



San Diego Japanese Christian Church

Upward Way

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6). Jesus is the Upward Way!

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CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT RECEIVING

Are you getting into the Christmas spirit? When such a question is asked of us, we assume that the Christmas spirit is about giving. However, I believe that Christmas is really about RECEIVING, because God is the One who has given to us the greatest gift of all.

The Bible says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16) God gave His Son, so that by believing in Him, we might receive eternal life. Eternal life is an intimate relationship with God where we can address God as our Father, and live as His children (see John 1:12-13).

The Bible also says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23) The gift of eternal life and becoming a child of God is very costly. However, the cost was not paid by us, but by God Himself. It cost God the sacrifice of His Son, Christ Jesus. Jesus paid for the wages of our sin, which is death, by going to the cross and dying on our behalf. He died that we might live!

God gave us His Son, Jesus, so that we might RECEIVE eternal life! There is no greater blessing than to celebrate Christmas by receiving God's gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.

With love in Christ, Pastor Ichibei

LET US PRAISE, PRAY, AND PARTICIPATE

"pray at all times in the Spirit, . . . , be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:18)

- Let us pray for daily strength and God's continual care of: *Chris Barksdale, Keiko Chuman, Bob Cottle, Yasuko Davis, Ed Dunn, Sharon Dunn, Reiko Furuyama, Matsuko Gray, Yo Honda, Wendy Kaul, Oscar Kodama, Hiroo & Priscilla Kurano, Wendy Martino, Nadine Moorin, Meiko Nakano, Rei Seki, Larry & Irene Shimamoto, Michiko Shiromoto, Dorothy Sue, Kiyoko Uda, Raymond Uyeda, Kimiyo Uyeji, Pastor Yama, Rev. Rod Yee, and Irene Yonemura.*

- Let us pray for comfort for the families of the following loved ones who have gone home to be with the Lord: *Richard Christian (11/23), Junichi Inoue (11/27), Pastor Okura's mother, Kimie Okura (12/3).*

- Let us continue to pray for the churches and missionaries that our church financially supports: Japanese Christian Church of Tucson, South Bay Holiness Church, *Mike Fox (AIA), Nao & Barbara Hanada (JEMS), Pastor John Katagi (JEMS), Brent and Irina (People International), Richard & Keri Nakamura (SEND), Burton & Kat Sue (TEAM), Roy & Nancy Toma (JEMS), Kevin & Nozomi West (Mustard Seed Network), Reo Yoshida (Mustard Seed Network).* Let us also remember in prayer the following missionaries in Japan: *David Newell (WYAM Tokyo), Rev. & Mrs. Hideyo Ando, The Jon Junker Family, and Alan & Yurika Sue (EveryNation).* Please also pray for *Tomo Ito and Paul & Rie Mizuki (JEMS).*

- We thank God that we were able to collect 95 shoeboxes and over \$1,000 to help with shipping costs for this year's **Operation Christmas Child!** Thank you for giving generously to bless children in places of need. Let us be in prayer for these children.

- We thank God for the **Women's Christmas Breakfast** that was held on Saturday, December 7, and that the 97 women who attended the breakfast were able to enjoy a blessed time together.

- We thank God for the wonderful joint worship service and **Christmas Luncheon and Program** we were able to enjoy together on Sunday, December 8. Thank you to everyone who helped, brought food, performed, and served in various ways!

- Please pray for and plan to be a part of our church's **90th Anniversary Sunday** on February 9, 2020.

- This year, we are combining the **Youth Group Christmas Party** and the **Christmas Dinner and Carol Singing**, which will take place on Thursday, December 19, from 6:30 pm, at Pastor Ichibei's house (4148 Cortez Way, Spring Valley, CA 91977). Please bring a dish to share with everyone, and join us for a night of good food, fellowship, and joyful singing! For more info, please contact *Pastor Ichibei* at (619) 990-5675.

- **Reflect Ministries' Christmas Outreach** in Tijuana will take place on Saturday, December 21. Please prayerfully consider supporting this outreach. We will be collecting toys for the outreach until Sunday, December 15. For more information regarding Reflect Ministries, please go to www.reflectministries.com.

- Please join us on Sunday, December 22, for our **Christmas Worship Service** from 10:30 am. Let us come together to celebrate the true reason for the season: Our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ!

- Sunday, December 29, is our Sharing Sunday. It is also our end of the year worship service, and afterwards we will enjoy a **Soba & Udon Luncheon**. Please join us for a wonderful time of finishing the year together as a church family by worshiping God through a time of sharing, and eating noodles.

- Please note that there will be **NO Community Luncheon** in January. Next one will be on February 5.

- Please join us on Sunday, January 5, 2020, for our **New Year's Joint Worship Service** at 10:00 am. This is always a great way to start the year by joining as one church family to worship the Lord together. After the worship service, we will take a church photo.

- Our next **Men's Prayer Breakfast** will be on Saturday, January 11, at 9 am. Please join us for a great time of food, prayer, fellowship, and exhortation.

- **Winter Vision 2020** will be from Friday, January 17, through Monday, January 20. This annual youth retreat hosted by the Holiness Conference is held at the Koinonia Conference Grounds in Watsonville, CA. Please pray for those who will be attending the retreat: *Ayla Bocaya, Leya Cincilus, Dominic Crosetti, Keileina and Philip Honda, Tara Mettier, Reika Proctor, and Matthew Stokes;* and for *Pastor Ichibei & Yunike* who will be driving them to and from the retreat. Thank you.