

The 18th Sunday Rite of the year

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service

《Sunday Morning Divine Liturgy》

【Entrance Part】

- Prelude (Silent Prayer)
- “John, the Messenger of God”
(Hymn No. 193 in Hymnal 21)
Composed by A. De Clark
- Greeting
- Hymn 21-183
- Opening Prayer
- Reading Psalms: Psalm 149:4-9

【Worship of the Word】

- Scripture
- ✚ Philippians 2:6-11
- ✚ John 13:12-17
- Response Hymns 21-46
- Lecture Pastor
- “Emptying Oneself”

• 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 21-507
- Offering of Thanksgiving
- Hymns of Glory Hymns 21-24
- Words of Dispatch
- Prayer of Blessing
- Aftermath (Silent Prayer)
- “Postlude in F Major”
Composed by M.G. Fischer

【Today's Worship Service】

- Assistant Presider: Hideo Okumiya
- Musician : Sachie Shikano
- Offering Collector : Seiko Yamachiyo
- Receptionist : Mayumi Sawada

【Today's schedule】

- ◇ Church school (9:30 a.m.)
- Talk : Pastor Takaaki Inoue
- ◇ Hymn Practice (after the service)
- ◇ Joint Prayer Meeting (after the service)

【Information on this week's church meetings】

- ◇ Morning Prayer
- Tuesday, August 4, 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, August 5, 9:00 a.m.
- Friday, August 7, 9:00 a.m.
- ◇ English Conversation Group
- No class today.

【Information on next Sunday】

- ◇ Church School Service (9:30 a.m.)
- Talk : Hanae Kotsubo
- ◇ Sunday Morning Service August 9 (10:30 a.m.)
- Scripture
- ✚ Philippians 1:21-24
- ✚ Matthew 6:19-24
- Sermon: Pastor Takaaki Inoue “To Die Is Gain”
- Hymn 21 385, 112, 575
- Reading Psalms : Psalm 150:1-6
- Assistant Presider: Mariko Inoue
- Musician : Masako Iida
- Offering Collector: Kimiko Kobuchi
- Receptionist: Masato Sawada
- ◇ Hymn Practice (after the service)
- ◇ Joint Prayer Meeting (after the service)

Scripture

「Although Christ was in the form of God, he did not consider equality with God something to be grasped; rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and became like human beings.」

(Ephesians 2:6-7)

【Reports and personal disappearances】

- ① "Pastor Inoue's schedule for this week" : Monday, the 3rd: 9:30 a.m., “Omiya Nursery School Birthday Party”; 1:00 p.m., “Staff Worship Service”; Friday, the 7th: “Sharon Senri Concert”
- ② 《Church Events Schedule for July-August》
- August 2 (Sun): “Summer Festival” after the service
- August 9 (Sun): 10:30 a.m. “Memorial Service for the Deceased” ; “Evangelism Committee” meeting after the service
- August 23 (Sun): Pastor Inoue will preach at Senboku New Town Church. Pastor Marie Tone will preach at Miyakojima Church.
- ③ Let's make our special summer offerings. Our goal is 150,000 yen.
- ④ On Sunday, August 2, following the worship service, we will hold a “Summer Party” that will also serve as a farewell gathering for Ritsuko Terada. There is no admission fee. We hope you will join us.
- ⑤ Reza Abspoor and Noa, who are in Iran, have reportedly evacuated to a rural summer resort and are safe. Noa is now 4 years old and is learning piano, dance, and Japanese. Mr. Usui visited Azusa and was able to obtain this information. Please pray for the family's safety.

⑥ 【Last week's meeting statistics】

day	meeting	boy	girl	adult	total	Donation
26	Church school	—	1	3	4	¥750
	meeting	male	female	child	total	Donation
26	Morning Service	9	14	2	25	¥17,330
28	Morning prayer	3	4	—	7	
29	Morning prayer	3	4	—	7	
31	Morning prayer	3	3	—	6	

⑥ 【Donation Report for July 26】

[Various Donations] Kumiko Usui, Keiko Nakamura (Total: 6,200 yen) [Summer Special] Kumiko Usui, Seiko Yamachiyo (Total: 10,000 yen)



【Continuation of last week's sermon summary】

▽His eating habits were haphazard, and he seemed to find even taking a bath or using the restroom too much trouble to bother with. Since he didn't bathe, he naturally had a certain odor. His clothes were dirty, too. At some point, he began standing in front of the church even on weekdays, calling out to passersby indiscriminately: “Come to church!” “Come to the bazaar!” “Come for Christmas!” When I first saw this, I worried that if he kept doing that, people might think, “A weirdo just called out to me—I'd better stay away,” or “The church seems scary.” However, inviting someone to “come to church” is the very basics—the first step in evangelism. Seeing him like that, I suddenly thought, “Ah, Jesus is right here.” This person was the “little Christ” I had encountered. It was an encounter that made me realize Jesus was actually very close by.

“This person and I are both precious human beings loved by God,” I realized. I might not be able to love them, but God already loves them. When I thought that, my heart felt at ease. And when I realized that I can do nothing on my own—that I am a weak and powerless being who cannot even love others—when I realized how small I truly am—at that moment, I came to see that the child Jesus lifted up in front of His disciples was, in fact, myself. I am granted the privilege of sharing the view seen by the one and only great person, Jesus Christ. In my relationships with others, rather than comparing myself to others—thinking “that person is great, while I am small”—I want to be someone who simply stands before God and contemplates my own smallness in the presence of the God who bestows unfathomable, immense love.

(Written by Takaaki Inoue)