

**Tokyo Union Church**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**November 28, 2004 at 8:30 & 11:00 am**

PRELUDE

"Prepare the Way" by J. Berthier

*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: This is the season of lights.

**People: Let us worship the Light of the world!**

Pastor: This is the season of gift-giving.

**People: Let us worship the God who loved the world so much that the only Son was given for the salvation of all people.**

Pastor: This is the season of music.

**People: Let us join our voices in a chorus of praise!**

Pastor: Let us worship the Christ whose advent we await.

\*\*OPENING HYMN 13

"Prepare the Way"

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Hope and Forgiveness, we confess in this season of Advent that our thoughts and actions are influenced by our selfishness and impatience. Like those who have no respect for time, we want what we want now and are frustrated by having to wait. By concentrating on selfish desires, we miss opportunities to get to know you better and to provide for those who are hopeless in this season of joy. Forgive us, O God. When our impatience seeks to separate us from you and others, grant us the ability to change our ways and the endurance to wait. When the temptations of this season begin to feed our selfishness, open our hearts in preparation for the Christ to come, and open our hands, so that in waiting we will do your will. (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

**The Advent Wreath**

PROPHECY (First Scripture)

Isaiah 2:1-5 (OT p. 631)

Lectors: (8:30) Tom Postema (11:00) Jean Wilson

\*CANDLE I

(8:30) Jean Pengosro (11:00) Ken & Kess Owusu

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of expectation. May the One sent from God show us the way to salvation.

**People: O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Expected of the nations, and the Savior: come and save us, O Lord, our God.**

The Congregation Sing Hymn 9 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verse 1)

**O Come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here.**

**Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel! Shall come to thee, O Israel**

\*\*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

Matthew 24:36-44 (NT p. 27)

SERMON "And He Will Come to Judge The Living and The Dead" Pastor Bruce Sloan

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 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" by Picardy

Sanctuary Choir

\*Presentation of Tithes and Offerings - "The Church's One Foundation"

**Refreshed by living waters, renewed by living bread, may we, your sons and daughters, by your own hand be led. Accept the gifts we offer; receive the lives we owe. Unite us in your service, may seeds of justice grow!**

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

Meditative Music

Miwako Horii, organ

(11:00) INFANT DEDICATION

**Presentation:** **Josephine P. Peou**, born in Tokyo, Japan on April 23, 2004

Parents: Sorpong Peou & Chola Chek

Pastor: The parents of Jesus brought him into the temple at an early age to participate in observances and customs before the faith community. This was a means of dedicating Jesus to God. What we share as a community of faith with this family who is before us today undoubtedly is different in form and practice than it was for Jesus, yet it is no different in significance. Sorpong and Chola, what is your prayer?

**Parents: Lord, you have trusted us with one of your priceless treasures, a human child. You have allowed us to share with you in the miracle of creation, and now that miracle has become flesh—and we hold her in our arms. We are excited and full of joy! Speak to us. Assure us of your nearness—today and each day.**

Pastor: Do you covenant with God, relying on divine grace, to do all in your power—by example, by reading the Scriptures in your home, by praying for and with Josephine, by bringing her regularly to the church for instruction and fellowship, and by all other good and appropriate means—to seek to lead her to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as Savior, and then to help her grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord and the Word of God?

**Parents: We do.**

Pastor: Do you, the congregation, which is part of the body of Christ, accept this child into your fellowship? Will you love her, encourage her and help to maintain a vibrant spiritual life in this church, where he can learn the Scriptures, see the reality of Christ in our fellowship, and thus be drawn into a personal and living relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ?

**Parents: We do and we will.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 498

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

(11:00) THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

PRESENTATION & 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 it is offered in the gospel?

**New Member: 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 Member: 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 Member: I will.**

Pastor: Will you be loyal to the church of Christ, wherever you are, and will you support this church by your prayers, presence, gifts, and services?

**New Member: 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, as we welcome you into this Christian fellowship. With you we dedicate our lives and our church to the work of the Kingdom of God.**

#### MOMENT FOR MINISTRY

Spiritual Life Ministry Team

#### EXPRESSIONS OF FELLOWSHIP

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

\*CLOSING HYMN 9

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

\*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

“Lo, He Comes” by A. Ridout

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**Today's Acolyte: (11:00) Casey Walker**

***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.

**Today's 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 **Nursery:** (11:00) Toshiko Carroll **Childcare:** (11:00) Isaku & Kaori Murakami **Coffee Host:** Alan Sorba **Flowers:** Eiko Motonaga, donated by Heidi & Scott Van Newkirk, with thanks to God for wonderful 2 years and a half in Tokyo.

