

## The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ

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**In-person worship services will resume on Sunday, April 3, 2022.**

The weekly sermons may also be viewed at [www.jccslc.net](http://www.jccslc.net).

### Pastoral Message

April 2022

#### Reflection

Psalm 91

Lent season is in full swing. It is the time and season when we are especially invited to ponder about the life and death of Jesus Christ and the meaning of God in our lives.

Though we let our clock spring forward for an hour, the days are still shorter, the nights are longer. Though Spring is mightily breaking through wherever we look, we are still surrounded by darkness and shadows. Those can cause in us anxiety, loneliness, sadness. We long for the longer, warmer, sunnier days to come.

“You who sit down in the High God’s presence, spend the night in Shaddai’s shadow, say this: ‘GOD, you’re my refuge. I trust in you and I’m safe!’ ”

Those are the first words the Psalmist proclaims to us, his audience. We hear that we dwell and live in the presence of God. But not only our days, our good times, our positive ways dwell with God, we also live with El Shaddai’s (the Hebrew name for “God Almighty”) shadow during the night. Day and night, life and death, happiness and sadness are all embraced by the presence of God. As much we might think we are left alone, being without God, the Psalmist reminds us that all our lives, all of our being is, happens and exists in the presence of God - in the open during the day and in the shadows during the night. Knowing that nothing of our existence is without God, the Psalmist gives us words of gratitude on our tongues: “God, you are my refuge. I trust in you and I am safe”. What a wonderful gift we are given while we journey through Lent.

What does that mean to you? What do you need refuge for? What is burdening your heart? What is hidden in the shadows and needs to be brought out of the darkness into the presence of God?

At the end of our Lenten Journey is Easter – the day of hope and joy!

Because of Easter we can hear Jesus Christ clearly saying to us:

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Jesus went into the suffering for us, this is the truth. And on the cross, he experienced the darkest moment in a human life: being separated from God, dead and alone. But El Shaddai (“God Almighty”) showed through Jesus that the power of love is stronger than death, stronger than all shadows in our lives, that is life, eternal life. But during this entire time of suffering and pain Jesus never forgot to reach out and heal, be with and love sinners like us, and this is the way.

May the hope and joy of Easter break into the shadows of your life to show you the truth, life and way.

Easter hope and joy to all of you!

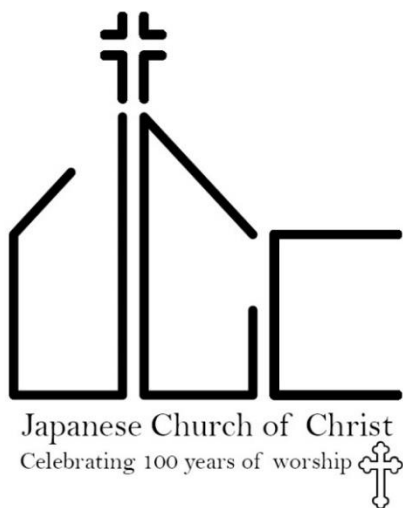
Rev. Mirjam Haas-Melchior



**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**

- Lorraine Crouse - Worship
- Steve Fukumitsu - Building and Grounds
- Yoko DeRose - Nichigo
- Allyn Nakashima - Membership
- Pauline Vosburgh - Finance
- Lynne Ward - Personnel
- Gary Nakao

**Deacons**

- Karen Okawa (moderator), Jan Aramaki, Julee Mori, Laura Olson, Elaine Iwasaki, Elise Mori, Yuri Uyeda

Newsletter articles are due on the fourth 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)

**Welcome Back!**

As many of you have already heard from the weekly announcements on YouTube, the JCC will reopen again for in-person worship beginning on **Sunday, April 3, 2022** in the Fellowship Hall. Spread the word!

As with our first reopening last June, similar COVID protocols will still be in place:

- Facemasks must be worn while inside the buildings
- Proof of vaccination required
- No food to be consumed indoors (no Coffee Fellowship)
- Practice good hygiene – wash hands often, use hand sanitizer, cover coughs and sneezes
- Promote social distancing

As always, if you do not feel well, stay home. Follow CDC guidance if COVID symptoms develop.

The latest COVID updates from the Reopening Task Force are found on the JCC website: <https://jccslc.net/reopening>

Sunday worship services will continue to be posted on the [jccslc.net](http://jccslc.net) website each week for those that are unable to attend in-person.

April 3 is also Communion Sunday and we will be using the pre-filled Communion cups. April 10 will be Palm Sunday service.

