

***Tokyo Union Church  
Dedication Sunday  
Christ the King Sunday  
November 21, 2004 at 8:30 & 11:00 am***

PRELUDE "Prelude on 'Fairest Lord Jesus'" by B. Ferguson

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

(11:00) INTROIT

Sanctuary Choir

(\* Please Stand; \*\* Late Seating)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Now is the hour! Now is the moment! Let us lift up our hearts in thanks and praise! For you, O God, have called us into your house to worship your name.

**People: Yes, now is the time! To feel God's presence in our midst; to respond to Christ's claim upon our lives; to renew our commitment of faith through the power of the Holy Spirit. Now is the time!**

Pastor: As the disciples of old cast aside their nets, so, in this time of worship, we shed now our petty preoccupations, and celebrate life anew in Christ. Because now is the time!

**People: As stewards of life in this finite moment, we respond by saying "Yes" to the challenge of faith. And we gather to celebrate the gifts we have been given by the God of Love.**

**All: Yes, now is the time! Let us worship our God!**

\*\*OPENING HYMN 551 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" (Verses 1, 2, 4)

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, forgive our desires to be in control of persons and events. Release us from fear, we pray, so that we can take risks in your name, reach out to neighbors in need, and trust that you will provide for us as we follow you in faith. Keep us mindful of the ways of your Holy Spirit. When we cling tightly to money and material possessions, unclench our fists and free us to share with joy and generosity. When we ration our love and are stingy with our forgiveness, remind us of the gift of Jesus. When we fail to abound in hope, fill us with the life of the Risen Christ. Forgive our sins, Loving God, and lift our hearts. This we pray in the holy name of Christ our Lord. (Silent prayer of confession) Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (All respond: **Amen.**)

\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS (Tune: Hymn 464 - "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

**You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Source of grace and fount of blessing, let your light upon us shine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.**

\*\*SHARING OF THE PEACE

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY - Stewardship

Stewardship Ministry Team

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 8:1-7 (NT p. 171)

Lectors: (8:30) Scott Carroll (11:00) Peilei Fan

\*\*GOOD NEWS FOR KIDS

Pastor Craig Hunter

*Preschool-kindergarten ages may go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Chronicles 29 (OT p. 386)

SERMON

"The Earth Is The Lord's and All That Is in It"

Pastor Bruce Sloan

## DEDICATION OF STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS

*Please come forward, as the ushers indicate, and place your tithes, offerings and pledge forms in the historic plate that survived the 1945 bombing of the TUC Sanctuary. If you are a visitor to TUC today, you may also come up if you wish to make an offering. Offering envelopes are available in the pews.*

(8:30) Hymn "Give Thanks" Junko Sasaki, organ

**Give thanks with a grateful heart; Give thanks to the Holy One;  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His son. (Repeat)  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong;" Let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
because of what the Lord has done for us. (Repeat) Give thanks!**

(11:00) Anthem "Hide Not Thy Face from Us" by R. Farrant Sanctuary Choir

\*Presentation of Tithes and Offerings - "We Are An Offering"

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands, We lift our lives up to You; We are an offering.  
Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives, they are Yours; We are an offering.  
All that we have, all that we are, All that we hope to be, we give to You, we give to You.  
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, We lift our lives up to You; We are an offering,  
We are an offering.**

## \*LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Give thanks to God!

**People: With our hearts filled with gratitude, we offer our thanks to God for life that is good, for homes that are safe and secure, for family and friends who are loving and kind, for work that is satisfying, and for days that hold promise and peace.**

Pastor: Sing praise to God!

**People: With joyful voices, we praise God for a world created with wonder and beauty, for earth and sky, for wind and rain, for companionship and compassion, for gentle touch and strength of courage, for insight, wisdom, vision, and hope.**

Pastor: Declare God's steadfast love!

**People: With our hands, our hearts, and minds, we commit ourselves and all we have been given by God to live according to God's purpose and God's ways of love.**

**We dedicate our time, energy, imagination, and love.**

**We dedicate our financial pledges to the church as a part of our commitment to Christ and a sign of our faith.**

**All: We pray for your blessing, O God, to inspire our best intentions and strengthen our commitment. Through the power of the Holy Spirit be present in the life and work of the global church and this congregation. We pray through Christ, Servant and Lord of all life. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Praying today for Tokyo English Lifeline (TELL), Japan)

The Lord's Prayer – Ecumenical (Hymnal p. 16)

(8:30) HOLY COMMUNION - *Please turn to Hymnal p. 13.*

Meditative Music

Junko Sasaki, organ

(11:00) BAPTISM

**Candidates for Baptism: Andy Hayashi, Yuko Horiuchi, Yoko Shimogishi, Yoko Terada**

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit.

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

**Response: I do.**

Pastor: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

**Response: I do.**

Pastor: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

**Response: I do.**

Pastor: According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

**Response: I will.**

Pastor: Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

**Congregation: We do.**

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

**Congregation: With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.**

Pastor: Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Do you believe in God the Father?

