



“A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel....” – Luke 2:32 (KJV)

When Simeon, the very old righteous man waiting in the ancient Temple for the savior of Israel to appear, proclaimed the baby Jesus the Lord’s Anointed One (the Christ, in Greek) when his parents presented him in the Temple on the 8<sup>th</sup> day following his birth, his proclamation that ‘God was now with us’ was a dramatic and radical one for the two kinds of people alive at the time. The world for the Jews was divided cleanly into two groups: Israel - everyone who was a descendent of Abraham through Issac and Jacob (whose name was changed to Israel after wrestling with the Angel of God) and everyone else - otherwise known as Gentiles... anyone who was a non-Jew. Simeon was waiting for Israel’s deliverer, not someone with a larger mission.

Yet, at the same time, Simeon’s proclamation heralded a new revelation for non-Jews. God was about to do something different for the rest of humanity, which wasn’t included within the fold of the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants. This child was about to throw open the doors of the Covenant that had previously excluded them from the community of faith. God’s revelatory message in the Incarnation is: everyone is welcome. The Apostle Paul summed it up very nicely. Let me paraphrase from the Letter to the Galatians: “the Law of Moses has brought me to the doorstep of righteousness but Christ opened the door to the Gospel of grace through salvation by faith.”

Nothing underscores this expansion of God’s gracious dealing with humanity more than the holiday of Epiphany. Celebrated on January 6 as a feast day on the Christian liturgical calendar, and also known as Three Kings Day, it commemorates the visit of the non-Jewish Magi to the baby Jesus, and thus, the revelation of the extension of God’s grace to the Gentiles. Epiphany says “God is with us” – all of us – in a way that sometimes Christmas doesn’t because Christmas, or Christ’s Mass, is a distinctly Christian holiday.

The period after the Feast of Epiphany, which marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas, ushers in a period or season known to some denominations as Epiphanytide on the Christian liturgical calendar. This is the time between the Advent/Nativity season and the beginning of the Lenten season and, in some traditions, extends the Advent season until the commemoration of Christ’s baptism. The most important thing to take away from observing Epiphany is that the revelation of God in Christ is a theophany, a manifestation of the Divine presence in the midst of humanity. During this period of Epiphany try to be spiritually aware of God’s very real presence in the midst of your daily life. God did something very unique in the Incarnation. God declared “not only am I with you,” but “there is only one ‘you’ – the community of humanity.

-- Pastor Matt

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY, 2016

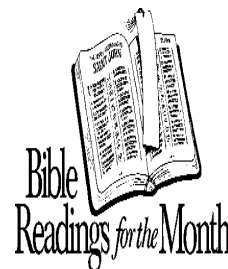
We invite you to read and study these passages in preparation for our Worship Services.

**Feb 7** Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2;  
Luke 9:2-36 (37-43a)

**Feb14** Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13;  
Luke 4:1-13

**Feb 21** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1;  
Luke 13:31-35

**Feb 28** Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9



### You are Appreciated!

Thanks to Esther Hashiba, Sue Arai, and Mary Nishiyama for volunteering to prepare the January Newsletter for mailing. You are appreciated more than you will ever know. Really could not do it without your help! A very big thanks to you all.

### Simpson United Methodist Church

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Tezenlo Thong Email: [PastorSUMC@gmail.com](mailto:PastorSUMC@gmail.com)

Assistant Pastor: Rev Matt Snider Email: [AssistantPastorSUMC@gmail.com](mailto:AssistantPastorSUMC@gmail.com)

Church Pianist: Chen Wu Choir Director: Debbie Willeford

Nichigo Pianist: Sadako Hasegawa Japanese Language Instructor: Miwa Steuben

Children's Sunday School Teacher: Brenda Schroder

Administrative Assistant: Mari Welch Bookkeeper: Lilly Quirk



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#### Amazon Smile Link:

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<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-0507792>

**IN MEMORY OF**

Marge Ota  
 Emily Mori & Hugh Perry  
 Gerri Ota, Marge Ota, Casey Hayashida  
 George Oye  
 John Shimizu  
 Miyako Smith

Irene Iritani  
 Leslie Abe  
 Rev. Hagiya & Noel Hagiya; Shizu Sera  
 George Shiohita