**Easter Worship Service – April 17**

The Easter worship service will be held in-person this year! However, some of our traditional events will not take place, such as Maundy Thursday services and the Easter breakfast. For the safety of all, we are taking baby-steps in reopening, but are happy to be able to celebrate Easter together again in-person.

Worship service will begin at **10:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 17, 2022**. Our guest speaker will be Reverend Mirjam Haas-Melchior, Executive Prebyter of the Presbytery of Utah. Communion will also be shared at this service and an Easter egg hunt will be held in the courtyard for the children; so bring the whole family!



For those wishing to observe Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, the Ogden Christian Church is holding virtual services via Zoom, but need to know in advance so your name may be put on a distribution list. Contact the Ogden Christian Church or Lorraine Crouse if you wish to be added to the list.



**Condolences**

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of Mary Tabata, who passed away on March 17, 2022 at the age of 95. Mary was a faithful and dedicated member of the JCC who lived a very active and fulfilled life. Her family came first and she was a proud mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Please keep Chris, Calvin, Pauline, Linda and Laura in your prayers.

Memorial services will be held at the JCC on **Saturday, April 2, 2022** at 11:00 a.m. A viewing will take place prior to the service from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Burial will take place following the service at Memorial Estates Mountain View, 3115 East 7800 South.

**Adult Bible Study – In Person**

In-person Adult Bible Study will resume at church on **April 3 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Sanctuary/Issei Lounge. For those out of state or shut-in, the class will be accessible on Zoom (as it has been for the last year and half). Greg Paige will send out the weekly Zoom link. We will continue with our study of the book of Exodus. Hope to see you all there!

**Church Cleanup**

To prepare for the upcoming Easter worship service, a church cleanup will take place on **Saturday, April 9, 2022** from **8:00 a.m. to noon.**

**Presbyterian Women of Utah  
2022 Spring Gathering**

“Pictures of Grace”

Presented by Lynn Ann Lescenski

APRIL 22-23, 2022

Friday 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Community Presbyterian Church  
2279 N Wedgewood Ln  
Cedar City, UT 84721

To honor the health of all participants, masks will be requested when indoors and vaccinations are encouraged.

REGISTER TODAY!!

Registration Deadline: April 10

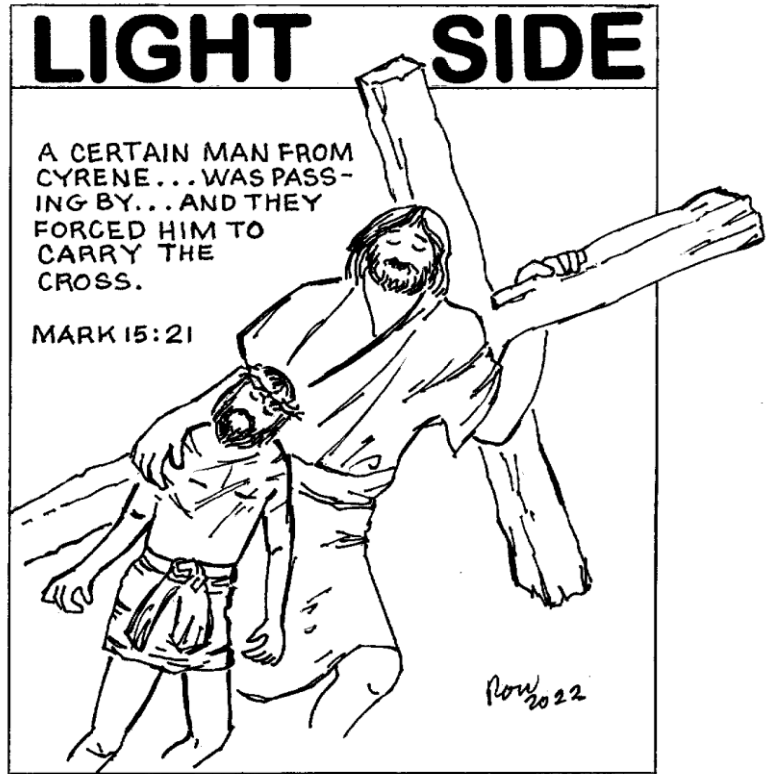
\$15 registration fee includes 2 meals (payable at registration on Friday)

Please contact Jane McCoy, jane.r.mccoy@gmail.com to register. Let Jane know if this is your first time at a Gathering and/or any dietary needs

Saturday will be the business meeting, workshops with our presenter Lynn Ann Lescenski, worship, and lunch. Worship will be led by Celeste Lasich, interim pastor at Cedar City Community Church.

