

The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ
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Pastor Brad Kramer
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Worship Schedule:

Canceled until further notice
due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Pastor's Message

May 2021

Greetings,

I would like you to consider this great passage from the book of Hebrews. I will share a few thoughts on it; and then ask that you would take time this month to meditate on the great truths it teaches.

Hebrews 4:15-16

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Let me offer you a couple of points:

1. Jesus Christ, as the God-man was tempted during His time on earth. And not just a little. The writer here says Jesus was tempted in every way, just as we are. And yet He did not sin. Why is this important to us? Well first off, because of Jesus' faithfulness, you and I have a high priest who cannot not sympathize with our own moral weaknesses. Believe it or not Jesus deeply understands the temptations we go through in our lives. In fact it is impossible for Him to not understand the trials we experience. And so what that means ultimately according to scholar Peter O' Brien is "Jesus' own experience of suffering and trials during His earthly life equipped Him so that He is able to support His people in their sufferings and temptations."

2. So with that being the case, we are then encouraged to approach His throne of grace with the confident expectation that Jesus will bless us with His grace and mercy in a way that is tied to His own understanding of trials as a man. Isn't that beautiful? More than that, it brings great encouragement and hope. Even His throne is described as being characterized by grace. When you and I find ourselves overwhelmed by all the "stuff" of life, we can immediately and without hesitation come to Jesus for help; knowing that He will provide it graciously.

I hope this passage blesses you and that you will take time in the coming weeks to let it seep into your soul.

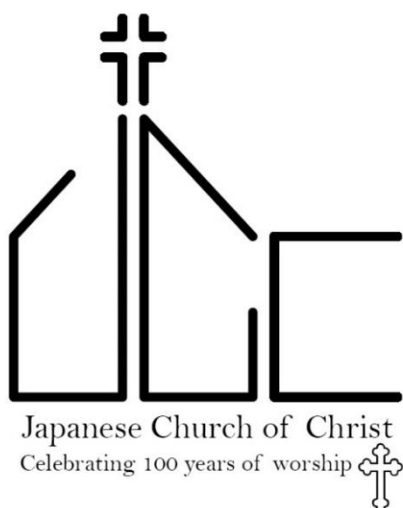
God Bless You Richly,

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: Daniel Cheung

Session

Lorraine Crouse - Worship
 Steve Fukumitsu - Stewardship
 Paul DeRose - Building and Grounds
 Yoko DeRose - Nichigo
 Allyn Nakashima - Membership
 Greg Paige - Education, Personnel
 Pauline Vosburgh - Finance

Deacons

Karen Okawa (moderator), Jan Aramaki,
 Akiko Oki, Julee Mori, Jean Kobayashi,
 Laura Olson, Elaine Iwasaki

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

Website: www.jccslc.net

Welcome Back Soon

There is still a month to go, but remember to circle **Sunday, June 20, 2021** on your calendar for the annual **Father's Day Picnic!**

This is the current plan to return to in-person worship on June 27th. The event will take place in the JCC courtyard which will allow us to social distance in an outdoor setting (weather permitting).

After worship service, please stay for the "picnic" if you choose. It will be BYOB (Bring Your Own Bento). (No potluck.) It will be a great time for fellowship and to visit with members of the JCC family in person that you haven't seen for more than a year!

This event will depend on the status of the pandemic and vaccination rates and state and local guidance. More details will be announced in the June Herald.

**Call for Graduates – Class of 2021**

If you are a High School or College Senior (or know someone that is) that will be graduating in the Class of 2021, submit the graduate's name by **May 30, 2021** to Greg Paige at [gepaige1 \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:gepaige1@gmail.com).



Honorees' names will be included in the June Herald next month. All graduates will be honored during the Father's Day picnic.

"Our Daily Bread" Available

The next quarterly edition of Our Daily Bread (June, July and August) is now available.

If you would like a copy mailed to you, send a request to the JCC email address, info@jccslc.net.

**Remember in Your Prayers**

Due to COVID-19 and the fact that we have not been able to be together in person, it has been difficult to keep this prayer list up to date. If you or know of someone that should be added or removed from this list, please email the JCC website, jccslc.net, and indicate what should be updated. Thank you!

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

Toshiko Marse	Chris Miya	Kai Ronning
Kenta Naraoka	Saeko Nakashima	Dorthie Conway
Toy Shimizu	Susan Fukushima	Susan Rosvall
Betty Morishita	Steve Fukushima	Sumiko Rosvall
Mary Tabata		

Faith Journey

Personal testimony from Zach Paige

Growing up, 3 things were always constant: family, friends, and the Church family. All 3 went hand in hand and always accompanied one another. When one was missing, something was out of balance.

The Church family has always been a major part of my life and continues to be to this day. From since I can remember, I was around JCC and cared for by everyone in the congregation. Through the years, there are countless people to thank for helping shape me into the person I am today.

