

## Last Week's Sermon Summary

"Not Orphaned"

Pastor Takaaki Inoue

I. John 4:16~21, John 14:15~23

### ① [Send another advocate]

The night before His death, Jesus said to the disciples He was leaving behind on this earth. "I ask the Father, who will send another advocate to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth." (John 14:16~17) This advocate is the "Holy Spirit." In Greek it is called "paracletos", in English it is translated as "counselor", and in other translations it is "helper", "comforter", "advocate". The other day, when I was watching TV, I saw Frank Caprio, the kindest judge in the world, in Rhode Island, USA. When he was unable to pay the fine, Judge Caprio said, "I'm going to give ~ dollars from my mother's fund, and I'm going to give ~ dollars from other donations. If you still can't pay, come to me." He says. Hold the child in your lap, hold the hammer held by the judge, and ask, "You are going to judge your mother's trial, is your mother guilty or not guilty?" and try to get the child to give a verdict. "I have a heart, not a badge, under my robe," Caprio said, "and I think it's important to have an understanding and empathy for people when dealing with them, no matter what their life is like or what their circumstances are." He says. He is an unthinkable judge in Japan. It was full of "compassion and compassion." Watching TV moved me and warmed my heart. It was like watching God's trial. We have two benevolent advocates, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Jesus sits at the right hand of God and intercedes (Romans 8:34), and the

Holy Spirit intercedes in us groaning. (Romans 8:27) The trial of heaven will be very warm and merciful. "The surest way to know if we are with God is to look at how we treat our brothers. ... To see the Holy Spirit in others, we must have the Holy Spirit in us. He who sees nothing but evil in his brother is himself occupied by evil spirits." (From a quote from Athos)

### ② [Do not orphan]

Jesus went on to tell his disciples, "I will not orphan you, but I will come back to you." (John 14:18). Jesus was resurrected and appeared alive to those who believe in Him. The reason why they come back is because without Christ, people cannot have faith. Faith may come out of man, but faith does not. Christ is the body of faith. Living with Him is a life of faith, and it is the true nature of human beings. Therefore, the Lord will surely return. Because that is the purpose for which man was created. Have you ever seen the movie "Quo Vadis"? It means "Lord, where are you going?" in Latin. At the end of the 1st century, Christians were persecuted by Emperor Nero. From Rome, Peter walks along the Appian Way, trying to escape. Then the resurrected Jesus Christ stood in front of me. When Peter asks, "Lord, where are you going?" Christ replies, "I am going to cross again for my suffering people in Rome." When Peter hears this, he is converted, turns around and returns to Rome, where he is martyred by hanging on an upside-down cross. Christ will return again to bear the suffering of this world with us. Human power can no longer make peace. God does not abandon those who sin and the world. You can continue to engage with people. ↗

# Weekly Report

The United Church of Christ in Japan  
Miyakojima Church

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Church Established December 2, 2001

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《the Resurrection of Jesus Christ》

## Miyakojima Church's 2024 Mission Policy

**Motto** : "Let's prepare for the construction of the church "

**Scripture** : "No one can lay any other foundation, ignoring the foundation that has already been laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11)

### Goals for FY2024

- 1 Observe worship services every week and aim for an average of 27 people to attend services.
- 2 We invite one person to worship in one year.
- 3 Make concrete preparations for the construction of the church.
- 4 Cultivate the consciousness of building a church together.