



Tokyo Union Church

5th Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024

Prelude "Herzlich tut mich verlangen" by J. Pachelbel Takako Hanabusa
Word of Welcome Pastor Steve Yamaguchi

COME TO THE LORD

Call to Worship Byron Walker

Leader: The Lord God our Father has given us the law,
written on our hearts to know God's love.

People: Praise be to God, the Father.

Leader: The Lord God, the Son Jesus Christ has given us Himself,
as a fulfillment of the law we could not uphold.

People: Praise be to God, the Son.

Leader: The Lord God, the Holy Spirit, our comforter and advocate,
is sanctifying us to the righteousness of the law.

All: Praise be to God, the Holy Spirit.

Let us worship and magnify the Holy Trinity.

Opening Hymn (8:30) "How Great Thou Art" 625
(11:00) "The Blessing" Union Praise Team

Prayer of Confession Byron Walker

**Loving and Almighty God,
many times we think we love You well,
but we deceive ourselves.
We confess our love is diluted and divided.
Our attention falls away. Our devotion dies.
Our commitment withers, and we flee from Your presence
and purpose.
Forgive us, O God. In Your deep mercy, spare us.
Rekindle our love for You as we experience
Your love for us through the grace of Jesus Christ
and the power of the Holy Spirit.
[continue in silent prayer] Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness Byron Walker

Leader: In Joel Ch. 2 God says: “Even now, turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning.”
Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn to the Lord, your God; for the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness, and relents from sending calamity.

All: We have confessed our sins, and stand forgiven.
Thanks be to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Response "Hear the Good News of Salvation" 441
Passing of the Peace Pastor Héctor Herrera

LISTEN TO THE LORD

(11:00) Good News for Kids Yannick Plomteux

Song of Preparation (8:30) "Breathe on Me, 286
Breath of God" (v.1, 2)
(11:00) "Way Maker" Union Praise Team

First Scripture Passage John 12:20-33 NT p. 100

(8:30) Darey-Ann (11:00) Naomi Kanaiwa
Louisville

Second Scripture Passage Jeremiah 31:31-34 OT p. 691

Sermon "Written on Our Hearts" Pastor Steve Yamaguchi

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offering Our Whole Selves to God

(8:30) "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" 716
(11:00) "My Life is in Your Hands" Union Praise Team

Hymn of Response "Give Thanks" 647

Prayer of Dedication Pastor Héctor Herrera

Prayers of the People Pastor Héctor Herrera

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

(Please pray in your own native language or a language of your heart)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever. Amen.

LEAVE WITH THE LORD'S BLESSING

Moment for Outreach Ministry - Noto Help Volunteers Ron Reid, Gregory Austin

Closing Hymn	(8:30) "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" (11:00) "In Christ Alone"	100 Union Praise Team
Benediction		Pastor Steve Yamaguchi
Congregational Response	"Amen, Amen, A—men"	
Postlude	"Toccata" by L. Boëllmann	

Announcements

A warm welcome to our new and first time visitors! We send out a weekly Email Blast that has important information and updates about church news. Please send your email address to office@tokyounion.org so we can keep you informed.

Please Join Coffee Hour for conversation and refreshments downstairs in the B1 Fellowship Hall after the 11:00 am service today!

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

Thank you for your faithful giving. Please continue to give your financial gifts at www.tokyounion.org/give. This delivers your offering to the church even when you worship online and are away from TUC on Omotesando for a while.

Worship Volunteers Today: Greeters: (8:30) Devon Arthurson (11:00) Ron Reid; Ushers: (8:30) Jody Fuller, Yoko Kanai, Maki Yamamoto (11:00) Theo Bannor, Grace Liu, Jason Irwin; AV Operators: (8:30) Risa Kikura (11:00) Jonathan Oh; Flowers - arranged by Tomoko Sakurai.

Lenten Taizé service, TODAY at 2:30 pm. All are welcome for a time of prayer, music, and silent meditation as we continue our Lenten journey in the Taizé tradition. This service will not be live-streamed.

Sermon Lab on Tuesday at 6:30 pm (Zoom). The lessons next week: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11.

A New Class! - "Answers to Hard Questions" starting next Sunday, March 24th: "Can one prove that God exists?", "How do we know that Jesus really rose from the dead?", "If God exists, how come there is so much evil in this world?" - these are all great questions that philosophers and historians have wrestled with over the years. We will be going through some of them **on the 4th Sunday of the month** from 9:45-10:30 am in the 2F classroom. All are welcome! (Leaders: Hiro Umezu, Brad Schmidt)

Outreach News:

① Thank you for your emergency offerings donations. Outreach received at total of 657,300 yen in congregational donations. The three organization TUC has given to since the Noto earthquake will receive as follows: Noto Help - 100,000 yen, World Vision Japan - 278,650 yen, and Second Harvest Japan - 278,650 yen. Please continue to pray for those living in this area. If you wish to donate to any of the three organizations, please do directly by visiting the Outreach webpage (link) for details.

