

The 40th Sunday Rite of the year

Second Sunday of Christmas Worship Service

《Sunday Morning Divine Liturgy》

【Entrance Part】

- Prelude (Silent Prayer)

“O Great God”

(Hymn 21, No. 367)

Composed by Ikou Kitazawa

- Greeting
- Hymn 21-368
- Opening Prayer
- Reading Psalms 70

【Worship of the Word】

- Scripture
 - ✚ Jeremiah 31:10-17
 - ✚ Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
- Response Hymns 21-38
- Lecture Pastor Takaaki Inoue
"Two Kings"
- Apostles' Creed

【Communion Worship】

- Consecration Hymns 21-72
- Church Prayer (Litany)
- Peace Greetings
- Hymns 21-83
- The Lord's Prayer
- The Supper

【Response, Dispatch, and Blessing】

- Hymn 21-278
- Offering of Thanksgiving
- Hymns of Glory Hymns 21-24
- Words of Dispatch
- Prayer of Blessing
- Aftermath (Silent Prayer)
"Today Is the Lord's Day"
(Hymn 21, No. 203)
- Composed by C.S. Lang

【Today's Worship Service】

- Assistant Presider: Hideo Okumiya
- Musician: Masako Iida
- Offering Collector: Mayumi Sawada
- Receptionist: Seiko Yamachiyo

【Today's schedule】

- ◇ Church school (9:30 a.m.)
- Talk: Pastor Takaaki Inoue
- ◇ Joint prayer meeting (after service)
- ◇ Hymn practice (after service)

【Information on this week's church meetings】

- ◇ Morning prayer
 - Tuesday, January 6, 9:00 AM
 - Friday, January 9, closed.
- ◇ English Conversation
 - Thursday, January 8: 7:30 PM

【Information on next Sunday】

- ◇ Church School Service (9:30 a.m.)
 - Talk: Mariko Inoue
- ◇ Sunday Morning Service
January 11 (10:30 a.m.)
- Scripture

✚ Psalm 92:9-16

✚ Luke 2:22-35

- Sermon: Pastor Takaaki Inoue
"Encountering Life"
- Hymn 21 280, 38, 120
- Reading Psalms 126
- Assistant Presider: Hitoshi Katsumi
- Musician: Sachie shikano
- Offering Collector: Yoshiko Aizawa
- Receptionist: Kimiko Kobuchi
- ◇ Hymn practice (after service)
- ◇ Joint prayer meeting (after service)
- ◇ Regular Board Meeting

Scripture

「Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel. Those who sought this child's life are dead.」

(Matthew 2:20)

【Reports and personal disappearances】

(1) "Pastor Inoue's schedule for this week": Wednesday, 7th at 2:00 PM: "Osaka YWCA Bible Study Meeting" Friday, 9th at 9:30 AM: "Osaka YWCA Omiya Nursery Birthday Party" Saturday, 10th at 1:00 PM: "Little Lamb Home Staff Worship Service"

【Scheduled church events for January】

- Wednesday, January 7, 2:00 PM: "Osaka YWCA Bible Study Group" (Umeda Main Building), Participation Fee: ¥500
- January 11 (Sun) 1:00 PM "Regular Board Meeting"
- January 16 (Fri) 9:00 AM "Great Blessing of the Waters Ceremony"
- January 18 (Sun) 10:30 AM "Baptism Service," "Church School Teachers' Meeting" (After worship)
- January 20 (Tue) 10:00 AM "Mental Health Study Group"
- January 25 (Sun) 1:00 PM "Church Fellowship Meeting"

(3) Let us offer our Christmas gratitude offerings. The budget is 250,000 yen. We ask for your cooperation.

【Last week's meeting statistics】

| day | meeting | boy | girl | adult | total | Donation |
|-----|-----------------|------|--------|-------|-------|----------|
| 28 | Church school | — | 1 | 5 | 6 | ¥1350 |
| | meeting | male | female | child | total | Donation |
| 28 | Morning Service | 5 | 13 | 4 | 22 | ¥21,530 |
| 30 | Morning praye | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | |
| 2 | Morning prayer | — | — | — | — | |

【12/28 donation report】

【Monthly Donations】 Takaaki Inoue, Hideo Okumiya (Total: ¥30,000) [Christmas Gratitude] Kimiko Kobuchi, Yoshihiro Kobuchi, Nobuko Kimoto, Yasuko Miura, Shuji Taura (Total: ¥75,000) [Various Gratitude] Takaaki Inoue, Hideo Okumiya, Seiko Yamachiyo, Keiko Nakamura (Total: ¥9,270) [Construction] Takaaki Inoue, Kimiko Kobuchi (Total: ¥10,000) [Mutual Aid] Takaaki Inoue, Hideo Okumiya (Total: ¥2,000) [Christmas Eve Worship Service] (Total: ¥14,215)↑

【Continuation of last week's sermon summary】

They worshiped Jesus and opened their treasure chests to present gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold is offered to kings, frankincense to God, and myrrh to the dead. This teaches us that Jesus is King, God, and the One who came to die. But Jesus did not need myrrh, for His body did not decay but rose again. These three gifts seem to reveal not only who Jesus is, but also what we ourselves must offer. We desire to offer gold as a confession that we live by God, not by money; frankincense as prayer; and myrrh as thanksgiving that we too will receive imperishable bodies. Following the warning in a dream not to return to Herod, they ignored his command and departed for their own country by another route. The phrase "another route" teaches us that their way of life had been renewed. As long as we live by our own strength, we cannot shine. But when we lose ourselves and can only live by God, God's life enters us and we shine. The astrologers feel very free. They do not fear Herod. They freely relinquish the treasures of this world—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And upon encountering the star that guides them and Christ, they overflow with joy. Those who serve false earthly kings are ruled by fear and anxiety, but how radiant are those who live with heaven as their goal! We too wish to walk this path of joy and freedom.

