A. You need patience to receive God's promise. "God was saying to Abraham, 'I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.' And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised." Hebrew 6:14-15

B. Abraham believed in God and patiently kept following God.

God kept promise through Abraham and his descendants: "Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made.

He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as of many, but as of one, 'And to your Seed,' who is Christ." Galatians 3:16

His faith was transcended to his Jewish' family.

Eventually King David was born from his descendants, and also as prophesied in the Bible Jesus Christ was born.

God described about the savior in the old testaments; the savior is Jesus Christ, son of God. Jesus Christ was crucified and dead on behalf of our sins.

If you believe in Jesus Christ, you will be forgiven and you will be purified. Your relationship with God will be restored, and you will be able to go to Heaven. Your kids and descendants will be blessed, and will be able to inherit God's land.

Conclusion:

When you face major life transitions, difficult problems, and suffer from those problems, please remember, it is our time to listen to God's words.

Abraham listened to God and followed Him.

As a result his descendants had been blessed.

If you listened to and follow God's words today, you will be blessed and also your descendants will be blessed God will bless you and your family.

Your descendants' blessings are depending upon your faith.

Let's follow God's plans and receive his blessings and we will be able to bless others.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jean Tokuda Irwin, who will be honored by the Utah Humanities Alliance as a Special Honoree at the UCA Annual Luncheon on December 5 for her work as Arts Education Program Manager for the Utah Division of Arts and Museums. It is well deserved recognition; congrats Jean!

Fundraiser Thank You

Thanks to everyone who supported the JCC at the Holiday Boutique the weekend of November 23 and 24. We appreciate everyone who contributed merchandise to sell; there was a wide range of items: wreaths, teriyaki sauce, pottery, greeting cards, and rubber stamps!

Proceeds from this event will help fund transportation costs for those that will attend Mount Hermon and Zephyr Point conferences next summer. Thanks again to all for your support!