



Tokyo Union Church

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 28, 2024

Prelude "Our Father Who Art In Heaven" (BWV737) Miwako Horii
by J. S. Bach

Word of Welcome Pastor Héctor Herrera

COME TO THE LORD

Call to Worship Pastor Héctor Herrera

Leader: To those who sit in darkness, light has dawned.

**People: To those who dwell in gloom and uncertainty,
God's glorious presence has appeared.**

Leader: God is indeed our light and our salvation.

People: We will follow, unafraid, where Jesus lead us.

Leader: Let us worship our God of light and promise.

**All: Let us celebrate the hope and joy of our salvation.
Amen!**

Opening Hymn "O God Beyond All Praising" (Projection)

Prayer of Confession Byron Walker

**We confess to Thee, our Lord, God and Creator,
to the to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
all our sins which we have committed in thought, word and deed;
envy, gossip, arrogance, unrighteous anger and hatred,
lying, resentment, remembering wrongs; and all our sins,
through which we have caused injustice to our neighbours.
Sorrowing for this, but determined to repent,
we stand guilty before Thee.
Help us, God, we humbly pray Thee with tears.
Forgive our sins by Thy mercy,
for Thou art good and the Lover of humanity.
[continue in silent prayer] **Amen.****

Declaration of Forgiveness Byron Walker

Leader: God, the author of mercies,
through the death and resurrection of the Son Jesus Christ
has reconciled the world to Him, and sent the Holy Spirit among us
for the forgiveness of sins;

**All: Through confession may God grant us pardon and peace.
Amen**

Response Doxology with Alleluias (Projection)

Passing of the Peace Pastor Héctor Herrera

LISTEN TO THE LORD

(11:00) Good News for Kids				Ruth Ingulsrud
Song of Preparation	"Spirit of the Living God"			288
First Scripture Passage	1 Corinthians 8:1-13			NT p. 160
	(8:30)	Jody Fuller	(11:00)	Catherine Sasanuma
Second Scripture Passage	2 Kings 5:1-19a			OT p. 320
Sermon	"Embracing Shades of Grace: Finding Peace in Life's Complexities"			Pastor Héctor Herrera

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offering Our Whole Selves to God				
	(11:00) "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree" by E. Poston			Sanctuary Choir
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

Closing Hymn	"Be Thou My Vision"			450
Benediction				Pastor Héctor Herrera
Congregational Response	"Amen, Amen, A—men"			
Postlude	"We All Believe In One God" (BWV1098) by J. S. Bach			

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.

Pastor Steve is on leave for the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Princeton Theological Seminary in the US with time for the professional development (~ Wednesday, January 31st).

Worship Volunteers Today: Greeters: (8:30) Devon Arthurson (11:00) Grace Liu, Maya Tatsuno; Ushers: (8:30) Tazuko Arai, Russell Gesling, Maddy Newman (11:00) Becky & Toshihiro Agatsuma, Sam Donkor, Darey-Ann Louisville; AV Operators: (8:30) Risa Kikura, Brad Schmidt (11:00) Ayumi Ito, Joey Chang, Remi Yamazaki; Flowers - arranged by Herrera Family.

Join YAG on Sundays, after service, to read and discuss God's word! No prior experience or materials needed; all interested are welcome to explore with us every week. (@4F Youth Room)

Stewardship 2024: The TUC Council and Stewardship Team are deeply grateful to the 96 members and friends of the congregation who submitted their pledges for 2024. Financial pledges up to last Sunday totaled 39.4 million yen. We invite you to prayerfully consider your pledge and join us in pledging online (tokyounion.org/give) or via forms available in the narthex/Lobby.

Are you a mid-career professional? We are hoping to form a Bible study group that caters to people in this exciting life stage. If you are interested in finding out more, please email evangelism@tokyounion.org

Sermon Lab on Tuesday at 8:30 pm (Zoom). The lessons next week: Joshua 5:10-15; James 1:1-18.

Ishikawa Earthquake Response: At Tokyo Union Church we have responded to the Noto Peninsula earthquake disaster by making gifts to three practical and immediate emergency responses.

1) Uchinada Bible Church – Christian relief center. This large church in Ishikawa is the gathering and distribution center for local churches to share resources and relief efforts. They are “hands on” and “feet on the ground” in the immediate area, also coordinating the efforts of local volunteers.

