

## The HERALD Newsletter

### Japanese Church of Christ

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JCC in-person Sunday worship services are suspended until further notice.  
Go to [www.jccslc.net](http://www.jccslc.net) to view the weekly sermon.

## Pastoral Message

January 2022

In January, the traditional church calendar moves from Christmas into the season of Epiphany. Epiphany remembers that the God of the universe made himself known through Jesus (John 1:14). The remembrance of Christ's divinity during Epiphany *completes* the remembrance of His humanity during Advent (Matt 1:23). I believe this is an important reminder as we enter 2022.

New seasons usually bring these mixed feelings of hopeful excitement and worry about the unknown. This may feel especially true in the new year, but it is true of any new season. A new home project brings the hope of renovation and the dread of unforeseen costs or delays. A new child or grandchild brings the joy of new life and the worry of "what did they put in their mouth this time." Newness always involves some degree of the unknown.

Messages in the new year are usually filled with notes of hope and optimism. As Christ-followers, we have every reason for hopeful excitement all year round. But you may also be feeling a little bit of anxiety over uncertainty. As we greet friends and neighbors with the customary "Happy new year," our feelings may actually be more mixed.

2022 may be a new season for you personally. This will also be a new season for JCC as we embark on a mission study and pastoral search. As we face the unknowns of the new year, we need not fear the unknown with Christ. But even when we have those anxieties, we can take them to Jesus – our Savior who is fully human and fully divine.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:6-7)

In His Service,  
The JCC Session

## A Message from Session

Dear JCC Family:

Happy new year! We are cautiously optimistic as we begin the new year. We will continue to hold services virtually in January as we continue to monitor safety. We are also making plans for the slow transition back to in-person events in 2022. You can find the virtual Sunday services and more information about any planned return at [www.jccslc.net](http://www.jccslc.net).

The new year begins a new season for JCC with the departure of Pastor Kramer, who served as interim pastor since 2010. One of the challenges facing the church is the need to preserve the rich history and tradition of the JCC community while growing the congregation, including a focus on youth. The Session felt that a different direction was needed to create a sustainable future for JCC.

A mission study and formal pastoral search were not conducted after the departure of JCC's last installed senior pastor in 2010. We will be discussing this process during the congregational meeting, which is scheduled for noon on Sunday, February 13, 2022. We ask that you please mark that date on your calendars. The meeting will be held on Zoom, and depending on the health situation, may be offered in a "hybrid" format with limited attendance in person.

In all of these things, we are mindful of Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Please continue to pray for the church (Eph 6:18).

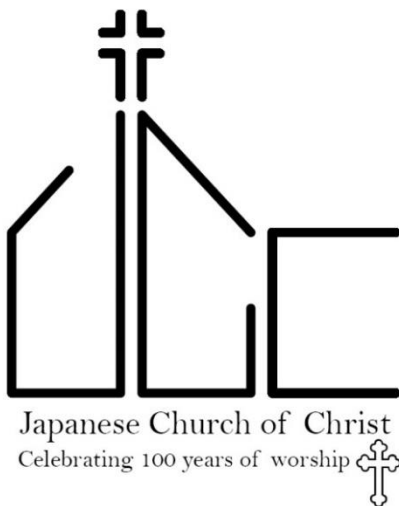
Finally, we want to express our deep gratitude for everyone who helped to keep the church running in 2021. So many hands and countless hours prop the church up as a community and as a family. Whether behind the scenes or on camera (literally), we are so grateful for the many hands and countless hours that allowed us to be together – both literally and figuratively.

No matter what 2022 may hold, we will continue to need your help. If you feel comfortable participating in our virtual worship, please contact Lorraine Crouse. If you have not submitted your pledge for 2022, you may submit your form at [www.jccslc.net/pledge](http://www.jccslc.net/pledge); your pledges are extremely important to us. We continue to need assistance with bookkeeping and administrative support. Finally, if you know of any needs of the church or its members, please contact the Deacons. Whatever gifts you are able to give to the church are valued and appreciated!

