

Tokyo Union Church

July 24th, 2011 at 10:00 am

PRELUDE

“Our Father Who Art in Heaven”

J. L. Krebs

(* Please Stand; ◇◇ Late Seating)

INTROIT

Sanctuary Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)

Liturgist: Rika Nakajima

Leader: Awesome God, we sing for joy to you, for you are our strength.

People: We come in joy to worship you, O God, for you are our everlasting strength.

Leader: When everything in our lives is going smoothly,

People: You are our strength.

Leader: When calamity strikes and life is hard,

People: You are our strength.

Leader: When we are happy, and when sadness overwhelms us,

People: You are our strength.

Leader: When we are young, and when we are old. When we are enjoying good health and when our health fails us,

People: You are our strength.

Leader: When we are surrounded by those who love us, and when we are all alone,

People: You are our strength.

Leader: We come in joy to worship you, O God, for you are our ever-present strength.

All: All praise be unto you, our strong and loving God. Amen.

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION – No. 150 “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Praying together)

Faithful God, we confess our unfaithfulness to you. Our hearts are fickle, and our spirits are weak. We are a people who indulge in turning away from you: we have told lies when we should have told the truth; we have remained silent when we should have spoken up; we have kept for ourselves what we should have given to others; we have worshiped false gods, instead of worshiping you alone.

Forgive us, O God, not because we deserve it, but because of your goodness and love. Through the mercy of your Son, pardon our reckless behavior. In Jesus Christ cleanse us, and lead us once again to a way of life that honors you. (silent prayers of confession) Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (Please remain standing to sing the Congregational Response.)

◇◇

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS “Great is Thy Faithfulness” – Refrain Only (See projection)

GOOD NEWS FOR KIDS

Russell Gesling

◇◇

Preschool-kindergarten ages 3-7 may go to the 4th floor classroom at this time.

Nursery care for children ages 0-2 is provided in the first floor nursery throughout the entire service.

SHARING NEWS OF OUR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

EXPRESSIONS OF FELLOWSHIP

In the name of the Lord, we warmly welcome all visitors and newcomers to Tokyo Union Church.

Visitors, please fill out a visitor's card and place it in the offering bag.

SAYONARA BLESSING – Masaki Hirata

COMMISSIONING OF TUC MISSION TEAM TO ARI

Takeshi Shimizu (Volunteer Brigade Leader), Tomoka Tasaka, Melanie Belles, Yume Sato, Suresh Kukde, Alan Inglis, and R. Paul Fukuda (Brigade Adviser)

Pastor: The call of Christ upon our lives is a call to an adventure of the Spirit. It is a call to go beyond the current boundaries of our life experience, faith development, and awareness of the needs of others.

All: We thank you, O God, for the model of servant ministry which your Son demonstrated in his life and death. Grant us the courage and compassion to also empty ourselves in love for others.

Pastor: At certain points in our journeys of faith we are sent into the world for special forms of service, called to share our strength and love with specific persons, and commissioned as ambassadors for Christ with God's message of peace and justice.

TUC Mission Team:

With joy we accept this opportunity to serve Jesus Christ at the Asian Rural Institute. Use us, O God, as instruments of hope, channels of grace, and vessels of the Holy Spirit as we work, worship, and share the gift of life together in the fellowship of your church.

Congregation:

As you go forth from this place to serve, we offer our prayers and support for your mission and ministry. May the fruits of the Holy Spirit dwell within you as the Body of Christ is strengthened, and God is glorified.

Pastor: We also ask for God's help for you and those you will serve with during your trip. Together we now join in the praying of Psalm 121:

Congregation:

"I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore. Amen."

Pastor: You are now commissioned to serve Jesus Christ at the Asian Rural Institute as representatives of Tokyo Union Church. We pray for God's blessing and protection, and charge each of you to remember these words of Jesus, from Matthew 5: *"You are the light of the world. ... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."* Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING	Romans 3:21-26	(Pew Bible, NT, p. 144)
	Lector: Daniel Gesling	
SECOND SCRIPTURE READING	Hosea 11:1-12	(Pew Bible, OT, p. 794)
SERMON		Pastor Matthew Hardin

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Praying today for **KRUPA, India**)

The Lord's Prayer – **Ecumenical**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES & OFFERING

Anthem

"Teach Me, O Lord"

Sanctuary Choir

* Presentation of Tithes and Offerings – Hymn No. 591

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (See Projection)

* Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN OF DEDICATION – No. 298

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Hymn 586: **Amen, Amen, Amen.**)

Following the service, the Prayer and Healing Ministry Team will be available in front of the sanctuary for persons desiring prayer.

POSTLUDE

"Jesus, My Joy"

J. L. Krebs

NEXT TAIZE SERVICE: August 7th (Sunday) at 2:30 pm.

Krupa, India: Krupa is a Christian ministry which provides integrated community development for socially marginalized groups in leprosy colonies, gypsy communities, and prisons. They provide educational, physical and spiritual nurture as well as housing, civic amenities and self-empowerment schemes for these poverty-stricken communities.

