

Tokyo Union Church
Trinity/Confirmation Sunday
May 22, 2005 at 8:30 & 11:00 am

PRELUDE "Fugue in d minor" by J. S. Bach

(11:00) INTROIT Sanctuary Choir
(* Please Stand; ** Late Seating)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: There is one God, the Father from whom all things have come, to whom we owe our existence.

People: There is one Savior, Jesus Christ, who lived, and died, and rose from the dead, to whom we owe our salvation.

Pastor: There is one Holy Spirit, God's special presence in us and in our world, to whom we owe our vitality.

All: Come, let us worship our one God, who comes to us as Creator, Savior, and Companion.

****OPENING HYMN 138** "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of righteousness and compassion, hear us as we acknowledge our failures to be the persons, the families, and the church that you have called to being in us, individually and together. We blame others for our own failures, we yield to the lure of our own desires and disregard your will, we turn our different ways of worship into occasions of envy and strife.

Renew in us the image of yourself in which you created the first family, and which you revealed to us in Jesus of Nazareth. Amen.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

****SHARING OF THE PEACE**

We welcome you to Tokyo Union Church. Please sign the pew registry.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 8 (OT p. 492)
Lectors: (8:30) Scott Carroll (11:00) Maggie Yamasaki

****GOOD NEWS FOR KIDS** Pastor Bruce Sloan
*Preschool-kindergarten ages may go to the 2nd floor classroom at this time.
Nursery care for children ages 0-2 is provided on the first floor throughout the entire service.*

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 4:7-12 (NT p. 241)

SERMON Pastor Craig Hunter

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Praying today for **United Missions Nepal (UMN), Nepal**)
The Lord's Prayer – **Ecumenical** (Hymnal p. 16)

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS
(8:30) Meditative Music Miwako Horii, organ
(11:00) Anthem "Canon in D" by J. Pachelbel Sanctuary Choir

*Presentation of Tithes and Offerings - Doxology (Hymn 592)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

(8:30) HOLY COMMUNION - *Please turn to Hymnal p. 13.*
Hymn 521 "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

THE RECEPTION OF THE 2005 CONFIRMATION CLASS

PRESENTATION OF THE CONFIRMATION CLASS

RENUNCIATION AND AFFIRMATION

Pastor: Now, as you publicly declare your faith, I ask you to reject sin, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we are baptized.
Do you renounce evil and its power in the world, which defies God's righteousness and love?

Confirmand: I renounce them.

Pastor: Do you renounce the ways of sin that separate you from the love of God?

Confirmand: I renounce them.

Pastor: Who is your Lord and Savior?

Confirmand: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Pastor: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love to your life's end?

Confirmand: I will, through God's grace.

Pastor: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

WELCOME

Pastor: Today the confirmands are received into the global Church of Christ through profession of faith. In order to enable them to fulfill the covenant commitments that they have made and share with us in the responsibilities and joys of Christian discipleship, they are now presented to witness to their membership in Tokyo Union Church.

THE BLESSING AND ANOINTING

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

We welcome the following Confirmands who have declared their faith in Jesus Christ and been received into the membership of Tokyo Union Church by action of the church Council. We rejoice with them and their families, and we give thanks for God's abundant grace in their lives!

(8:30) Christopher Postema

(11:00) Liezl Nieuwoudt, Nadia Nieuwoudt

THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

QUESTIONS TO NEW MEMBERS

Pastor: Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you depend upon Him for salvation as He is offered in the gospel?

New Members: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise that, relying on the help of the Holy Spirit, you will endeavor to live as a follower of Christ?

New Members: I do.

Pastor: Will you continue to grow as a Christian and seek to know and do the will of God as taught in the Bible?

New Members: I will.

Pastor: Will you be loyal to the Church of Christ, wherever you are, and will you, so far as able, support this church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?

New Members: I will.

COVENANT OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Do you, the members of this congregation, welcome these disciples who have witnessed to their faith in Jesus Christ, and promise by your fellowship to strengthen their ties with the household of God?

Congregation: **We do. With joy and thanksgiving we renew our covenant with God and with each other. We welcome you into this fellowship to share the joys and trials, the responsibilities and rewards of Christian discipleship. We pledge to you our support and Christian love, to the end that we may all increase in the knowledge and the love of God, and grow toward the stature of Jesus Christ our Lord. With you we dedicate our lives and our church to the work of the Kingdom of God.**

THE RECOGNITION OF GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Brian Hayman Brooke Losier Scott Pruessing Bethany Sack

EXPRESSIONS OF FELLOWSHIP

In the name of the Lord, we warmly welcome all visitors and newcomers.