**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: Vacant**

**Clerk of Session: Daniel Cheung**

**Session (outgoing)**

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

**Deacons (outgoing)**

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@gmail.com](mailto:jccherald@gmail.com).

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

**Final Thoughts from Pastor Brad**

As many of you probably know, the Session of JCC has declined to renew my contract, which means my last day will be December 31, 2021. Even though my plan was continue as your Pastor, I am confident that God has something else in store for Keri and me, which will enable us to continue to serve Him.

I am deeply grateful to God for the privilege of serving this community the past 11 years. Our Lord has shown His grace and mercy toward all of us in countless ways. From the beginning, the people of JCC treated the Kramers as family; and many of you these past few weeks have reminded me that this bond will not be broken. I'd like to think that I have grown as a shepherd through good times and bad at JCC, and trust that many of you have grown in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as well. I will always reflect upon this season with genuine appreciation for all of you. Keri and our children, Bradly, Madison and Nichole as well as I, would greatly appreciate your prayers during this transition.

I leave you with these words from Psalm 33:20-21:

*Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield  
For our heart rejoices in Him, because we trust in His holy name.*

Always remember we serve a great God.

Pastor Brad

**2022 Congregational Meeting**

The 2022 JCC annual congregational meeting will be held virtually via Zoom in the new year. The meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 13, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.** Depending on the COVID-19 situation, the meeting may be offered in a "hybrid" format. Details on joining the meeting and distribution of the annual report will be included in the February Herald. Please stay tuned!

**Per Capita Amount**

The Annual Per Capita one-time amount per JCC baptized member for the year 2022 is **\$41.48**. Please indicate on your check that it is your Per Capita remittance.

**Annual Report Deadline**

Reports to be included in the annual report (you know who you are!) are due on **January 22, 2022**. Submit your articles to Daniel Cheung by email to [info@jccslc.net](mailto:info@jccslc.net) or to his home address listed in the church directory.

**Remember in Your Prayers**

If you or know of someone that should be added or removed from this list, please email the JCC website, [jccslc.net](http://jccslc.net).

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

- |                 |                   |                 |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Toshiko Marse   | Saeko Nakashima   | Sumi Arakaki    |
| Kenta Naraoka   | Susan Fukushima   | Dortheie Conway |
| Betty Morishita | Steve Fukushima   | Susan Rosvall   |
| Mary Tabata     | Robin Sueoka Puri | Sumiko Rosvall  |
| Chris Miya      | Kai Ronning       |                 |

**2022 Pledges and Offering Envelopes**

Once again, the offering envelope boxes will not be distributed as usual due to COVID-19. Offerings can be mailed to the JCC street address. For those who have not been able to submit your pledges for 2022, please help us prepare our 2022 budget online at [www.jccslc.net/pledge](http://www.jccslc.net/pledge) or by mailing the pledge form to the JCC street address.

**Lake Tahoe News**

Greetings LTF Family,

We have missed you! And hope you are doing well! We know the virus put a damper on everyone’s lives and many have lost loved ones. We send our love and uplifting prayers.

Reverend John Oda has graciously agreed to be our speaker and return to the Zephyr Point Conference Center. He was so dynamic in the past and we know he will not disappoint! John is coming all the way from Georgia! Please come back and join us from **Sunday, July 24 thru Friday, July 29, 2022** to hear Reverend John and for some much needed fellowship!

We have reserved 20 rooms at the Tallac Lodge.

This coming year, we have added a golf cart to assist you in getting around Zephyr!

Like in the past, we have scheduled a bus from San Jose and Sacramento. If needed, we will also have the bus stop in Berkeley, CA.

This year, we require all participants to have been vaccinated. You will need to send a photo or photocopy of your vaccination card. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Please let your family and friends know of the conference and registration packets will be out in mid-January.

Happy Holidays to you all!

