



Yokohama Union Church

16th Sunday after Pentecost September 28, 2025

Order of Worship

**Those who are able, please stand*

Words of Welcome:

Prelude: “*Holy Ground*” Michiko Okuhara, piano

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

***Call to Worship :** Liturgist: Pastor Debbie Umipig-Julian *(Based on Psalm 121)*

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?

People: Our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: The Lord watches over us; He keeps our lives secure.

People: The Lord will watch over our coming and going, both now and forevermore.

All: Let us worship the God who guards, guides, and sustains us.

***Opening Hymn:** “*When Peace Like A River (I Surrender All)* ” #428 verses 1 and 2

Prayer of Confession *(based on Psalm 121) :*

Merciful God, we confess that we have looked to the hills and trusted in our own strength instead of You, our true Help and Keeper. Forgive us, and lift our eyes again to You, the Maker of heaven and earth. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Hebrews 11:1 reads, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

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 and Welcoming New YUC Members:

Xue Zhong and Aurora Murabayashi Led by Pastor Claudia and Chair of YUC Board, Michael Magee

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

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ecclesiastes 3:10-11

English: Michael Magee **Japanese:** Yukie Takahashi

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! -- 2 Corinthians 5:17

10 I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end." Ecclesiastes 3:10-11

コリントの信徒への手紙二 05 章 17 節

だから、キリストと結ばれる人はだれでも、新しく創造された者なのです。古いものは過ぎ去り、新しいものが生じた。

コヘレトの言葉/ 03 章 10-11 節

10 わたしは、神が人の子らにお与えになった務めを見極めた。11 神はすべてを時宜にかなうように造り、また、永遠を思う心を人に与えられる。それでもなお、神のなさる業を始めから終わりまで見極めることは許されていない。

Reader: May God bless our scripture reading for today.

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

Testimony: "Miracles in My Life" Aurora Murabayashi

Hymn Response (please remain seated): "In His Time" (see insert)

Tithes and Offerings / Special music: "Ave verum Corpus"

YUC Singers, piano Michiko Okuhara

***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:

Responsive Prayers of the People: *(Based on Psalm 121)* Led by Pastor Debbie

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

All: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: For the Church throughout the world, that we may trust your keeping and walk in your ways.

All: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: For the nations, their leaders, and peoples longing for peace, that you would guard them from evil and guide them in justice.

All: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: For creation—the mountains, seas, and skies that bear witness to your majesty—make us faithful stewards of the earth you have made.

All: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: For the weary, the sick, the grieving, and the lonely, that you would preserve them from all harm and surround them with your healing presence.

All: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: For our families, friends, and neighbors, that you would keep our going out and our coming in, from this time on and forevermore.

All: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: O Lord, you are our keeper and our shade. You preserve our life now and always. We entrust all our prayers to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

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:** *"Shout to the Lord" #94*

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

Postlude: *"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"* Michiko Okuhara, 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: Merry Amano, Chihiro Nakai (Usher), Fumi Onuma (Fellowship)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✧ **September Birthday Prayers**
- ✧ **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。
The next 日本語によるキリスト教セミナー is on October 19th. Mark your calendars!
- ✧ **TODAY : Church forum after worship. 12noon to 1 pm. Sandwiches provided. Please stay to talk in small groups about what you like at YUC and what ideas you may have for YUC.**
- ✧ **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.)
- ✧ **October 20-26:** YCS Autumn Break

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 Jessie Dang 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 21, 2025 we received 86,431 yen for our in-person worship offering.
Attendance: total 53 (44 adults, 9 children)

Scriptures for next Sunday:

1 Corinthians 10:17 - "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread."

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/>

