

Interchurch Center Chapel  
New York City

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

Unison

1. Here, O Lord, your ser-vants gath-er, hand we link with hand;  
 1. Se - ka - i no to - mo to te o tsu - na - gi,  
 2. Man - y are the tongues we speak, scat-tered are the lands,  
 3. Na-ture's se - crets o - pen wide, chang-es nev - er cease.  
 4. Grant, O God, an age re-newed, filled with death-less love;

look - ing toward our Sav - ior's cross, joined in love we stand.  
 Jyu - ji - ka no mo - to ni ta - tsu wa - re - ra,  
 yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's de - mands.  
 Where, oh where, can wea - ry souls find the source of peace?  
 help us as we work and pray, send us from a - bove

As we seek the realm of God, we u - nite to pray:  
 Ka - mi no mi - ku - ni o me a te to shi,  
 E'en in dark-ness hope ap-pears, call - ing age and youth:  
 Un - to all those sore dis-tressed, torn by end-less strife:  
 truth and cour-age, faith and power, need-ed in our strife:

Je - sus, Sav - ior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.  
 Shu Ye - su no mi - chi o su - su - mi yu - kan.  
 Je - sus, teach - er, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.  
 Je - sus, heal - er, bring your balm, for you are the Life.  
 Je - sus, Mas - ter, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.

WORDS: Tokuo Yamaguchi, 1958; trans. by Everett M. Stowe, 1958;  
 phonetic transcription from the Japanese by I-to Loh, 1988  
 MUSIC: Isao Koizumi, 1958

TOKYO

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Also in Sound the Bamboo Christian Conference of Asia Hymnal  
 (Hymn no. 242) 1991.



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: O 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

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,

BENEDICTION

F. J. Woo



Year of the Sheep



Lunar Calendar Year 4689

(Friday after Ash Wednesday, 1991)