**Congregation: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**Congregation: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**Congregation: 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.**

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER OF BLESSING

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

EXPRESSIONS OF FELLOWSHIP

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

\*CLOSING HYMN 554 "Let All Things Now Living"

\*BENEDICTION (All respond: **Amen.**)

\*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 "Postlude" by J. Nixon

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

TODAY is DEDICATION SUNDAY, a day set apart each year to express our thanks to God for the many blessings given to us, and to dedicate anew our gifts and ourselves to the Lord and the Lord's work through TUC for the coming year. All members and friends of TUC are requested to come forward during the offering and place their envelopes containing their completed financial and time & talent pledge forms for 2005 in the offering plate together with their normal weekly tithe or offering. The large brass offering plate, which is being used today for this stewardship dedication service, is a historical relic from a former Tokyo Union Church building. The offering plate was found by the late Rev. Glen Bruner and his wife Edith in the burned-out ruins of the church building, which was destroyed by a firebomb in 1945. Originally purchased in 1934, the scarred and blackened plate has been restored. It became a special symbol to TUC members and friends who committed themselves to rebuilding the church. It has been used on special occasions over the years, and today it symbolizes our ongoing commitment to continue this church's unique ministry as an international, English-speaking, interdenominational congregation in Tokyo. **Extra pledge forms are available in the pew pockets or from the ushers. If you are unable to submit your pledge today, please mail them to the TUC office during the week.** Thank you.

**Tokyo English Lifeline (TELL), Japan:** TELL provides telephone counseling, face-to-face counseling, substance-abuse treatment, and training for handling emergency situations and crisis intervention. Telephone counseling is provided in English by trained volunteers. Face-to-face counseling is available from qualified, professional counselors in several languages.

**Today's Communion:** (8:30) John Visher, Hitomi Yokote **Altar Guild:** (8:30) Kaoru Shikata (11:00) Nobuko Gaine **Ushers:** (8:30) Hibbard family (11:00) Naomi Hagiwara **Nursery:** (11:00) Kaoru Hirano **Childcare:** (11:00) Kyung Sohn **Coffee Hosts:** Bill & Deb Hibbard **Flowers:** Aya Uda, donated by Ryo & Naomi Takagi, in thanksgiving of the birth of Ken (10/15) & 11<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (11/27).

THE NEW MEMBERS' CLASS: **Today** at 12:30 pm in the 2nd Floor Classroom. All persons interested in membership at TUC are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Membership elder, Alan Sorba (070-5089-4862) or the church office.

**CHOIR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5** - in celebration of the Advent season, the Sanctuary Choir will present Vivaldi's Magnificat in G minor at the 8:30 and 11:00 services. English translation of the Latin will be provided in the bulletin. Please join us as we sing praises to God using the exquisite words of the song of Mary.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:** Every year our Church is adorned with poinsettias at Christmas time. If you would like to contribute one or more poinsettias in memory or in honor of someone, please place your donation in the special envelope provided beside the flower sign-up sheet in the Lobby, and take it to the Finance office on Sunday or to the church office on weekdays, **no later than Dec. 5**. The cost is ¥3,000. The poinsettia gifts will all be acknowledged in the Dec. 12 bulletin.

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY Communion:** (8:30) Scott Carroll, Jody Fuller **Altar Guild:** (8:30) Terry Mukasa (11:00) Michiko Yaegashi **Ushers:** (8:30) Gesling family (11:00) Odate family **Lectors:** (8:30) Tom Postema (11:00) Jean Wilson (**Readings:** Isa. 2:1-5; Ps. 122; Rom. 13:11-14; Matt. 24:36-44) **Nursery:** (11:00) Toshiko Carroll **Childcare:** TBA **Greeters:** (11:00) TBA **Coffee Host:** Alan Sorba **Flowers:** Eiko Motonaga (arrangement), Heidi & Scott Van Newkirk (donation)

PART-TIME POSITIONS AT TUC: **Youth Ministry Director** - With the assistance of a devoted and talented group of parents and young adults, this person will have the opportunity to plan and implement programs as diverse as the interests of the youth – everything from mission trips to ice-skating to spiritual retreats. Please speak to Pastor Craig.

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 prayer requests we receive during the week. Contact Mary Foster at [tucprayer@yahoo.com.au](mailto:tucprayer@yahoo.com.au) with your prayer requests.

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.)**

Nov. 21 (Sun)	8:30 & 11:00 am	Worship
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	12:30 pm	Celebration Worship
	<b>12:30 pm</b>	<b>New Members' Class (2F)</b>
	1:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	<b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>Council Mtg.</b>
	3:00 pm	Alpha Course (Sanctuary)
Nov. 23 (Tue)		Church Office Closed (National Holiday)
Nov. 25 (Thu)	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal (3F)
	7:30 pm	Prayer Group Mtg. (2F)
Nov. 26 (Fri)	10:00 am	Daytime Alpha Course (2F)
	1:00 pm	Altar Guild
Nov. 27 (Sat)	6:30 pm	<b>International Thanksgiving Dinner &amp; the Hanging of the Green (B1)</b>
	6:30 pm	Youth Activity
Nov. 28(Sun)	8:30 & 11:00 am	Worship - 1 <sup>st</sup> Advent
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	12:30 pm	Celebration Worship
	1:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	1:30 pm	Sunday School Youth Teachers' Mtg. (2F)
	3:00 pm	Alpha Course (Sanctuary)

**Pastor**  
Bruce Sloan (pastor@gol.com)

**Associate Pastor**  
Craig Hunter (astpastr@gol.com)

**Sanctuary Choir Director**  
Takamichi Shiozawa

**Today's Organist**  
Junko Sasaki

**Student Intern**  
Sang Valte

**Office Manager**  
Megumi Naito

**Receptionist/Secretary**  
M. Shinoda

**Financial/Accounting Manager**  
Masanori Hara

**Facilities Manager**  
Kazunori Higuchi

**Preschool Director**  
Pat Haines

**President of the Congregation**  
Bill Hibbard

**Women's Society President**  
Deb Hibbard

**Women's Society Reception**  
Tel: (03) 3400-0942

**Preschool Office**  
Tel/Fax: (03) 3400-1579  
[admin@tucpreschool-Kindergarten.com](mailto:admin@tucpreschool-Kindergarten.com)

<Next New Members' Class: Dec. 12 at 12:30 pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom>

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