

Letter #11 – Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter! Please join us on our online Easter Service via Youtube. The music, poetry, youth and children video (by Kelli), prayer and reflections truly remind us of

Christ's Resurrection! I would like to thank Kelli, Melody, Keiko, Liam, DeeDee, and Rev. Jon for making this experience possible. Kelli, Jon, and DeeDee provided special technical help which will guide us further in the upcoming weeks as we continue our online worship experiences.

We will continue to have Letter #'s on Wednesday and Sunday; and online worship (about 20 minutes) on Sundays. Online worship will feature music from our members and friends. Please submit the materials to me. I will try my best to incorporate the material.

I have also provided a separate link to the Youth and Children's video so parents can access it directly: [CLICK HERE](#) for video

As we are moving into week 4 and 5, many may be feeling SIP fatigue. I have heard of many people reaching out to each other. Keep it up. These weeks will be a good time to intentionally reach out to one another, especially our super seniors!

Take care, be safe and as we used to say way back in the Wayback... "keep on keeping on!" (yes, I think I getting a bit punchy)

Roger

Our Weekly Prayers List:

Haruye Ng, Paul Osaki, Sue Nakamura, Tak Nishiura, Sam Nieda, Kiyo Shizuru, Lea Haratani, Hitoshi Tachibana, Chloe Gong, Ginger Powell, Kamila Young, Jieun Lee, David Nelson, Patricia Orr, Jamie Campbell, Mel Imai, Harry Hatasaka, Amy Shao, Patricia Orr, Ray Narimatsu, Rev. Mariellen Sawada Yoshino, and Sue Lemba.

Prayers of joy in the birth of Evan Wong, newborn son of Scott and Michele Wong and new grandson of Judy Wong. Scott and Michele live in Washington D.C.



Reflection on Passover and Covid-17 by Rev. Jon Visitacion

I am writing to you on the day of Passover, one of the biggest holidays celebrated in the Jewish tradition. If you haven't watched *The Ten Commandments* with Charlton Heston and unfamiliar with the story of Moses, here is a brief summary of what Passover is all about. I believe the story touches us at this moment, as we recognize the one night where the Hebrews stayed in their homes while God "passed over" their families and spared them from the tenth and final plague.

The shelter-in-place brings to light a very similar story of staying home to be kept safe from the danger. The stress and fear to be home and isolated while waiting for the "curve to flatten". I wonder how the Hebrews felt that night when they knew the plague came into their village: how scared they were, how they wanted to leave their home, but also fearful of going outside too "early". As the Jewish community begins to celebrate Passover, some Jewish communities have called this the "11th plague".

The coronavirus is not the same biblical plague described in Passover, and I do not believe that the covid-19 virus is a plague that will define God's chosen people. This virus has affected the lives of everyone and sadly does not discriminate in who is infected. However, I think it is important to hold onto the same hope and patience that comes in celebrating Passover because there is hope in believing in God who is with us. For me, that adds more depth to what our spiritual ancestors have gone through, and our own faith journey that continues to unfold in light of the shelter-in-place.

May you all be safe and connected to God and to one another in this holy season. Amen.

From the Asian American Summer Camp Directors (ie. Kelli Yamaguma and Camille Obata!):

Hello all campers, parents, and local churches!

We hope you are staying well and taking care of your health during this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are sending you comfort and support through this difficult time of separation. With heavy hearts, we would like to share with you that we have collectively decided to cancel an in-person Asian Camp this year. This was a difficult decision to make, but the Camping Board, the NJAUMC Caucus, and the Asian Camp directors determined that health and safety for our campers and staff are the highest priority.

We've been exploring other options because we know AC has the potential to strengthen our community through the spiritual growth we engage in together. We are excited to invite you to participate in Virtual AC 2020, a different way of "doing" camp this year.

Virtual AC allows a virtual space (via Zoom, live streaming, social media, and other alternative formats) for campers to participate in this camp community while adhering to social distancing. Our vision is to instill new habits when socially distant, tend to the needs of our camp community and redefine sacred space.

We are entering uncharted territory and would like to invite all campers to fill out our survey about their interest in participating in Virtual AC: [Virtual AC Camper Interest Survey](#)

We anticipate some anxiousness about accessing technology and social media, as well as other questions about registration and our format. Our intention with this email is to update you on the status of Asian Camp 2020 and determine the potential interest from youth about attending a Virtual AC. We will keep you updated on the registration process as we finalize our plans.

We thank you for your support and love for camp. We are excited to bring to life our vision for Virtual AC!

Warmly,
Camille Obata and Kelli Yamaguma
AC Directing Team 2020

From A Church Member:

NBC TO AIR JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR LIVE IN CONCERT ON EASTER SUNDAY

Due to the social distancing standards in place for the foreseeable future, many will be spending their Easter holiday in unconventional settings. To contribute to a socially-distanced Easter, NBC just announced that they will air an encore presentation of the 2018 production of Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert this Sunday — Easter Sunday — April 12, 2020. The performance will air from 7:00-9:30 PM (ET/PT) on the NBC channel, as well as on select streaming services that offer live television, e.g. Hulu + Live TV or YouTube TV.

CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIFE (CSL) / PROGRAMS GO ONLINE!

Thanks to the encouragement from Paul Sakuma and his willingness to help people get up to speed on Zoom, the Kaizen Living and Enneagram sessions will go online.

“Kaizen Living” - From Nan Kitaura:

Hi everyone,

Nan Kitaura is inviting you to Center for Spiritual Live (CSL) for Kaizen Living Zoom Meeting on Tuesday, **April 14 starting at 7:30 pm.** The topic will be “Staying Sane with SIP - Trying to Stay Healthy at Home”.

Please email Nan so she can send handout material in advance. Email: nankitaura@gmail.com
If you need help using Zoom, contact Paul Sakuma in advance. Email: psakuma@aol.com

Join Zoom Meeting Link:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/783345271>

Meeting ID: 783 345 271 / PASSWORD: 012345

One tap mobile with video and audio on smartphone:
+16699006833,,783345271#,,#012345# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location with audio only on any phone:
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 301 715 8592 US
+1 253 215 8782 US

Find your local number: <https://us04web.zoom.us/u/fcaaN1ET8Y>

Here's to your health,

Nan Kitaura, NBC-HWC
(National Board Certified Health and Wellness Coach) 650-670-7970 Kaizen Living and Wellbeing Coach
“Taking small steps for lasting change”

“Enneagram” - From Matt Schlegel:

Matt Schlegel is inviting you to a scheduled AUMC Enneagram Zoom meeting on “Enneagram and Shelter-In-Place” on [Tuesday, April 21 at 7:30 pm](#)

If you need help signing onto Zoom, please contact Paul Sakuma in advance - psakuma@aol.com

You can contact Matt Schlegel - matt@schlegelcascade.com

Join Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/338624363>

Meeting ID: 338 624 363

PASSWORD: 012345

One tap mobile for video and audio on smartphone:

+16699006833,,338624363#,,#012345# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,338624363#,,#012345# US (Houston)

Dial by your location for audio only from any phone:

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US

Find your local number: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/338624363>

From a Church Member - Some Easter Humor

What is the Easter Bunny's favorite kind of music?

... “Hip Hop!”

What do you call a line of rabbits jumping backwards?

... “A receding hare-line!”

... or as Lori says, “Roger's forehead.”