② During this Lenten season, we have an opportunity to donate to **St. Albans Deeper Service Group (DSG) Ministry to Migrants**, which has a "mission to serve refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants to Japan, including those who have been detained in immigration centers". They do this through a food pantry with non-perishables and other non-food goods such as toothbrushes, soap, etc. Please see the collection box on the way to the sanctuary for the complete list of requested items. Thank you for your generosity.

③ 2024 Easter Offering

Currently, this year's special Easter offering will go to support 1) *Deeper Service Ministry (DSG) Ministry to Migrants*, based at St. Alban's Anglican Church here in Tokyo, whose mission is "to serve refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants to Japan, including those who have been detained in immigration centers"; 2) *Doctors Without Borders (MSF)* for their continuing work in Gaza and the West Bank.

You can donate using the envelopes provided in the pews (make sure you mark "Easter Offering" or online at that church website. Again, please designate your donation for the Easter offering. Thank you for your generosity.

Lent/Holy Week Schedule

Lenten Taize Service	March 17 at 2:30 pm (In-person)
Palm Sunday	March 24 at 8:30 am (In-percon) & 11:00 am (In-person, Online)
Maundy Thursday	March 28 at 7:30 pm (In-person, Online)
Good Friday	March 29 at 7:30 pm (In-person, Online)
Easter Sunday	March 31; three different services
1st Service	8:30 am - Traditional (In-person)
2nd Service	10:00 am - Gospel (In-person)
3rd Service	11:30 am - Traditional/Sunday School (In-person, Online)

This Week at TUC

Mar 17 (Sun)	8:30 am Worship (in-person) 11:00 am Worship (In-person/Livestream) Children's Sunday School 9:00 am Small Choir Rehearsal (B1) 9:40 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (3F) 9:45 am UPT Rehearsal (S) 10:00 am Confirmation Class (4F Youth Rm) 12:15 pm Coffee Hour (B1)/Onigiri Making (K) 12:45 pm UPT auditions (3F) 1:00 pm Young Adults Group (4F Youth room) 1:00 pm Youth Group (meet in the Lobby) 1:00 pm Council Meeting (2F) 1:00 pm Setting Up & Rehearsal (S) 2:30 pm Lenten Taize Service (S)	Ministers: The TUC Congregation Pastor: Steve Yamaguchi (pastor@tokyounion.org) Associate Pastor: Héctor Herrera (associatepastor@tokyounion.org) President of the Congregation: Catherine Sasanuma (president@tokyounion.org) Intern Director of Youth & Children's Ministry: Byron Walker (Byron@tokyounion.org) Sanctuary Choir Director: Yuka Omi (sanctchoir@tokyounion.org) Organists: Miwako Horii Takako Hanabusa Nursery workers: Panmei Guiriangdinliu Anna Yamaguchi Office Administrator: Megumi Naito (office@tokyounion.org) Finance/Accounting: Katsunori Mikami (finance1@tokyounion.org) Property Manager: Romulo "Drix" Apigo (facility@tokyounion.org)
Mar 18 (Mon)	8:00 am Morning Meet-Up (Zoom) 7:00 pm Reading & Praying Psalms (Zoom)	
Mar 19 (Tue)	By Noon Bulletin Announcement Deadline 6:30 pm Sermon Lab (Zoom)	
Mar 20 (Wed)	National Holiday (Church office closed) 8:00 pm Lent Devotional Small Group (Zoom)	
Mar 21 (Thu)	8:00 am Lectio Divina Group (Zoom) 8:00 pm Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	
Mar 22 (Fri)	8:00 am Morning Meet-Up (Zoom) 10:00 am Reading & Praying Psalms (Zoom)	
Mar 23 (Sat)	8:30 am Men's Breakfast (B1-Room D) 2:00 pm Bott Home Tea (B1)	
Mar 24 (Sun)	8:30 am Worship (in-person) 11:00 am Worship (In-person/Livestream) Children's Sunday School 7:45 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (S, 3F) 9:40 am SC Coffee & Rehearsal (S, 3F, Deck) 9:45 am "Answers to Hard Questions" Class (2F) 10:00 am Confirmation Class (4F Youth Rm) 12:15 pm Coffee Hour (B1)/Onigiri Making (K) 12:45 pm UPT Rehearsal (S) 1:00 pm Young Adults Group (4F Youth room)	

Tokyo Union Church

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 E-mail: office@tokyounion.org, http://www.tokyounion.org Office Hours: 10:00 am-4:00 pm (Mon.-Fri.)

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.

US taxpayers can make tax deductible donations to TUC through the Tokyo Union Church Foundation, a US 501(c)(3) non-profit organization set up by TUC for that purpose.