



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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CORONA: DO YOU SEE THE KING OF KINGS?

As I write this article, I am fully aware that you do not need another story on the coronavirus. However, I wanted to write about what we learn from this current situation we are experiencing as it relates to this virus. I do not want to make light of this virus, because I am aware that many people have been affected by it directly, and indirectly. Life as we know it seems different from how we knew it to be even just a month ago. Yet, we should also be cognizant of the fact that life as it relates to God has not changed. God is still on His throne in heaven! The effects of sin and evil may be evident in our world we live in, but God is still sovereign, mighty, and good! We can therefore continue to trust in Him, and seek His protection, mercy, and salvation.

In general, "corona" means a crown, or a crown shape. So, what crowns all viruses? If you answered the coronavirus, you answered incorrectly. Let me put it another way. Who is sovereign over all viruses? Jesus is the King of kings! As the King of kings and Lord over all, Jesus declares, "*I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?*" (John 11:25-26)

As we have seen through our study of the Gospel of Luke in our Sunday worship services, Jesus is able to heal people of sicknesses, cast out demons, still storms, and feed the masses with a small portion of food. He is victorious over death, because He lived a perfect and sinless life, sacrificially gave His life to pay for the penalty of our sins, and rose from the grave, so that through faith in Him we might have eternal life. Do you see Him as King, and place your faith in Him? Then, you have nothing to fear in living daily for Him.

Prayerfully 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, Kiyo Uda, Raymond Uyeda, Kimiyo Uyeji, Pastor Yama, Rev. Rod Yee, and Irene Yonemura.*

- 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, Alan & Yurika Sue (EveryNation), and Paul & Rie Mizuki (JEMS).* Please also pray for *Tomo Ito.*

- We want to thank and recognize **Debbie Hom** for her work in making the special logo for our 90th Anniversary. We apologize for not having acknowledged her earlier. We thank God for her and her ministry to us in this way!

- We thank God for **David Newell**, and are blessed to have him with us while he is back in the U.S. for a month. Please continue to remember David in your prayers as he will be returning to Japan to continue his missions work with YWAM Tokyo.

- We were blessed to have **Greg Newell** as our worship service speaker on Sunday, March 22. We thank God for His provision of various teachers and preachers in our church!

- **All church-related meetings, including Sunday Worship Services on March 29 and April 5, will be CANCELED through Saturday, April 11.** ALL "in-person" meetings will not be taking place during the stated time period. Thus, this year's **Easter Picnic & Egg Hunt, April Community Luncheon, and Good Friday Service, have been CANCELLED.** You are encouraged to observe the Sunday worship services online by going to our church website at www.sdjcc.net.

- It is our hope, barring any governmental restrictions, to resume regular worship services, while still encouraging online viewing, **starting on Resurrection (Easter) Sunday, April 12**, with a Joint Worship Service at 10:00 am. However, there will be **NO Sunrise Service and Easter Breakfast** on that day.

- The church has been working on setting up online giving capability, and it is now available by going to: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=688863>.

- Let us remember that corporately and individually, we are called to be ambassadors for Christ, so let us prayerfully consider how we may share the joy of salvation in Christ to friends and family during this time of uncertainty for many in this world.

- There will be **NO Men's Prayer Breakfast and Women's Prayer Fellowship** in April. Lord willing, the next gathering will be on Saturday, May 9, at 9 am.

- This year's **Church Clean Up Day** is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. This is our opportunity to come together to clean the church. Please plan on being a part of this special day of care for our place of worship and ministry.

- We hope to have a **Youth Group** meeting on Sunday, May 3, after the worship service. If you have any youth related questions, please contact *Pastor Ichibei*.