A WARM WELCOME to our newcomers and visitors! We invite you to the special Fellowship Hour in the Fellowship Hall after the service, so we can greet you personally. **NEXT NEW MEMBER'S ORIENTATION CLASS** will be held on **Sunday, Sep. 11** (1st session) at 12:30 pm in the 2F classroom. We invite anyone who is interested in joining TUC. **To sign-up for the classes, please contact April Morito (Membership Elder) at aprille_1289@yahoo.co.jp.**

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE: 10 am worship ONLY during summer. (~ Sept.4th)

PLEASE HELP TUC CONSERVE POWER: Due to circumstances related to the March 11 earthquake, TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company) has requested that residents, businesses, and other organizations reduce their use of power throughout the summer months. Please help TUC do its part by limiting air conditioning and light usage *whenever* possible. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS – The History, Narratives, and Struggles Facing the People of Palestine and Israel. TODAY & July 31 from 11:30-12:30 in the Sanctuary. Session one (July 24) will be an interactive presentation using true stories of Palestinians and Israelis to give a picture of what conditions look like on the ground. Come ask questions, learn what is going on beyond what you often see from main-stream media, and discover new ways to stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine and Israel. This class will be led by Bethany Sack, who recently returned from 20 months living in Palestine. She spent one year of that time as an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America volunteer in a school in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM MEETING: 11:30 am in the 3F Choir room TODAY. Any interested non-Team members are welcome to observe and listen (or even participate in discussions!).

VOLUNTEER WORK AT ARI: An opportunity is still open to join the TUC Volunteer Brigade to help Asian Rural Institute restore its main campus and maintain crops and animals before this year's program participants return to its main campus. (Time to commit: Any two consecutive overnight stay or longer between Monday, July 25 and Thursday, July 28, returning to Tokyo on Friday, July 29) **Come to the last briefing session TODAY, at 11:30 am, in the 2nd floor classroom.** Contacts: Takeshi Shimizu (090-8755-0377 / takeshilein@gmail.com) or Paul Fukuda (080-5077-5192 / kiska@inter.net)

AN INTRODUCTION FROM OUR NEW CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR, HEATHER MCCARTY: Dear Families of TUC - I feel very blessed to be able to take on the Children's Ministry Director position. Educating children in a spiritual setting is a strong passion of mine, and I'm excited about transitioning from academic teaching to this new role. I will be spending quite a bit of time at church, so please come introduce yourself if we haven't already met. I'm looking forward to learning from and working closely with you and Children's Ministry volunteers for the coming year. Blessings, Heather

ATTENTION PARENTS AND KIDS! TUC SUMMER BIBLE CELEBRATION: AROUND THE WORLD IN A DAY (Vacation Bible School) is coming up! Explore other countries of the world through God's eyes as we learn how Jesus is our friend, Savior, and helper. All children ages preschool-5th grade are welcome. **Friday, August 19, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.** Sign-up in the lobby is available before & after the service. Come learn more about our program! For more information, contact Heather McCarty at tuc-children@gol.com.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES & OUR WORLD: A new study to help individuals and churches reflect and act together as the 2001-2010 Decade to Overcome Violence-Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace has been celebrated. This study guide will be used for a 6-session Summer Basic Christianity Class in the Women's Society Office. Classes will be held on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays (8:45-9:45 am) till August. Contact: Hisashi Yukimoto (hisashiy2000@yahoo.co.jp). Links to the study guide and other details are found at <http://www.overcomingviolence.org/>.

BASIC BIBLE STUDY CLASS - "Experience Jesus Today: Understanding the Gospel." Beginners, seekers of faith, English learners and new Christians are welcome to join us to share the Good News in plain English & Japanese on the 2nd/4th Sundays (of the month) from 8:45 - 9:45 am at B1 Women's Society Office. Contact: Hisashi Yukimoto at hisashiy2000@yahoo.co.jp.

"BIBLE AS A WHOLE" Class: (52-week course, Tue. evenings from 7 pm - 2F classroom) will study Lesson 19 this week. ¥2,000 to cover partial cost of course book. A registration sheet is on 1F Lobby bulletin board.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY SUMMER COFFEE: Thurs., July 28 at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for a new experience – the ever popular Kimono Dressing! Come to our cool Fellowship Hall! Coffee starts at 9:30 am. For details and inquiries, please contact tomomik1@yahoo.com

THE ARTS MINISTRY PERFORMANCE – "The Wonderful World of Dance" & "La Sylphide" (ballet highlights): Saturday, July 30 at 6 pm and Sunday, July 31 at 2 pm. Admission is free.

