Friday, February 15, 1991 12:05-12:35 p.m.

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR JAPANESE-AMERICAN REDRESS

Prelude

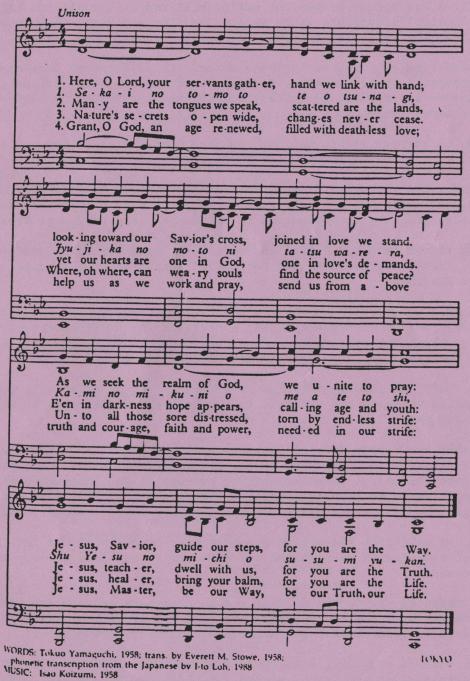
Elinor Kajiwara

Opening remarks

Franklin J. Woo

Hymn:

Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather



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Psalm 103:1-6 Letter from the President

Vassie M. Welbeck Patricia J. Patterson

A LITANY TO MARK THIS OCCASION

Elinor Kajiwara

- Leader: We remember 110,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry uprooted from their homes, businesses, farms, and places of worship and education and imprisoned in ten internment camps in 1942-45.
- All: O God, we are pained at how our nation betrayed its people and its Constitution; strengthen us to reject the lies and right the wrongs that hide the suffering of innocent people wherever they may be.
- L: We remember the courage, caring, and creativity of Japanese Americans grandparents, fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, cousins, friends, and neighbors in crowded, unsanitary conditions, surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards.
- All: O God, bless your people who have endured humiliation, distrust, and unjust imprisonment; inspire us all through their courage.
- L: We remember the struggle for new jobs and new homes, the loss of land and familiar communities, the perseverance of people in spite of racism and intolerance, the determination to start over when they were free.
- All: O God, remove from our hearts and our lives, from our towns and our farms, from our states and our nation, all patterns of prejudice, all racist systems.
- L: We remember the friends who visited and wrote letters to the imprisoned, the churches and other organizations, especially the American Friends Service Committee, which ministered, advocated for justice, and helped released Japanese Americans to go to college and to get jobs in new places.
- All: 0 God, help us to work together in a true spirit of unity with friends and allies wherever the struggle for justice and peace requires us to walk hard paths.
- L: We remember the steady work of Japanese American groups and individuals to rescind Executive Order 9066 in the Bicentennial Year of 1976, to investigate the unjust circumstances of evacuation and internment through the Commission on Wartime Internment and Relocation of Civilians Act in 1980, and to gain approval for Redress by the Congress and President in 1988.
- All: O God, we celebrate the vision and perseverance of those who led the fight for Redress, and we give thanks for this act of national apology and repentance.
- L: In the midst of war today, we hear the same threats to Arab Americans, the same use of enemy stereotypes, the same irrational war hysteria and manipulation of patriotism to intimidate and quiet dissent.
- All: O God, make us vigilant, sensitive, true to our ideals, so that we will not again violate the rights of tens of thousands of people. May the experience and struggle of Japanese Americans not be in vain. Guide us and our nation in paths of righteousness and peace. Amen

WASHINGTON

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A monetary sum and words alone cannot restore lost years or erase painful memories; neither can they fully convey our Nation's resolve to rectify injustice and to uphold the rights of individuals. We can never fully right the wrongs of the past. But we can take a clear stand for justice and recognize that serious injustices were done to Japanese Americans during World War II.

In enacting a law calling for restitution and offering a sincere apology, your fellow Americans have, in a very real sense, renewed their traditional commitment to the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice. You and your family have our best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,

(signed)

George Bush

REFLECTIONS ON THE JAPANESE-AMERICAN REDRESS

William M. Hohri Tooru J. Kanazawa

Yuri Kochiyama
People in the congregation

HYMN:

DEAR GOD, YOUR PATIENCE WITH US STILL (tune of "Dear Lord and Father")

Dear God, your patience with us still in our unfaithfulness should cause remorse, instead we hate and those not like us denigrate: our sin now we confess,

In times of change, indifference, pain cause us to look above.

May we seek no new enemy,
Whom all by Christ your children are,
O God, help us to love.

We offer paltry gifts to you while angry feelings sway Help us to leave our gifts and go and beg forgiveness of our foe before we come to pray,

Dorothy Mosher February 1991

Dear God and Parent of us all, Forgive our foolish ways. Reclothe us in our rightful mind; In purer lives your service find, In deeper reverence, praise.

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Year of the Sheep



Lunar Calendar Year 4689

(Friday after Ash Wednesday, 1991)