

CLOSING*Please stand.*

Pastor: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Pastor: If we have died with him, we shall also live with him.

People: If we endure, we shall also reign with him.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, we pray to set your passion, cross and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your Holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.*All depart in silence, without benediction.**The service continues next Sunday with the celebration of Easter
at 8:30 am, 11:00 am and 12:30 pm – a contemporary worship.*

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.***

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***Tokyo Union Church
Good Friday
March 25, 2005 at 7:30 pm***

This is the
day when
life is raw,
quivering,
terrifying.

The day of numbed emotions, the day of blunt nails
and splintered wood, of bruised flesh and red blood.

The day
we loathe,
when all
seems to be
meaningless.

The day
we long for
when pretence
falls away -
Because the
worst that
we can do
cannot kill
God's love.

*Written by Terry C Falla in **Be our freedom, Lord.*****GREETING**

We gather again on this Good Friday at the foot of the cross which calls us on, not in shame, not in fear but more deeply into the costly journey towards life. There is wounding, there is weeping. In Jesus as the Promised One, God is not separated from that. We remember all this. And we remember all the hard things in our lives. In this evening, we will plant our hope in the coming day of resurrection.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

-- John 3:16

People: We have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God. Let us hold fast to our confession.

Pastor: We have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.

People: Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. -- *Hebrews 4:14-16*

HYMN 98 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12 (OT p. 683)

Period of Silence

HYMN 406 "Why Has God Forsaken Me?"

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN John 18:1 - 19:42 (NT p. 112)

HYMN 102 "Were You There?"

SERMON Pastor Bruce Sloan

THE LORD'S PRAYER - Traditional

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ADORATION OF THE CROSS

As the cross is brought into the church please stand as the following is said:

Pastor: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

People: Oh, come, let us worship him.

*After the cross is placed on the altar, please be seated.
A period of silence follows.*

MEDITATION

Pastor: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Pastor: May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.

People: Let your ways be known upon the earth, your saving health among all nations.

Pastor: Let all the people praise you, O God; let all the people praise you.

People: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Period of Silence

You are invited to lay those hard life issues down by taking a stone and laying it at the foot of the cross... Which is able to bear the weight and the wounding for us.

*Please take a stone, representing hard things in our life,
and leave it at the foot of the cross.*

MEDITATION

Pastor: O my people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! I led you out of Egypt, from slavery to freedom, but you have led your Savior to the cross.

People: Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy immortal One, have mercy on us.

Pastor: For forty years, I led you safely through the desert. I fed you with manna from heaven and brought you to a land of plenty, but you have led your Savior to the cross.

People: Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy immortal One, have mercy on us.

Pastor: What more could I have done for you? I planted you as my fairest vine, but you yielded only bitterness; when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink, and you pierced your Savior's side with a spear.

People: Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy immortal One, have mercy on us!

Period of Silence

You are invited to lay your sins down by taking a nail and laying it at the foot of the cross... Which is able to take away the sins of the world.

*Please take a nail, representing the sins of life,
and leave it at the foot of the cross.*

MEDITATION

Pastor: For your sake, I scourged Egypt and its first-born sons, and you have handed me over to be scourged. I led you from slavery to freedom and drowned your captors in the sea, but you have handed me over to your high priests. I opened the sea before you, but you opened my side with a spear.

People: Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy immortal One, have mercy on us!

Pastor: I led your way in a pillar of cloud, but you led me to Pilate's court. I bore you up with manna in the desert, but you struck me down and scourged me. I gave you saving water from the rock, but you gave me gall and vinegar to drink.

People: Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy immortal One, have mercy on us!

Pastor: For you I struck down the kings of Canaan, but you struck my head with a reed. I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns. I raised you to a height of majesty, but you raised me high on a cross.

People: Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy immortal One, have mercy on us!

Period of Silence