**Lost and Found**

A pair of glasses which appear to be prescription, in tortoise brown plastic frames was turned in by the Salt Palace Grounds Supervisor. They were found last week at the base of the gate chain at the church driveway. They are in the office if anyone knows who they belong to.



**Remember in Your Prayers**

If you wish to be added or know of someone that should be added or removed from this list, please email the JCC website, jccslc.net. Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

- |                   |                 |                |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Saeko Nakashima   | Toshiko Marse   | Susan Rosvall  |
| Susan Fukushima   | Kenta Naraoka   | Sumiko Rosvall |
| Steve Fukushima   | Betty Morishita | Chris Miya     |
| Robin Sueoka Puri | Jason L. Moses  | Sumi Arakaki   |
| Lillian Nakamura  | Dorthie Conway  | Kai Ronning    |
|                   | Tabata Family   |                |

**Chase Home Museum Exhibit**

The Chase Home Museum of Utah Folk Arts will feature an exhibition on Japanese folk art and Salt Lake City’s Japantown entitled “Japantown in the Heart of Salt Lake City” from **April 29 through June 30, 2022**. The exhibit will feature Japanese art forms from local artists as well as displays on Salt Lake City’s former Japantown and plans for the future.

Hours at the museum are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and admission is free. The museum is located in the middle of Liberty Park. To visit, enter the park from either 900 or 1300 South and follow signs to the parking lots near the center of the park. From each parking lot, there are sidewalks leading to the museum.

### Thank You Judy

Thank you, Judy Takeno Teagan! With her very skillful talent and artistry, Judy restored the chair donated long ago by Mrs. Joy Hashimoto, in memory and in honor of her father, Dr. George Y. Takeyama. The chair will again grace occasions at the church. Judy generously donated her time and all the materials required for this restoration.



### Living with COVID-19: What about a 2nd booster (or 4th dose of vaccine)?

Submitted by Allyn Nakashima

Many people are wondering if there will be a recommendation for a 4th dose of COVID-19 vaccine (2nd booster) soon. Currently, CDC and its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (-composed of vaccine experts across the country) don't think there is enough scientific evidence to support the need for a 4th dose of vaccine even for people over the age of 65 years.

A study of healthcare workers in Israel showed that about 20% of those receiving a 4th dose of vaccine became infected with Omicron compared with 25% of those who had received 3 doses. This slight, if any, benefit does not currently justify recommending a 4th dose of COVID-19 vaccine. The one exception is for persons who are severely immunocompromised such as cancer patients receiving chemotherapy or radiation.

If you think you may need a 4th dose of COVID-19 vaccine, consult with your primary care physician.

### Manju Fundraiser

Five piece manju plate (2 pieces of peanut butter/ chocolate, 2 mochiko and 1 dorayaki) for \$7.00. Proceeds will benefit the travel fund for Lake Tahoe Retreat and/or Mount Hermon conference. Deadline to order is **Monday, April 25, 2022**. Call (801) 718-2006 or email mcj925[at]gmail[dot]com or order online at [www.lumbinigarden.com](http://www.lumbinigarden.com).

Pick up your order at Lumbini's Garden, 235 West 100 South between noon and 4:00 p.m. on **Saturday, April 30, 2022**. Call (801) 628-8015 or (801) 718-2006 when you arrive for contact-less pickup.

### Topaz Stories Reception

A reception for the "Topaz Stories" exhibit at the Utah State Capitol will be held on April 22, 2022 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda. The event is free and open to the public.

#### JCC April 2022 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 <b>COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> -Bible Study, 9:30am -In-person worship service, 10:30am	4	5 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	6 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	7	8 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	9 -Church Cleanup, 8am to noon -Deacons Mtg, 10:30am -Parking, John Mulaney, 7pm
10 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> -Bible Study, 9:30am -In-person worship service, 10:30am	11	12	13	14 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	15 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	16
17 <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> -Bible Study, 9:30am -In-person worship service, 10:30am	18	19	20 -Session Meeting (Zoom), 6pm	21	22	23 -Herald Deadline
24 -Bible Study, 9:30am -In-person worship service, 10:30am	25	26	27	28	29	30 -Parking, Eric Church, 8pm

\*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 3/26/2022.

For up to date building use information, go to [www.icclsc.net](http://www.icclsc.net), Events/Activities tab, JCC Building Usage Schedule link