

The 15th Sunday Rite of the year

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service

《Sunday Morning Divine Liturgy》

【Entrance Part】

- Prelude (Silent Prayer)
“From Deep Distress”
(Hymnal 21, No. 160),
arranged by S. Scheitz
- Greeting
- Hymn 21-51
- Opening Prayer
- Reading Psalms: Psalm 146:1-6

【Worship of the Word】

- Scripture Takaaki Inoue
✚ Galatians 3:21-29
✚ Matthew 20:9-16
- Response Hymns 21-46
- Lecture Pastor Takaaki Inoue
"Given Through the Promise"
- 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 21-449
- Offering of Thanksgiving
- Hymns of Glory Hymns 21-24
- Words of Dispatch
- Prayer of Blessing Takaaki Inoue
- Aftermath (Silent Prayer)
“Hallelujah, Praise the Lord”
(Hymnbook 21, No. 169)
Arranged by H. Beets

【Today's Worship Service】

- Assistant Presider: Hitoshi Katsumi
- Musician : Sachie Shikano
- Offering Collector : Yoshiko Aizawa
- Receptionist : Kimiko Kobuchi

【Today's schedule】

- ◇ Church school (9:30 a.m.)
 - Talk : Masato Sawada
- ◇ Hymn Practice (after the service)
- ◇ Joint Prayer Meeting (after the service)
- ◇ Sunday School Teachers' Meeting (after the service)

【Information on this week's church meetings】

- ◇ Morning Prayer
 - July 14 (Tue) at 9:00 a.m.
 - July 15 (Wed) at 9:00 a.m.
 - July 17 (Fri) at 9:00 a.m.
- ◇ English Conversation Group
 - No class today.

【Information on next Sunday】

- ◇ Church School Service (9:30 a.m.)
 - Talk : Mariko Inoue
- ◇ Sunday Morning Service July 19 (10:30 a.m.)
 - Scripture
✚ Isaiah 57:15-19
✚ Matthew 5:1-16
 - Sermon: Pastor Takaaki Inoue
“What Is True Happiness?”
 - Hymn 21 50, 46, 132
 - Reading Psalms : Psalm 147:10-18
 - Assistant Presider: Ritsuko Terada
 - Musician : Masako Iida
 - Offering Collector: Takako Matsumoto
 - Receptionist: Kotaro Hata
- ◇ Hymn Practice (after the service)
- ◇ Joint Prayer Meeting (after the service)

Scripture

「Didn't you agree to pay me one denarius?」

(Matthew 20:13)

【Reports and personal disappearances】

- ① "Pastor Inoue's schedule for this week" : Tuesday, the 14th, at 1:00 p.m.: "Facility Coordination Meeting"; Thursday, the 16th, at 10:00 a.m.: "Omiya Daycare Center Summer Evening Gathering"
- ② 《Church Events Schedule for June-July》
 - Sunday, July 12, after the service "Sunday School Teachers' Meeting"
 - Tuesday, July 21, 10:00 a.m. "Study Group on Mental Health"
 - Sunday, July 26: Rev. Inoue will preach at Senboku New Town Church. Rev. Marie Tone will preach at Miyakojima Church.
- ③ Let's make our special summer offerings. Our goal is 150,000 yen.
- ④ We have created the new 2026 "Church Service Schedule." It will be posted on the bulletin board, so please check it to confirm your assigned duties.
- ⑤ 【Last week's meeting statistics】

day	meeting	boy	girl	adult	total	Donation
5	Church school	—	1	8	9	¥2,450
	meeting	male	female	child	total	Donation
5	Morning Service	6	16	3	25	¥10,280
7	Morning prayer	1	1	—	2	
8	Morning prayer	4	2	—	6	
10	Morning prayer	3	2	—	5	

- ⑥ 【Donation Report for July 5】 【Monthly Contributors】
Takaaki Inoue, Yoshiko Aizawa, Masako Iida, Mariko Inoue, Asako Inoue, Seiichiro Inoue, Hideo Okumiya, Hitoshi Katsumi, Kimiko Kobuchi, Yoshihiro Kobuchi, Masato Sawada, Mayumi Sawada, Nozomi Sawada, Sachie Shikano, Ritsuko Terada, Kishiko Hata, Marina Hata, Akemi Hishida, Sachiko Miyama, Ken'ichi Yamachiyo, Seiko Yamachiyo (Total: 151,700 yen) 【Appreciation】
Takaaki Inoue, Kishiko Hata, Anonymous (Total: 15,000 yen) 【Construction】
Takaaki Inoue, Masako Iida, Mariko Inoue, Masato Sawada, Mayumi Sawada, Ritsuko Terada, Kishiko Hata, Marina Hata, Sachiko Miyama (Total: 28,500 yen) 【Mutual Aid】
Takaaki Inoue, Hideo Okumiya, Mariko Inoue, Masato Sawada, Mayumi Sawada, Sachie Shikano, Ritsuko Terada (Total: 12,000 yen) 【Pentecost Thanksgiving】
Hideo Okumiya, Kenichi Yamachiyo (Total: 62,000 yen) 【Summer Special】
Takaaki Inoue, Yoshiko Aizawa, Masako Iida (Total: 29,000 yen)

【Continuation of last week's sermon summary】

↘ A woman had helped her get across the crosswalk, but she couldn't move from there. So I ended up carrying her on my back, and the three of us supported her all the way to her house. However, the elderly woman was afraid of being carried on my back and kept leaning backward, saying, "I'm scared, I'm scared," while clutching my shoulder with her long fingernails. She stuck her bottom out, shifting her weight backward and making her feel even heavier. By the time we reached her house, I was drenched in sweat. I had previously heard a lecture on water rescue techniques at the Osaka YWCA. They taught that when someone is drowning, you shouldn't jump in immediately to help. If you jump in right away, the person will cling to the rescuer out of fear, and both will drown. Instead, you should watch the situation for a while and wait until the drowning person's strength begins to wane before offering help. If they're tense, you can't save them even if you want to. Being tense means not having faith, while relaxing means having faith. I realized that this elderly woman's behavior might actually be a reflection of myself. In Zen, there is a saying: "A broken dipper with its handle missing, and a bucket with a hole in the bottom." It means that people who are like a dipper that doesn't spill water or a bucket with a solid bottom are usually no good. Back when this Miyakojima Church was poor and had only two members, I thought, "If things stay this way, the church will collapse. "If I spend my life worrying about what others think and suppressing who I am, I'll only be left with regrets. Since it's going to collapse anyway, I might as well do what I want and let it collapse that way," I thought. I think that's when the bottom fell out of me. I let go of the desire to be seen favorably by others. I relaxed and freely enjoyed doing what I wanted to do. And then Christ took the burden upon Himself. Isn't that fine? I don't have to be a "respectable" person. I intend to do my best with what I can do and joyfully share the gospel of Christ.