Sending Blessings your way,  
Lori Lee

**Jersey Retirement**

The University of Utah will be retiring Wat Misaka’s basketball jersey at halftime of the Utah/USC men’s basketball game on **Saturday, January 22, 2022**. Tipoff for the game is 4:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased through the University of Utah ticket office if you would like to attend.

Wat was an active member of the JCC who played on the 1944 University of Utah men’s basketball NCAA championship team. He was the first “person of color” and first Asian American to play in the NBA. Now his jersey will hang from the rafters of the Huntsman Center!



**Nominations for JCC Officers**

New officers of the JCC will be installed next month at the congregational meeting. The number of nominations open for each office are:

- Session - 1 nomination
- Deacons - 2 nominations
- Board of Trustees - 1 nominations

Confirmed nominations are Lynne Ward, Session; Karen Okawa, Deacons and Rick Aoki, Trustees.

Thank you to those that have continued to serve diligently, especially during the past two “different” years.

## Church Women United Event

*A multi faith gathering of Christian Women*

Mark your calendar and plan to attend CWU's Annual Meeting.

**When:** Friday, January 28, 2022 (Last Friday of the month)

**Time:** 12:30 p.m.

**Where:** Cottonwood Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall  
1580 East Vine (6100 South), SLC, UT 84121

Keynote Speaker: TBA

Election and Installation of CWU Officers

Tea / Social / Fellowship

Community Outreach: Afghan Refugees Specific items for Donation TBA. Cash Donations: Checks Payable to "Church Women United," designated for Afghan Refugees

Free-will Offering: Stays with Local SLC / Bountiful CWU Unit: Checks need to be made payable to "Church Women United".

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## Christian New Year's Resolutions

*From "Equipping Godly Women"*

Here are a few resolutions you can make in 2022:

1. Read Your Bible 20 Minutes a Day, Every Day
2. Go to Church Every Week Without Fail
3. Set Aside 15 Minutes Each Day to Pray
4. Join a Bible Study
5. Try Fasting
6. Ask a Friend to Church
7. Begin Volunteering
8. Start Tithing
9. Read a Christian Books Each Month
10. Memorize Scripture
11. Forgive Past Grudges
12. Break an Addiction
13. Find a Mentor or Accountability Partner
14. Be a More Loving/Involved Wife, Mother or Friend
15. Be Content With What You Have
16. Keep the Sabbath
17. Refuse to Gossip
18. Listen to Christian Music
19. Stop Complaining
20. Do Random Acts of Kindness

## Living with COVID-19: the Omicron variant

*Submitted by Allyn Nakashima*

As with all viruses, mutations are constantly occurring with the SARS-CoV-2 that causes COVID-19. The vast majority of these mutations do not affect the virus's abilities to infect people or change the disease characteristics. However, occasionally mutations that produce significant changes that improve transmissibility.

The Delta variant and the Omicron variant are two viruses with increased transmissibility characteristics. The Omicron variant is particularly transmissible and has already replaced the Delta variant as the primary cause of new infections. Because of its increased transmissibility characteristics, many people will acquire the Omicron variant during the holidays, despite full vaccination and booster status. However, this variant may produce less severe disease. Fully vaccinated persons who have also received boosters, appear to have mild or asymptomatic illness when infected with the Omicron variant. Over 80% of cases requiring hospitalization are among unvaccinated persons.

A new oral antiviral drug to treat COVID-19 was approved by the FDA in the past week. Paxlovid is a combination drug consisting of two antiviral agents: nirmatrelvir and ritonavir. It should become widely available in about a month. If taken soon after infection, this drug may be especially useful to mitigate symptoms in elderly and immunocompromised persons. Check with your primary care provider about this drug.

Due to the increases in COVID-19 symptoms during the holidays, testing supplies are in short supply and many testing sites are overtaxed.

During the holidays, it is important to avoid family gatherings and other group situations if anyone has flu or cold symptoms. To prevent Omicron, avoid group gatherings if everyone is not masked. Many venues, such as, theater, concerts or movies, are safer if the venue requires proof of vaccination.