

The 29th Sunday Rite of the year

Twenty- Second Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service

《Sunday Morning Divine Liturgy》

【Entrance Part】

- Prelude (Silent Prayer)

“To God Alone, Whom I Love”

(Hymn No. 454 in Hymnal 21)
Composed by K.G. Umbright

- Greeting
- Hymn 21-17
- Opening Prayer
- Reading Psalms: Psalm 10:12–18

【Worship of the Word】

- Scripture
 - ✚ 1 Corinthians 3:10–13, 16–17
 - ✚ Luke 11:20–26
- Response Hymns 21-46
- Lecture Pastor Takaaki Inoue
"The Dangers of Vacant Homes"
- Apostles' Creed

【Communion Worship】

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

【Response, Dispatch, and Blessing】

- Hymn 21-457
- Offering of Thanksgiving
- Hymns of Glory Hymns 21-24
- Words of Dispatch
- Prayer of Blessing
- Aftermath (Silent Prayer)
“With Your Word, O Lord”
(Hymnbook 21, No. 50)
Composed by J.C. Kittel

【Today's Worship Service】

- Assistant Presider: Masato Sawada
- Musician : Masako Iida
- Offering Collector : Takako Matsumoto
- Receptionist : Kotaro Hata

【Today's schedule】

- ◇ Church school (9:30 a.m.)
 - Talk : Hanae Kotsubo
- ◇ Hymn Practice (after the service)
- ◇ Joint Prayer Meeting
- ◇ Year-End Cleaning (after the service)

【Information on this week's church meetings】

- ◇ Morning Prayer
 - October 20 (Tue) at 8:30 a.m.
 - October 22 (Thu) at 9:00 a.m.
 - October 23 (Fri) at 9:00 a.m.

✱ We will clean the church after the prayer meeting.

- ◇ Prayer Meeting in English

- October 22 (Thu) at 7:30 p.m.

【Information on next Sunday】

- ◇ Church School Service (9:30 a.m.)

- Talk : Masato Sawada

- ◇ Sunday Morning Service
October 25 (10:30 a.m.)

- Scripture

✚ Hebrews 6:4–8 ✚ Luke 12:4–12

- Sermon: Pastor Takaaki Inoue
“Those Who Blaspheme the Holy Spirit”

- Hymn 21 361, 46, 404

- Reading Psalms : Psalm 11:1–7

- Assistant Presider: Mariko Inoue

- Musician : Sachie Shikano

- Offering Collector: Kenichi Yamachiyo

- Receptionist: Hideo Okumiya

- ◇ Hymn Practice (after the service)

- ◇ Joint Prayer Meeting
(after the service)

Scripture

「It brings along seven other spirits worse than itself, enters the person, and takes up residence there. When that happens, the person's condition becomes worse than it was before.」

(Luke 11:26)

【Reports and personal disappearances】

① "Pastor Inoue's schedule for this week" :
Tuesday, the 20th, at 10:00 a.m.: "Workshop on Mental Health"; Saturday, the 24th: "Omiya Nursery School Sports Day"

② 《Church Events Schedule for October》

■ October 18 (Sun) After the service "Church Cleanup" (Please bring your own lunch)

■ October 20 (Tue) 10:00 AM "Mental Health Study Group"

■ October 25 (Sun) After the service "Mission Council Meeting (Regarding the Construction of the Church Building)" (Meal provided by Group 2)

■ October 26 (Mon) 1:30 p.m. "Sharon Senri Worship Service"

③ On Monday, October 12 (a national holiday), we held a one-day Sunday school camp at Miyakojima Church. A total of 27 people participated, including 14 children and 13 adults. In the morning, we studied the "Lord's Prayer," and in the afternoon, we watched a puppet show adaptation of "Ivan the Fool" and learned the importance of not giving in to evil and living with integrity. We are truly grateful.

④ 【Last week's meeting statistics】

day	meeting	boy	girl	adult	total	Donation
11	Church school	—	1	7	8	¥1,550
	meeting	male	female	child	total	Donation
11	Morning Service	10	14	4	28	¥17,150
12	Day Camp	6	7	14	27	
13	Morning prayer	1	1	—	2	
14	Morning prayer	1	2	—	3	
16	Morning prayer	1	3	—	4	

⑤ 【Donation Report for October 11】

【Monthly Contributions】 Nobuaki Kimoto, Kimiko Kobuchi, Yoshihiro Kobuchi (Total: 105,400 yen)

【Donations】 Yoshiko Aizawa, Yoshihiro Kobuchi, Keiko Nakamura (Total: 33,000 yen) 【Mutual Aid】 Kimiko Kobuchi, Seiko Yamachiyo (Total: 3,000 yen)

⑥ To support the homeless, we would appreciate donations of new men's T-shirts and pants (sizes M–L). We would also appreciate donations of cup noodles and cup rice meals.

【Continuation of last week's sermon summary】

✚ Those who practice their faith selfishly on earth will likely do so in heaven as well. Those who do not follow Christ on earth will likely not follow Him in heaven either. Those who did not feel they needed Christ that much on earth will likely not feel they need Him in heaven either. This is because people's ways of living do not change that much.

③ 【Choose the path of descent, not ascent】 The disciples were seeking to become strong, great, wealthy, and prominent—the very things that everyone in this world desires. But here, the Lord commands them to live in a way that is the exact opposite of that: "Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave" (Matthew 20:27). This is a way of life that involves being weak, small, poor, and humble—the very way of life that Christ Himself walked. Henri Nouwen wrote: "The path a Christian leader follows is not the path of ascent that the world pursues with such great effort, but the path of descent that leads to the cross." It has been 36 years since I came to this church. I often wonder why this church does not become larger and wealthier. As the number of believers increases, they tend to scatter. Moreover, it is often the more influential believers who leave. I cannot help but think that God Himself is preventing us from growing larger. Faith is more vibrant and God's work is more evident when the church is small, poor, weak, and persecuted. When the church becomes large, wealthy, and strong, it becomes dominated by human calculations and human efforts, and the quality of faith declines and degenerates. We must choose the narrow path to the cross. It is not a path of ascent but one of descent. It is not a path of ease but one of suffering; not a path of glory but one of shame; not a path of victory but one of defeat; not a path of gain but one of loss; a path of letting others live while killing oneself; not a path where desires are fulfilled but one where they are let go. If God permits it, let us become great and wealthy in this world. If not, I wish to walk this path without ever forgetting it.