NOTICE FROM THE FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM: If you are a US tax payer and make donations to TUC in US dollars, then please pick-up a special letter from the Finance Ministry Team. These letters will be available at the receptionist desk in the church lobby. If you have any questions, please contact TUC Treasurer, Karl Koschnitzke at karl@global.t-bird.edu

ARE YOU AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ATTENDING TUC? Are you interested in international student fellowship at TUC? If so, we'd like to get to know you. We invite you to sign up on the registration sheet on the bulletin board in the 1F lobby, or to come talk with us at the Evangelism Ministry table in the 1F lobby. The next ISF gathering will be on Saturday, August 6th from 5 pm in the B1 Fellowship Hall. The topic/focus will be "international economics and finance", and the speaker is Willem Thorbecke, a TUC member.

FLOWERS: Would you like to donate flowers for a specific Sunday (¥3,000)? A sign-up sheet & flower envelopes are in the lobby. Please write your name and indicate the occasion and amount contributed. Flower arrangers are also needed.

THE PRAYER CHAIN is a group of people who are contacted by email, fax, or phone to pray for the leaders & ministries of TUC and for any other prayer requests we receive during the week. Contact Mary Foster at tucprayer@yahoo.com.au with your prayer requests.

STATUS OF TUC TITHES AND OFFERINGS (Through July 17, 2011)

The TUC Church Council would like to share with you an update on the status of our pledged and non-pledged income so far this year:

(In yen actual)	Received Year to Date	Budget Year to Date	Difference
Pledge offerings	17,449,046	17,632,000	(182,954)
Loose offerings	13,402,578	12,528,000	874,578
Total	30,851,624	30,160,000	691,624

Please help us by checking the status of your giving to the church as noted in your 2011 first quarter contribution statements. If your statement reveals that your giving so far this year has fallen behind what you pledged, please prayerfully consider making contributions before the summer months (if your circumstances have changed and you need to update your pledge – you may notify the Finance Office or submit a revised pledge – marked "REVISED" in the offering any Sunday). If you have not yet pledged, please consider making regular pledge offerings or a special contribution to help fund the church's ministries according to your ability to give. We can really use your help! Regardless of your current status, we offer our sincere thanks to all who contribute tithes and offerings to support Christ's mission through Tokyo Union Church.

TODAY'S Congregational Care Elder: Suresh Kukde **No Communion** **Altar Guild:** Michiko Yaegashi **Ushers:** Gesling family
Greeters: Evangelism Ministry Team **Nursery:** Kyoko Tsugamura **Flowers:** Arranged by Dim Kato, to the glory of God.

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY: Congregational Care Elder: Paul Fukuda **No Communion** **Altar Guild:** Yuko Hiraoka **Lector:** Lyn Sato
Ushers: TBA **Greeters:** TBA **AV Operator:** Maki Yamamoto **Nursery:** Toshiko Carroll **Flowers:** Chang (donation), TBA (arrangement)

TOKYO UNION CHURCH was founded in 1872 and is an ecumenical and international congregation of English-speaking Christians. The word "union" is used to indicate that the membership is composed of Christians from many churches and nationalities who are united through a common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The members of Tokyo Union Church bring the richness of their own Christian heritage and experience into our worship, study, fellowship, and service. Tokyo Union Church is independent and financially self-supporting; it is a member of the National Christian Council of Japan. **Our Vision: A diverse community of growing, committed Christians in the heart of Tokyo, sharing the light of Christ with all nations.**

THIS WEEK AT TUC

July 24 (Sun) **10:00 am ONLY** Worship
 11:30 am Adult Education Class (Sanctuary)
 11:30 am TUC Volunteer Brigade Mtg. (2F)
 11:30 am Outreach Ministry Team Mtg. (3F)
 11:30 am Nominating Ministry Team Mtg.
July 26 (Tue) **By Noon** Sunday Bulletin Announcement Deadline
 7:00 pm "Bible as a Whole" Class (2F)
July 27 (Wed) 7:30 pm Prayer Group Mtg. (2F)
July 28 (Thu) 10:30 am Women's Ministry Summer Coffee (B1)
 (Coffee Starts at 9:30 am)
July 29 (Fri) 7:00 pm Evangelical Leadership Training Mtg. (L)
July 30 (Sat) **6:00 pm** **Arts Ministry Performance** (Sanctuary)
July 31 (Sun) **10:00 am ONLY** Worship
 11:30 am Adult Education Class (2F)
 2:00 pm **Arts Ministry Performance** (Sanctuary)

Ministers: The TUC Congregation

Associate Pastor
 Matthew Hardin (astpastr@gol.com)
Sanctuary Choir Director
 Takamichi Shiozawa
Organist
 Miwako Horii
Senior High Youth Directors
 Michael & Heather McCarty (tuc-youth@gol.com)
Children's Ministry Director
 Heather McCarty (tuc-children@gol.com)
Office Administrator
 Megumi Naito (tuc@gol.com)
Financial/Accounting Manager
 Masanori Hara (tuc-finance@gol.com)
Office Assistant
 Carmen Tamba (tuc-officeassist@gol.com)
Sexton
 Kazunori Higuchi (kazuhi122000@yahoo.co.jp)
President of the Congregation
 Russell Gesling

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