



Yokohama Union Church

15th Sunday after Pentecost September 21, 2025

Order of Worship

**Those who are able, please stand*

Words of Welcome:

Prelude: “*Worthy of Worship*” Lydia Leung, piano

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

***Call to Worship :** Liturgist: Etsuko Fukuoka

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!

Leader: Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

All: AMEN!

***Opening Hymn:** “*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*” #440 verses 1 and 2 please stand

Prayer of Confession:

Heavenly Father, we confess that we have often wandered from you, like a lost sheep or a coin hidden away. We have been lost in our pride, in our self-sufficiency, and in our attempts to go our own way. Forgive us for our spiritual complacency and for not diligently seeking you and your ways. Grant us the courage and the heart to turn back to you and to appreciate the joy that fills heaven when one sinner repents.

Words of Assurance:

But hear the Good News! You, O God, are like the shepherd or the woman in the parables, relentlessly seeking us out. You do not leave us in our lost state, but rejoice with immense joy when you find us, gathering us into the community of the faithful. Just as there is joy in heaven when one lost soul is found, so too are you delighted to receive us and restore us to fellowship. We are assured that in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and welcomed home.

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: 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. Claudia Genung-Yamamoto and Alisha Yamamori

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

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:3-10

English: Alisha Yamamori **Japanese:** Raina Yamamori

3 So he told them this parable: 4 "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

8 "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

ルカによる福音書 15 章 3-10 節

3 そこで、イエスは次のたとえを話された。4 「あなたがたの中に、百匹の羊を持っている人がいて、その一匹を見失ったとすれば、九十九匹を野原に残して、見失った一匹を見つけ出すまで捜し回らないだろうか。5 そして、見つけたら、喜んでその羊を担いで、6 家に帰り、友達や近所の人々を呼び集めて、『見失った羊を見つけたので、一緒に喜んでください』と言うであろう。7 言うておくが、このように、悔い改める一人の罪人については、悔い改める必要のない九十九人の正しい人についてよりも大きな喜びが天にある。」8 「あるいは、ドラクメ銀貨を十枚持っている女がいて、その一枚を無くしたとすれば、ともし火をつけ、家を掃き、見つけるまで念を入れて捜さないだろうか。9 そして、見つけたら、友達や近所の女たちを呼び集めて、『無くした銀貨を見つけましたから、一緒に喜んでください』と言うであろう。10 言うておくが、このように、一人の罪人が悔い改めれば、神の天使たちの間に喜びがある。」

Reader: May God bless our scripture reading for today.

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Sermon: "Lost, Found, and Celebrated" Rev. Claudia Genung-Yamamoto

Hymn Response (please remain seated): *"Once a Sheep Was in a Pasture"*

(Tune: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" Ode to Joy - **see insert**)

Tithes and Offerings / Special music: *“Dona Nobis Pacem”*

violin, Ma You and Yuhee Lee, piano Yoko Irie

***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. Claudia Genung-Yamamoto

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:** *“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”* #440 verses 3 and 4 *(please stand)*

***Benediction:** *(remain standing)*

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



THOSE SERVING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Ministers: All of us at YUC.

Usher and Fellowship: Masaki Tokuda, Ai Sugano

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✧ **TODAY September 21:** 12:10 pm Rev. Toshi's Christian Seminar (in Japanese) 山本牧師のキリスト教セミナー（日本語）は、本日の礼拝後 12 時 10 分から開催されます。「ウエスレーの信仰と米国メソジスト教会の宣教課題」
次回の日本語によるキリスト教セミナーは 10 月 19 日です。皆様どうぞご予定くださいませ。
- ✧ **September 28 : Aurora Murabayashi's testimony! Invite your friends!**
Church forum after worship. Please stay to talk about what matters to you at YUC and what ideas you may have!
- ✧ **October 5 : World Communion Sunday. World Communion Sunday** is observed on the first Sunday of October and serves as a day for Christians globally to celebrate their unity in Christ. Please wear something from your own or another culture to church and also bring bread from other cultures (tortillas, nan, French bread, brown bread, rice balls, etc.)

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

On Sunday September 14, 2025 we received 95,990 yen for our in-person worship offering.
Attendance: total 51 (46 adults, 5 children), on YouTube: 7

Scriptures for next Sunday:

2 Corinthians 5:17 - "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come, the old has gone, the new is here."

Psalms 121:1-2, 7-8 - I lift up my eyes to the mountains where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Hebrews 11:1 "Faith is being sure of what you hope for and certain of what you do not see." Ecclesiastes 3:11 - "He has made everything beautiful in its time."

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/>

