

Last Week's Sermon Summary

『I Am the Light of the World』

Pastor Takaaki Inoue

Jeremiah 2:4-9, John 8:12-20

❶ 【The work of Christ, who is the light】

Jesus called Himself the light. What is the work of light? Light makes things visible, warms us, nurtures living things, sterilizes, and tells us the time. Jesus is the same.

(1) "Makes God and oneself visible" When illuminated by the light of Jesus, we come to understand the meaning of our birth and how we should live. At the same time, our sins also become visible. Just as opening a window and letting in outside light makes the dust and dirt throughout a room clearly visible, Paul, illuminated by this heavenly light, came to know his sin and understand Christ.

(2) "It warms us." Through Jesus' words, we know God's love, and our hearts are warmed.

(3) "It nurtures humanity." Those illuminated by Jesus rise from death to life. As it says, "The life was the light of men" (John 1:4), because the light that is Jesus possesses life. By this light, we live.

(4) "Purifies" The light of Jesus neutralizes the devil's lies and the serpent's (Satan's) poison, cleansing us. Ignatius of the 2nd century said, "The Eucharist is the antidote to death."

(5) "Reveals the time" Jesus' words show us what time it is to act now and where this world is headed.

❷ 【This world is darkness】 "Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12) The Lord says this world is darkness. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:4-5) And, "Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you." (John

12:35) As these verses show, this world cannot understand or accept Christ. " (John 1:4-5) and "Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you." (John 12:35) As these verses show, the world cannot understand or accept Christ. Moreover, the darkness pursues the children of light, seeking to swallow them up. If a person refuses to believe in Christ, the darkness will rule over them. Chesterton said this: "It is not that a man who does not believe in God believes nothing. On the contrary, he comes to believe anything." Those who do not believe in the light come to believe in darkness and increasingly embrace it. Therefore, they grow ever darker. When the first Adam believed the devil's words and ate the fruit, their eyes were opened—but only to this world of darkness. Their eyes remained closed to God and His kingdom. Since then, humanity has constantly pursued this world (darkness). That is precisely why Christ came as the light to heal this world.

❸ 【Those who follow Christ will see, and eventually become light】 The things of this world can be seen by the light of the created sun, but the things of God cannot be seen unless illuminated by divine light. To have our eyes opened to the kingdom of God and to God Himself, it is absolutely necessary to be illuminated by the light of God, which is Christ. How exactly are we illuminated? It's simple. If you wish to be illuminated by the sun's light, you must go out under the sun. Likewise, if you wish to be illuminated by Christ, you must stand before Christ. Specifically, this means opening the Bible, praying, coming to church, partaking of the sacrament. Go to all things called Christ. Those who open the Bible are those who open the door to heaven and let in God's light. ↗

Weekly Report

The United Church of Christ in Japan
Miyakojima Church

Mission Established December 1, 1957

Church Established December 2, 2001

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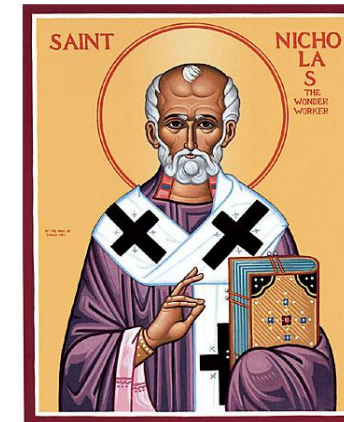
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《Saint Nicholas》

Miyakojima Church's 2025 Mission Policy

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

Scripture : " The toil of those who build houses is in vain, unless the Lord Himself builds them " (Psalm 127:1)

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 We value the fellowship of believers.
- 4 Make concrete preparations for the construction of the church.