

# Yokohama Union Church

4th Sunday after Pentecost, July 6, 2025

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## Order of Worship

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*\*Those who are able, please stand*

**Words of Welcome:** Michael Magee

**Prelude:** “*Christ Beside Me*” Lydia Leung, piano

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

**\*Call to Worship** (inspired by Luke 15:11-32): Liturgist: Satoko Suzuki

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

**People: For once we were lost and felt so far away;  
now we have been found and welcomed home.**

Leader: Know that God’s love is lavished upon you forever.

**People: We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!  
Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.**

**All: Amen!**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “*Great is Thy Faithfulness*” #72 please stand

### **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: We have received the peace of God through the Gospel. Let us now share it as a sign of our love and unity in Christ. The Peace of the Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Pass the peace of Christ with one another by saying, “Peace be with you.”

## Children's Time: Rev. Daniel Matsunaga

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

### Scripture Reading: Luke 15:11-24 English: Miho Asano Japanese: Katsuhiro Sugano

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

#### ルカによる福音書 15 章 11-24 節

11 また、イエスは言われた。「ある人に息子が二人いた。12 弟の方が父親に、『お父さん、わたしが頂くことになっている財産の分け前をください』と言った。それで、父親は財産を二人に分けてやった。13 何日もたたないうちに、下の息子は全部を金に換えて、遠い国に旅立ち、そこで放蕩の限りを尽くして、財産を無駄遣いしてしまった。14 何もかも使い果たしたとき、その地方にひどい飢饉が起こって、彼は食べるにも困り始めた。15 それで、その地方に住むある人のところに身を寄せたところ、その人は彼を畑にやって豚の世話をさせた。16 彼は豚の食べるいなご豆を食べてでも腹を満たしたかったが、食べ物をくれる人はだれもいなかった。17 そこで、彼は我に返って言った。『父のところでは、あんなに大勢の雇い人に、有り余るほどパンがあるのに、わたしはここで飢え死にしそうだ。18 ここをたち、父のところに行つて言おう。『お父さん、わたしは天に対しても、またお父さんに対しても罪を犯しました。19 もう息子と呼ばれる資格はありません。雇い人の一人にしてください』と。』20 そして、彼はそこをたち、父親のもとに行った。ところが、まだ遠く離れていたのに、父親は息子を見つけて、憐れに思い、走り寄って首を抱き、接吻した。21 息子は言った。『お父さん、わたしは天に対しても、またお父さんに対しても罪を犯しました。もう息子と呼ばれる資格はありません。』22 しかし、父親は僕たちに言った。『急いでいちばん良い服を持って来て、この子に着せ、手に指輪をはめてやり、足に履物を履かせなさい。23 それから、肥えた子牛を連れて来て屠りなさい。食べて祝おう。24 この息子は、死んでいたのに生き返り、いなくなっていたのに見つかったからだ。』そして、祝宴を始めた。

Reader: May God bless our scripture reading for today.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.



**Sermon:** “The Loving Father” Rev. Daniel Matsunaga

**Hymn Response:** (please remain seated) “*I Love You, Lord*” #85

**Tithes and Offerings:** “*Give Thanks*” Lydia Leung, piano

**\*Doxology:** #34 (please stand)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

*Praise Him, all creatures here below*

*Praise Him above, ye heavenly host*

*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Amen!*

**Offertory Prayer:**

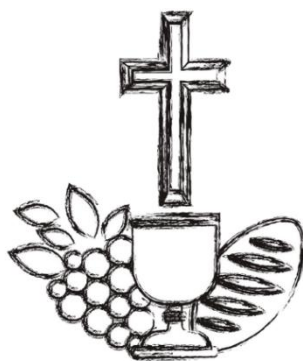
**Prayers of the People:** Rev. Daniel Matsunaga

**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.**

**Holy Communion:**

Communion Celebrant: Rev. Daniel Matsunaga, Communion Server: Michael Magee



**\*Closing Hymn**(please stand): “*Softly and Tenderly*” #348

**\*Benediction:** (remain standing) : Rev. Daniel Matsunaga

**Postlude:** “*O Christ the Same*” Lydia Leung, piano  
(The acolyte takes out the light of Christ to the world.)

## THOSE SERVING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Special thanks to Pastor Daniel Matsunaga for preaching. Also, thank you to others who helped with our service today.

We are pleased to welcome back Pastor Daniel Matsunaga today. Originally from Sacramento, California, Pastor Matsunaga spent close to 10 Years in Fukuoka, Japan, where he was actively involved in church planting and Japanese pastoral ministry. Then he was connected and worked for 3 years at Asia Pacific Theological Seminary in Baguio City Philippines.

Currently, he is based with his family here in Yokohama, working with Japanese churches. He is also a proud father of two young daughters who previously attended YCS. Pastor Matsunaga has preached for Yokohama Union Church in the past, as well as at Yokohama Christian School's worship services.

**Ministers:** All of us at YUC.

**Communion repARATION:** Etsuko Fukuoka and Yoriko Canaday

**Usher and Fellowship:** Michael Magee and Miho Kobayashi

**YUC Board Members:** Michael Magee, Fumi Ohnuma, Jessie Dang, Ran Oji, Ayako Maenosono

## ANNOUNCEMENTS: Michael Magee

- ✧ **July 13:** Next week's preacher: Rev. Jonathan Oh, **Scripture: Colossians 1:1-14**
- ✧ **July 13:** Rev. Toshi Yamamoto's Christian Seminar in Japanese will be after worship from **12:15pm**. 山本牧師のキリスト教セミナー（日本語）は、7月13日の礼拝後12時15分から開催されます。
- ✧ Food Bank at Uenomachi Church: Please bring donations of non-perishable food. We also need food items for the homeless ministry in Kannai Station. Please ask Etsuko, our homeless ministry coordinator what food items are appreciated. You are welcome to volunteer with Etsuko, sometime during summer from 7-8 pm on Thursdays.
- ✧ Prayers: Feel free to pray in small groups after church in the sanctuary, prayer room, or the back room. You may also request prayers from anyone on the Church Board or text Pastor Claudia while she is in the US.
- ✧ Pastor Claudia is in the US on her missionary home assignment. She is gone from July 3-August 26. You may text or email her if you wish. Claudia's husband Toshi will join Claudia in the US mid-July. If there is a pastoral emergency, Toshi will be available until July 18th. Pastors Debbie and Ronald can also help with any pastoral care or counseling. You may also contact our YUC Board Chairperson, Michael Magee at [yuc.chair@yokohamaunionchurch.org](mailto:yuc.chair@yokohamaunionchurch.org)

## 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

**Donate via Credit Card:** [goyuc.com/give](https://goyuc.com/give)

On Sunday June 29, 2025 we received 89,598 yen for our in-person worship offering.  
Attendance: total 48 (41 adults, 7 children)

**YOKOHAMA UNION CHURCH** is a church where all are welcome. YUC 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 an associate member of the National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ).

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