2) 2nd Harvest Japan – providing food for evacuated survivors in the affected area. 2nd Harvest is our local expert at distributing large amounts of food to large groups of people in need. We are pleased that our own TUC member, Hitomi Yokote, is the new CEO of 2nd Harvest Japan.

3) World Vision Japan – providing psychosocial support for the children, including play time and space. This is the same support we provided for children in Ukraine last year. This also provides good childcare while parents need to take care of other responsibilities.

In addition to these immediate responses, we continue to pray and seek long-term ways to support the survivors of this tragedy.

You may contribute more to this immediate response using the offering envelopes in the pews or giving online at tokyounion.org/give.

Please specify: “Ishikawa Earthquake Relief” in the note box.

Outreach - Thank Message from Budo no Ki

"We would like to thank everyone at TUC for their Christmas donation. We are empowered by everyone's understanding and support of the activities of the Budo no Ki. We will use the donation to support the independent life of the victim mothers and their children. We pray for the abundance of blessings from heaven for all those who have donated."

2024 Women's Conference (March 1 - 3) in Nagano. The theme "Just as I Am" with Carol Sack (speaker). Join the fellowship of women from TUC and other church communities in Japan! Please visit the website (<https://woconjapan.wordpress.com>) or contact Ruth Ingulsrud (info@woconjapan.org) for more info. The regular rate will be available (~ Feb. 21), then late rate will start on Feb. 22.

Congregational Meeting on February 4, 2024 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary

The Council of Tokyo Union Church invites all TUC members and friends to attend a regular meeting of the congregation to be held in the sanctuary at 12:30 pm on Sunday, February 4, 2024. The constitution of Tokyo Union Church requires that a meeting be held within the first six weeks of the new year in order to present the budget, report on finances, and introduce the slate of elders. We welcome and encourage TUC members to attend.

The Slate of Elders will be available by 5:00 pm on Sunday, January 28th. (please check this slate QR code below)



Finance Update 2023

In ¥ millions	Year-To-Date December 2023			Annual Budget
	Actual	Budget	vs. Budget	
Income	78.3	64.2	14.1	64.2
Expenses	66.5	70.4	3.9	70.4
Net Result	11.8	-6.2	18.0	-6.2

To balance the annual budget, ¥6.2m in additional income, or less expenses, or a mix of both is needed by December 31. Let's continue to thank God for the resources He has entrusted to us and pray for the wisdom to steward them responsibly for His glory.

This Week at TUC

Jan 28 (Sun)	8:30 am Worship (in-person) 11:00 am Worship In-person/Livestream) Children's Sunday School 8:30 am PSC (B1-Room D) 9:40 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (S) 12:00 pm Special Council Mtg. (2F) 12:15 pm Coffee Hour (B1)/Onigiri Making (K) 12:45 pm UPT Rehearsal (S) 1:00 pm Young Adults Group (4F Youth Rm) 1:00 pm Youth Group (Meet in the Lobby)
Jan 29 (Mon)	8:00 am Morning Meet-Up (Zoom) 7:00 pm Reading & Praying Psalms (Zoom)
Jan 30 (Tue)	By Noon Bulletin Announcement Deadline 6:30 pm Sermon Lab (Zoom)
Jan 31 (Wed)	8:00 am Morning Meet-Up (Zoom) 9:00 pm "A Life Beyond Amazing" Bible Study (Zoom)
Feb 1 (Thu)	8:00 am Lectio Divina Group (Zoom) 8:00 pm Women's Bible Study (Zoom)
Feb 2 (Fri)	8:00 am Morning Meet-Up (Zoom) 10:00 am Reading & Praying Psalms (Zoom)
Feb 3 (Sat)	11:00 am PSC (B1- Room AB)
Feb 4 (Sun)	8:30 am Worship (in-person) 11:00 am Worship (In-person/Livestream) Children's Sunday School 9:40 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (S) 9:45 am UPT Auditions (3F) 10:00 am Confirmation Class (4F Youth Rm) 12:15 pm Coffee Hour (B1)/Onigiri Making (K) 12:30 pm Congregational Meeting (S) after the meeting - Young Adults Group/Youth Group

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
Office Administrator:
Megumi Naito (office@tokyounion.org)
Finance/Accounting:
Katsunori Mikami
(finance1@tokyounion.org)
Property Manager:
Romulo "Drix" Apigo
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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.