KOINONIA & OPEN CIRCLE newsletters are ready! Please pick them up in the lobby today, so that we can save on postage.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & LUNCHEON: **Dec. 2**, at 10:30 am, Christmas message from Pastor Bruce and music by TUC Preschool & Kazunori Higuchi. RSVP for luncheon (3,000 yen) to WS receptionist at 3400-0942.

**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.

EVENING PRAISE SERVICE: **Next Sunday, Dec. 5**, at 4:00 pm. Speaker: Jean Wilson. All are welcome!

**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 give it to ushers at the time of offerings or take it 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.

**A SURVEY - CEMETERY/BOCHI (OHAKA):** The Administration Team has often been asked about the possibility of Tokyo Union Church having a dedicated Christian cemetery plot. In respect to this request, this survey is to determine the interest in a church cemetery plot. The cemetery would not be an expense to the church and would require financial commitment from those who would want to participate. If there is enough interest, a cemetery committee under the Property and Use Team would be established to work out the details concerning location, cost of reserving a space, and maintenance fees.

**Please return this survey to Pastor Bruce or Pastor Craig or the church office before Dec. 31, 2004. Thank you.**

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\_\_\_ I/We would be interested in participating in a TUC Cemetery. Please contact us at the following address:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST: Saturday, Dec. 11, 8:30-10:00am, at Andersen's Restaurant near the church. RSVP to Brock McMunn (Tel/Fax: 03-3582-7463) or the church office by Tuesday, Dec. 7, for the breakfast.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT THE MANSE - **Sunday, Dec. 12, 4 - 9pm.** The entire congregation is invited for an evening of good food and fellowship. Come and get to know your church family. Say goodbye to the old manse and see plans for the new one. Feel free to drop in whenever it is convenient for you. Please join us in this celebration. Maps available.

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY**    **Acolytes:** (8:30) Jake Hibbard, Megan Hibbard (11:00) Casey Walker    **Communion:** (8:30) Brock McMunn, David Stuchbury (11:00) TBA    **Altar Guild:** TBA    **Ushers:** (8:30) Jiro & Keiko Hayashi (11:00) Jody Fuller, Ken Inkster  
**Lector:** Hugh Wilkinson (**Readings:** Isa. 11:1-10; Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19; Rom. 15:4-13; Matt. 3:1-12)    **Advent Candle Lighters:** TBA  
**Nursery:** (11:00) Kaoru Hirano    **Childcare:** (8:30) TBA (11:00) Tamako Bunting, John Visher    **Greeters:** (11:00) TBA    **Coffee Hosts:** TBA    **Flowers:** Yasuyo Osada

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.

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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. 28 (Sun)	8:30 & 11:00 am	Worship
	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)
	2:30 pm	Youth Mission Trip Mtg. (2F)
	3:00 pm	Alpha Course (Sanctuary)
Nov. 30 (Tue)		WS Bible Study (2F)
Dec. 1 (Wed)	7:00 pm	Basic Theology Class (2F)
Dec. 2 (Thu)	10:30 pm	WS Christmas Program/Luncheon (Sanctuary, B1)
	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal (3F)
	7:30 pm	Prayer Group Mtg. (2F)
Dec. 3 (Fri)	10:00 am	Daytime Alpha Course (B1)
	1:00 pm	Altar Guild (2F)
Dec. 4 (Sat)	10:00am	Admin. Mtg. (Pastor Bruce's Office)
	3:00 pm	Preschool Christmas Family Pot Luck (B1)
	6:00 pm	Games Night (B1)
Dec. 5 (Sun)	8:30 & 11:00 am	Worship - <b>Choir Sunday</b>
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	12:15 pm	Shukyo Hojin Mtg. (Pastor Bruce's Office)
	12:30 pm	Celebration Worship
	12:30 pm	Outreach Ministry Team Mtg. (Library)
	2:00 pm	Theology Reading Class (2F)
	3:00 pm	Alpha Course (Sanctuary)
	4:00 pm	Evening Praise Service
	6:00 pm	British Embassy Choir Concert

**Pastor**  
Bruce Sloan ([pastor@gol.com](mailto:pastor@gol.com))

**Associate Pastor**  
Craig Hunter ([astpastr@gol.com](mailto:astpastr@gol.com))

**Sanctuary Choir Director**  
Takamichi Shiozawa

**Organist**  
Miwako Horii

**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)

**Church**  
7-7, Jingumae 5-chome  
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0001  
Tel: (03) 3400-0047  
Fax: (03) 3400-1942  
E-mail: [tuc@gol.com](mailto:tuc@gol.com)  
URL: <http://www.tokyouunion.org>

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

