



Order of Worship

**Those who are able, please stand*

Words of Welcome:

Prelude: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" pianist, Yoko Irie

(Please be in quiet meditation as the acolyte lights the candles representing the Light of Christ.).

***Call to Worship:** *(please stand)* Liturgist: Yu Hee Lee

Liturgist: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People: He is risen Indeed!

Opening Hymn: "Crown Him with Many Crowns" #317 vs 1-3

Prayer of Confession:

Life-giving God, we confess our frequent failure to trust you. Hear us and help our unbelief, we pray. As you did for the disciples, help us to understand that you will bring peace to each one of us. Forgive all those times when we treat this moment of revelation as though it was impossible. Give us the courage to reach out to you and touch our hearts once again. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen. *(moment of silent confession)*

Words of Assurance:

Pastor: The Lord did not abandon Thomas to his unbelief, nor will the Lord abandon us to ours. God hears our cries for help and answers. God knows how we struggle to believe what we can't see or touch. Know that our Invisible God makes forgiveness visible to our hearts and souls. See God at work in your life from this day forward. Now trust your spiritual sight more each day. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Welcome to Our Guests in Worship:

We welcome everyone to YUC this morning. If there is anyone who has not been here before or has not been to YUC in a long time, please stand up and introduce yourself by saying your name and where you are from. Please also fill out the welcome cards and drop them in the offering bag.

Passing of the Peace:

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with you!

People: And also with you.

Leader: Please pass the peace of Christ with one another by saying, "The Peace of the Lord be with you."

Children's Message: Alisha Yamamori and Meegu-chan (Baabaara)

("Jesus Loves Me" played as children come forward; played again as children return to their seats.)

Scripture Reading: John 20:19- 29

English: Ai Shibata Japanese: Katsuhiro Shibata

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." ²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." ²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

った。そして、墓から石が取りのけてあるのを見た。2 そこで、シモン・ペトロのところへ、また、イエスが愛しておられたもう一人の弟子のところへ走って行って、彼らに告げた。「誰かが主を墓から取り去りました。どこに置いたのか、分かりません。」3 そこで、ペトロともう一人の弟子は外に出て、墓へ行った。4 二人は一緒に走ったが、もう一人の弟子のほうが、ペトロより速く走って、先に墓に着いた。5 身をかがめて中をのぞくと、亜麻布が置いてあるのを見たが、中には入らなかった。6 続いて、シモン・ペトロも着いた。彼は墓に入り、亜麻布が置いてあるのを見た。7 イエスの頭を包んでいた覆いは、亜麻布と同じ所には置いてなく、離れた所に丸めてあった。8 それから、先に墓に着いたもう一人の弟子も中に入って来て、見て、信じた。9 イエスが死者の中から必ず復活されることを記した聖書の言葉を、二人はまだ理解していなかったのである。10 それから、この弟子たちは家に帰って行った。11 マリアは墓の外に立って泣いていた。泣きながら身をかがめて墓の中をのぞくと、12 イエスの遺体の置いてあった所に、白い衣を着た二人の天使が、一人は頭の方に、一人は足の方に座っているのが見えた。13 天使たちが、「女よ、なぜ泣いているのか」と言うと、マリアは言った。「誰かが私の主を取り去りました。どこに置いたのか、分かりません。」14 こう言って後ろを振り向くと、イエスの立っておられるのが見えた。しかし、それがイエスだとは分からなかった。15 イエスは言われた。「女よ、なぜ泣いているのか。誰を捜しているのか。」マリアは、園の番人だと思って言った。「あなたがあの方を運び去ったのでしたら、どこに置いたのか、どうぞ、おっしゃってください。私が、あの方を引き取ります。」16 イエスが、「マリア」と言われると、彼女は振り向いて、ヘブライ語で、「ラボニ」と言った。「先生」という意味である。17 イエスは言われた。「私に触れてはいけない。まだ父のもとへ上っていないのだから。私のきょうだいたちのところへ行って、こう言いなさい。『私の父であり、あなたがたの父である方、また、私の神であり、あなたがたの神である方のもとに私は上る』と。」18 マグダラのマリアは弟子たちのところへ行って、「私は主を見ました」と告げ、また、主から言われたことを伝えた。

Readers: May God bless our scripture reading for today.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon: "Seeing is Believing? What Did Thomas Say" Rev. Claudia Genung-Yamamoto

Hymn Response: [When Thomas Heard from Jesus](#) (Tune: "The Church's One Foundation" #544)

A hymn about the Apostle Thomas' growing faith
When Thomas Heard from Jesus
AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D ("The Church's One Foundation")

When Thomas heard from Jesus, "Now come and follow me,"
He surely went with gladness, for there was much to see.
He witnessed Jesus' teaching and saw his healing touch;
He found a faith to guide him, a friend he loved so much.

When Jesus spoke of heaven, bold Thomas dared to say,
"We don't know where you're going! How can we know the way?"
He wanted understanding of what he could not see.
Then Jesus reassured him, "The way is here — through me."

When crowds began to murmur and leaders raised their cry,
Brave Thomas spoke out firmly, "Let's go with him and die."
He ate at Jesus' table, partaking wine and bread;
Yet later with the others, he saw the cross and fled.

What joy on Easter evening when many saw the Lord!
Yet Thomas was not with them and would not trust their word.
When Christ appeared before him, his doubts were quickly gone;
He gladly knew that evening the joy of Easter dawn.

That man of faith saw Jesus at breakfast by the sea;
At Pentecost he witnessed so others would believe.
O Lord, may we — like Thomas — keep growing day by day;
Increase our faith and guide us, for Lord, you are the Way.

Biblical References: Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16; John 11:11-16;
John 14:1-7; John 20:19-29; John 21:1-7; Acts 1:12-14

Tithes and Offerings / Special music: "The Old Rugged Cross" piano 4 hands, Miho Kobayashi and Michiko Okuhara

***Doxology: #147**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayers of the People: Alisha Yamamori

The Lord's Prayer: *(please say in your own language or tradition or use this one below.)*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

***Closing Hymn:** “

Benediction:

Postlude: “**Make Us One**” Yoko Irie, pianist

(Please be in quiet meditation as the acolyte takes out the light of Christ to the world.)

THOSE SERVING IN TODAY’S SERVICE

Ministers: The people of YUC

Pastor: Rev. Claudia Genung-Yamamoto

Fellowship Preparation and Ushers: Julyca Kato and Masaki Tokuda

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY: AGM Annual General Meeting will be held immediately after worship.

Next week - Spring Fair on May 3!

May 4 Preacher: Jeremiya Narzary, field supervisor-cum-trainer, natural farming from Asia

Rural Institute. Sermon title: Topic: Balancing Christian Life Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Please read about ARI in Japanese or in English: <https://ari.ac.jp/>

<https://ari.ac.jp/en/home/>

Offering Information:

“...for God loves a cheerful giver.” – 2 Corinthians 9:7

In-person and online options for offering are available at Yokohama Union Church. See Jeff Canaday or Michael Magee for offering envelopes or feel free to use the direct deposit option with Bank of Yokohama.

Bank: Yokohama Bank/ 横浜銀行 **Branch:** Motomachi/元町支店

Type of account: ordinary/普通口座 **Account number:** 1150200

YOKOHAMA UNION CHURCH was founded in 1863 and is an ecumenical and international congregation of English-speaking Christians. The word “union” is used to indicate the membership is composed of Christians from many churches and nationalities who are united through a common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Yokohama Union Church is independent and financially self-supporting; it is a member of the National Christian Council in Japan. Everyone is welcome.

YUC WEBSITE: <https://yokohamaunionchurch.org/>