Please join us for the Coffee Hour after the 11:00 am service, so we can greet you personally.

(11:00) SAYONARA BLESSINGS - Greg & Joy Albrecht

*CLOSING HYMN 136 "Sovereign Lord of All Creation"

*BENEDICTION

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

Following the 11:00 am service, the Prayer and Healing Ministry Team will be available in front of the sanctuary for persons desiring prayer.

POSTLUDE "Concerto" by J. S. Bach

Everyone is welcome to join the Celebration Worship at 12:30 pm.

United Missions Nepal (UMN), Nepal: UMN ministers to villagers living in remote rural communities by providing hospital care and community partnership activities in support of village women's groups, an association of small local churches, a women's craft association, women's income generation cooperatives, and a savings and credit cooperative.

TWO OF THE NEW SANCTUARY TAPESTRIES donated as part of our Worship 2005 sanctuary renewal project are being used for the first time today. Created by Art Studio Slabbinck (since 1903 in Bruges, Belgium) these beautiful works of liturgical art depict the two sacraments which we, the worshiping body of Tokyo Union Church, celebrate: Holy Communion and Holy Baptism. The Altar Guild invites you to share both the beautiful artistry and the deep spiritual meaning of these lovely tapestries with your friends. May these gifts open the eyes and touch the hearts of all those who enter our sanctuary for years to come.

Today's Communion: (8:30) John Mullins **Altar Guild:** (8:30) Eun Jung Chung (11:00) Joy Albrecht **Ushers:** (8:30) Gesling family
(11:00) Odate family **Nursery:** (11:00) Tamako Bunting **Childcare:** (11:00) Marcos Williams & Ayako Saijo **Coffee Hosts:** Julie & Paul Fukuda **Flowers:** Chika Eto, donated by Alison Harada, in honor of Anna Belle's 8th birthday

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - June 5, 2005, in the Sanctuary

The Church Council calls a Special Congregational Meeting for Sunday, June 5 at the conclusion of the 11:00 am service. The purpose of this meeting will be to receive a report from our Finance Team and Church Treasurer concerning the church financial deficit. In light of the current deficit, there will need to be a decision about the position of Associate Pastor.

EVENING PRAISE SERVICE: **June 5, at 4:00 pm.** Speaker: Ken Owusu. All are welcome!

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE: **10 am** worship from **June 12 to August 14**. Evening Praise service will be held at 4 pm on the 1st Sunday of each month.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) will be **August 8-15**. The theme is "The Serengeti Trek: Where Kids Are Wild About God." If you are interested and/or would like to volunteer, please contact Andy Hayashi (0424-72-7506, hawaiiapple@aol.com), or Jeanne Shimazaki (090-4171-0551, jeanne@ezweb.ne.jp).

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY **Communion:** (8:30) Alan Sorba **Altar Guild:** (8:30) T. Mukasa (11:00) Michiko Yaegashi **Ushers:** (8:30) Postema family (11:00) Pamela Bishop, Claire Fangonon, April Morito, Premoj Thomas **Lectors:** (8:30) Tom Postema (11:00) Sam Mchombo **Readings:** Gen. 6:9-22; 7:24; 8:14-19; Ps. 46; Rom. 1:16-17; 3:22b-28 (29-31); Matt. 7:21-29 **Nursery:** (11:00) TBA
Childcare: TBA **Coffee Hosts:** The ELC Ministry Team **Flowers:** Yasuyo Osada

ALTAR GUILD needs the help of someone who is able to do calligraphy-style writing (in English). If you can help, please contact Joy Albrecht (rosevill36@aol.com). Thank you!

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.

SUMMER SCHOOL (**June 13 - July 1**) application process for children not attending regular classes at the TUC Early Learning Center (ELC) starts on **May 10**. Your child may attend one, two or three weeks. With Christian values as the foundation of the program, there will be lots of fun activities such as cooking, music, crafts, games, playing in water & sand. Each week focuses on a different country from a different continent. For more information, contact Jennifer Toyoshima, Director, at 3400-1579.

TUC EARLY LEARNING CENTER (ELC) would like to hire one head teacher (qualifications: Christian, Early Childhood qualifications, native English speaker) and one assistant teacher (qualifications: Christian, Early Childhood qualifications preferred or qualifications in art or music, native or near native English speaker). Please fax your resume to 3400-1579.

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 (Details on bulletin boards in lobby.)