I am blessed to have grown up around those people who invested in me from a young age. As I grew, I was constantly reminded of God's grace and love through the actions of those around me. Through thick and thin and through the highs and lows, that support never wavered and that is something I will forever be grateful for. I was shown what true love is, which is a direct reflection of God's great love for us.

That steadiness and love that has been demonstrated by the people of JCC is what makes it special. JCC carries a special place in everybody's heart, and it is the people that make it a unique place that one comes to appreciate over time.

Looking back, I am thankful for all of the experiences I've had. I've been nurtured and grown in my faith, and always been supported at every level. The foundation and support over the years, and the opportunity to grow in and outside of the Church, are things that have helped shape me into the person I am today. For that, I will be forever grateful.

If you would like to share your personal testimony, submit it to the JCC email address, info@jccslc.net. Herald submission deadline is always the last Saturday of the month, by noon.

Church Women United – May Friendship Day Celebration 2021

When: Friday, May 7, 2021 (1st Friday)

Time: 9:30 a.m. – Morning

Where: ZOOM (via an internet device)

PRE-REGISTRATION Requested: You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

May 7, 2021 09:30 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZ0ofuGvrD8sG9LvFkuN_Nhm-bkq2pG6HeeA

(Copy and paste the above link in your browser.)

LIGHTSIDE



THEY ALL GAVE OUT OF THEIR WEALTH:
BUT SHE, OUT OF HER POVERTY, PUT IN
EVERYTHING-ALL SHE HAD TO LIVE ON.

MARK 12:44

Church Women United (Continued)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Contact Kathy Horvat at 801-502-0708 with any ZOOM concerns.

Theme: "Becoming ONE in 2021 – Making Room at the Table"

Keynote Speaker: Matt Minkevich, Food Pantry Director, Crossroads Urban Center

Annual FLC: Fellowship of the Least Coin Collection / Dedication

Potential Speakers: Esther Williams Scholarship Fund Recipients

Community Outreach: The CWU Esther Williams Scholarship Fund Make checks payable to "Church Women United" and note "Scholarship Fund"

Offering: Used for CWU State and Local Programs. Checks need to be made payable to: "Church Women United" and mailed to:

Desta Aure, Treasurer
10227 Hickory Pt. Dr.
Sandy, UT 84092

Japantown Update

First South Street and Church Parking Lots

Submitted by Jani Iwamoto

Our south parking lot is almost done! Through negotiations with the Ritchie Group, we obtained a monetary settlement last year, as well as other improvements to benefit our church, the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple (SLBT), and our street – First South.

Negotiations also include a forthcoming, further allotment for the overage of time to complete the JCC south parking lot. The SLBT had a separate settlement for its parking lot. The main reason for the parking lots, which was done in partnership with the SLBT, was so that we will be on the same level with the Ritchie Group development. In the future, we can benefit from the energy flow back and forth to our street. Our past, existing parking lot level would have been many feet higher than the new development.

Initially, the agreement was for asphalt paving (as existed prior), but we were able to negotiate the use of concrete which has many more positive aspects, including lasting for a much longer period of time. The bollards still need to be painted when weather conditions are better. Electronic arms will be installed at a significant cost and will potentially, be of great economic benefit to us.

This was an intense process for the past two years and although the development on Block 67 is on private property, other added features were also negotiated to lessen the impact for our church, including a front facing entry to a business, outside dining tables, greenery, and a yet-to-be determined mural on the apartment building's east side.

A special thank you to Attorney Gary G. Sackett of the Jones Waldo law firm, whom I asked to represent our church in reviewing all documents – he did so on a Pro Bono (free!) basis. The SLBT had an attorney as well, and we worked in tandem regarding our respective parking lots. Thank you to our Session and Board of Trustees for their time and effort to affirm difficult decisions.

Now we hope to look forward, while honoring our past and our Issei and Nisei. “Okage Sama De”, “I am who I am because of you”, and a new vision for the future of Japantown. Many members of our church participated in this new vision which has been a process for the past year. It is a beautiful vision in partnership with Salt Lake City Redevelopment Agency (RDA) which provided for a \$100,000 study by the GSBS architect and design firm, and along, with Salt Lake County, funding in the future through tax increment. This process will take time; but we are committed to move forward, in public and private partnerships. Consul General of Japan Midori Takeuchi expressed support and excitement.

We will be planning a celebration to publicly unveil these plans - anticipate this event in the Fall of 2021.

For more information, visit the Salt Lake City RDA website:

slcrda.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CBD-Japantown-Project-Profile.pdf

Also, a story and video appeared on Fox 13 on April 23:

www.fox13now.com/news/local-news/plans-unveiled-for-revamp-of-slcs-historic-japantown

Okage sama de

“I am who I am because of you”

A place of remembrance and respect

A place that thrives over time

A place of inclusion