



Tokyo Union Church

5th Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

Prelude "Tierce en Taille" by F. Couperin Takako Hanabusa
Word of Welcome Pastor Steve Yamaguchi

COME TO THE LORD

Call to Worship Pastor Héctor Herrera

Leader: We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

People: We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

Leader: The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

**People: We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant,
alive, productive.**

Leader: If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

**All: We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.**

Opening Hymn "Baptized in Water" 482

Prayer of Confession Pastor Héctor Herrera

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children.

We confess that we have not loved you as we should.

We grow weary and give up when the way is hard.

We have not loved our siblings as you intend.

**Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence,
we fail to recognize our own complicity.**

**Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect children,
so vulnerable and precious in your sight.**

**Forgive our misuse of power against people,
and against your creation.**

Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace.

In you love for us, strengthen us in our time of testing.

Set us free from fear so that we may wholly trust in you.

Hear our hearts as we now sit before you in silence.

[continue in silent prayer] **Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness Pastor Héctor Herrera

Leader: Beloved friends, we are loved. God's mercies are new every morning. Through Jesus himself and through our church family here, God pours out kindness and grace upon us all. Receive God's gift of love and forgiveness. Believe this Good News!

All: Through our risen Lord Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Response Doxology with Alleluias (See Projection)

Passing of the Peace Pastor Steve Yamaguchi

LISTEN TO THE LORD

(11:00) Good News for Kids		Nick Ashley
Song of Preparation	"Spirit of the Living God"	288
First Scripture Passage	1 John 4:7-21	NT p. 226
	(8:30) Darey-Ann Louisville	(11:00) Manna Mitani-Martinu
Second Scripture Passage	John 15:1-8	NT p. 103
Sermon		Pastor Steve Yamaguchi

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

(8:30) The Sacrament of Baptism (see back)		Jonathan Rudd, Mai Rudd Clara Lilian Rudd, George Thomas Rudd
Offering Our Whole Selves to God		
	(11:00) "Agnus Dei with How Great Thou Art" Stuart K. Hine / Michael W. Smith / arr. Joel Raney	Sanctuary Choir
Hymn of Response	"Give Thanks"	647
Prayer of Dedication		Pastor Héctor Herrera
(11:00) Reception of New Members		
	Monique Baen, Alex Choi, John Inagaki, Natsuki Itoh, Xiaoxuan Li (Shawn), Darey-Ann Louisville (Darey), Nicholas Maync-Matsumoto (Nick), Satomi Ono	
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	"God Is Here!"	409
Benediction		Pastor Steve Yamaguchi
Congregational Response	"Amen, Amen, A—men"	
Postlude	"Today God's Son Triumphs" 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 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, Maya Tatsuno; Ushers: (8:30) Mark Aldeer, Yoko Kanai (11:00) Becky & Toshihiro Agatsuma, Philip Jellicoe; AV Operators: (8:30) Brad Schmidt (11:30) Jimu, Remi Yamazaki; Flowers - arranged by Hisae Iwasaki, donated by Wada Family, in loving memory of Adrienne Wada (4/26/2021).

Byron, Youth & Children's Director is leading the Confirmation Course Retreat with youth this weekend.

"Answers to Hard Questions" Class Today from 9:45-10:30 am in the 2F classroom. All are welcome! (Leaders: Hiro Umezu, Brad Schmidt)

The Praying and Reading the Psalms Group will soon be taking up the Gospel of Mark. This is not Bible study in the conventional sense. We will, rather, be following an adapted version of St. Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises to guide us in our reading and prayer. The process, simply put, involves imaginatively engaging with the text through what is termed "an application of the senses." For more information, contact Richard Gardner. (r-gardne@sophia.ac.jp)

No Sermon Lab this week (Apr. 30). The scripture readings for May 5th - Acts 10:34-48, John 15:9-17.

Classical Music Charity Concert (for Noto Earthquake): Saturday, May 18th at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome! The details will be available later.

Outreach - Easter 2025 Donations Update: Thank you for your Easter 2025 donations. We received 179,638 yen for the Deeper Service Ministry (DSG) and 179,638 yen for Doctors Without Borders.

Finance Update 2025

In ¥ millions	Mar-24			Annual Budget
	Actual	Budget	vs. Budget	
Income	12.4	20.2	-7.8	70.0
Expenses	18.6	19.6	1.0	75.8
Net Result	-6.2	0.6	-6.8	-5.8

To balance the annual budget, ¥5.8m 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

Apr 28 (Sun)	8:30 am Worship (in-person) 11:00 am Worship (In-person/Livestream) Children's Sunday School 9:00 am SC Small Group Rehearsal (B1) 9:40 am SC Rehearsal (3F, S) 9:45 am "Answers to Hard Questions" Class (2F) 10:00 am UPT Auditions (B1 - Room C & D) 12:15 pm Coffee Hour (B1)/Onigiri Making (K) 12:30 pm Nominating Mtg. & Lunch (3F Outside Deck) 12:45 pm SC Sectionals (2F & 3F) 12:45 pm UPT Rehearsal (S) 1:00 pm Young Adults Group (4F Youth room) 2:30 pm Music Concert Rehearsal (S)
Apr 29 (Mon)	National Holiday (Church Office Closed)
Apr 30 (Tue)	By Noon Bulletin Announcement Deadline
May 1 (Wed)	9:00 pm "A Life Beyond Amazing" Bible Study (Zoom)
May 2 (Thu)	8:00 am Lectio Divina Group (Zoom) 8:00 pm Women's Bible Study (Zoom)
May 3 (Fri)	National Holiday (Church Office Closed)
May 5 (Sun)	Youth/Confirmation Sunday 8:30 am Worship (in-person) 11:00 am Worship (In-person/Livestream) Children's Sunday School 9:00 am SC Small Group Rehearsal (B1) 9:40 am SC Rehearsal (3F) 12:15 pm Coffee Hour (B1)/Onigiri Making (K) 12:30 pm Music Concert Rehearsal (3F) 12:45 pm SC Sectionals (2F & S) 1:00 pm Young Adults Group (4F Youth room) 1:00 pm Youth Group (Meet in the B1 Kitchen) 2:30 pm Music Concert Rehearsal (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:
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Katsunori Mikami
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Property Manager:
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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.

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