May 22 (Sun)	8:30 & 11:00 am	Worship
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	12:30 pm	Celebration Worship
	1:30 pm	Special Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	2:00 pm	Theology Reading Group (2F)
	3:00 pm	Alpha Course (Sanctuary)
May 24 (Tue)	10:00 am	WS Bible Study (2F)
May 26 (Thu)	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal (3F)
	7:30 pm	Prayer Group Mtg. (2F)
May 28 (Sat)	6:30 pm	Youth Gathering
May 29 (Sun)	8:30 & 11:00 am	Worship
	9:45 am	Sunday School (last day)
	12:30 pm	Celebration Worship
	1:30 pm	Special Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	2:00 pm	Israel/Palestine Class (2F)
	3:00 pm	Alpha Course (Sanctuary)

<Next New Members' Class: **June 19 at 11:30 am** in 2F Classroom>

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Miwako Horii
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Youth Ministry Director
Pierce Johnson
Celebration Worship Director
Jolanda Blomjous
Student Intern
Sang Valte
Office Manager
Megumi Naito
Receptionist/Secretary
Miri Shinoda
Financial/Accounting Manager
Masanori Hara
Facilities Manager
Kazunori Higuchi
Early Learning Center Director
Jennifer Toyoshima (Interim)
Early Learning Center Assistant Director
Ivy Maeda
President of the Congregation
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Celebrating 25 Years: A Gift for the Future

In worship we are the church. In worship we remember who we are: God's baptized family. In worship we find our identity, our peace, our healing, our forgiveness, our meaning, and our mission. –From *Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook* by S. A. Stauffer

On November 16, 1980, the very first worship service was held in our current TUC sanctuary. To joyfully celebrate the 25th anniversary of worship in this building and to faithfully prepare for the next 25 years, the Altar Guild and the Property & Use Ministry Team, with the generous support of our TUC members, friends, and alumni, have undertaken a sanctuary renewal project.

Much Has Been Done - Only 2 Needs Remain

We thank God for all of His children who have taken a seat in one of TUC's pews over the past 25 years. We rejoice in their worship of God and in their joining with His church among us. We also acknowledge, however, that each one of those folks has left his or her 'touch' on the pews, leaving them tinged black with grime that no amount of polishing by the Altar Guild volunteers has been able to remove. The pew cushions also reflect the many, many years of use; they are too stained and worn to be renewed. To be fully renewed and ready for the next 25 years of worship at Tokyo Union Church, we need to refurbish our pews.

Also, over the past 25 years the word of God has been proclaimed from our pulpit and read from our lectern, and those gathered have read God's word from the pew Bibles. Over the years, however, pew Bibles have been lost. They were borrowed for a class or for a moment of witness and later forgotten, they were accidentally torn by a young worshipper's strong grip, or perhaps they were 'permanently borrowed' by a curious or distressed seeker.

Whatever the reason, we are significantly short of pew Bibles at TUC. Worshipers in the balcony aren't using the same Bibles as those in the main sanctuary because the Bibles we currently use are out of print. So, if all those present are to be able to read along together in God's word, we must order new Bibles for the entire sanctuary. To be fully renewed and ready for the next 25 years of worship at Tokyo Union Church, we need to purchase all new pew Bibles.

Mark your calendars for a special day of Celebration & Praise!

**Heritage Sunday
Sunday, November 6, 2005**

Donation Form - Worship 2005

Please fill in the lines below completely. We will use the information provided to send a thank-you note, to send an acknowledgement card as appropriate, and to record your gift in the TUC Donations Book. Please print neatly.

Name of Donor(s): _____

Phone Number of Donor(s): _____

Address of Donor(s): _____

I would like my gift to be acknowledged in the following manner:

_____ To the glory of God

_____ In memory of (name) _____

_____ In honor of (name) _____

_____ In celebration of (name or event) _____

_____ In thanksgiving for (name or event) _____

If you would like an acknowledgement card sent to the person you have named above, please specify English or Japanese and provide the complete mailing address.

I would like to donate the following to TUC:

_____ Pew Cushion(s) - ¥25,000 or US\$240.00 each (includes pew cleaning)

_____ Pew Bible(s) - ¥2,000 or US\$19.00 each

_____ I would like my gift of ¥/\$ _____ to be combined with the gifts of others to provide a pew cushion or pew Bible.

Please place your Donation Form and contribution (Yen or USD) in an envelope clearly marked "Worship 2005." Place it in the Sunday offering or deliver it to the TUC finance office.

Thank you!