**Christmas:**

Roy Shibata	Ruth French
Cindy Kondo	Mary Nishiyama
Julie Onsager	Clara Hashimoto
Esther Fujita	Minoru Yamamoto
Akira Kasahara	Mitch Kishiyama
Mitchell Hamai	Yoshie Tanita
Sue Arai	Esther Hashiba
Masako Furuiye	Midori Allmeyer
Grace Tochiara	Harry Miyahara
Ruthe Terada	Mae Ida
June Yokooji	Ben Ichikawa
Mary K. Ida	May Murakami

**BY**

Evelyn Hayashida  
 Julia Kamura  
 Russell Ota  
 Aster Oye  
 Y. Shimizu  
 Joyce Shelby, Catheryn Smith  
 & Gloria Smith  
 Daniel Iritani  
 Rosie & Charlene Abe  
 Catheryn Smith  
 Teddy Shiohita



**Thanksgiving:** Catheryn Smith

**Utilities:** Tay Kondo, Game Day Ladies

**Church Supplies:** Mary Nishiyama

**Imagine No Malaria:** Grace Tochiara

**Newsletter:** Mae Ida, William Tanaka

**Holiday Luncheon:** Japanese Division

**United Methodist Student Day:** Mary Everitt, Harry Hashinuma, Roy Shibata, Dion Dishong,

**Kobayashi Trust Donation:** Sam Terasaki

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE APPRECIATED!**



**CELEBRATING THE 48TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
HINA MATSURI (DOLL FESTIVAL)  
1968-2016**

Our Annual Hina Matsuri, the Doll Festival is fast approaching! Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 5th and Sunday, March 6th.

Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors, especially if they know nothing about Japanese Culture. This is a great way for them to get a sample of what the culture of Japan is all about. The event is free, with all donations gratefully accepted.

We will have display of Dolls, Arts & Crafts, Origami demonstrations, Kimono Exhibit, Ikebana, Bonsai, Shodo (Calligraphy), Judo, Karate, Kendo, and Aikido. The Tea Ceremony will be performed and explained. We will have performances in Odori (Japanese Dance), Children's Songs, Koto, Shamisen, Violin, Shakuhachi, Ukule and Taiko (Japanese Drum & Percussion). A light Japanese lunch will be sold.

This is one of the few opportunities and an especially fun time to wear beautiful Kimono, Yukata or Happi Coat you have packed away and we would like to have lots of people wearing them! We can have someone dress you in the Kimono if you have forgotten how or never knew.

Please call Kazuko Dishong (303.234.0555) or Jacqueline Cornish (303.594.3501) if you have something you would like to exhibit or volunteer to help! Thank you.

The Hina Matsuri Committee

**THANK YOU!**

To Julia Kamura and Mary Nishiyama for folding, stuffing envelopes, and stamping all the end-of-year contribution statements so they could be mailed in a timely manner. That was such a big help and they did it so quickly. We have great volunteers! You are very much appreciated.

**50+**

The 50+ group will meet the third Wednesday in FEBRUARY (February 17th). Good food, lots of laughter and fellowship.

### YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO CIVIC CENTER PARK

The youth mission trip on January 17, 2016, was a successful blessing. Because of your generous donations, we were able to give away more warm winter items than any other year before. We had thirteen people, including five children, who represented Simpson. We also thank Rev. Jerry Hershops of *AfterHours* for the opportunity to serve the less privileged population of our community.

### *The Staff Would Like to Thank...*

The staff would like to thank the congregation for the generous Christmas gifts given to the staff.

Thank you for making us feel so appreciated.

### FUN IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

This month we are learning about the walk of Jesus. We are being fishers of men. We are also working on our Chain of Love and the children are encouraged to commit small acts of kindness.

### EASTER 2016

This year the Sunday School is going to host the First Annual Pancake Breakfast and Easter egg hunt. On Saturday, March 26th (the day before Easter) we will serve breakfast to church members and the community. We will invite families from the local schools to join us that day.

### WE STILL HAVE T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

If interested, just fill out an order form on the t-shirt display. Fill in your name, your size and make your check payable to Simpson. Cost is \$12 per shirt.



### OUR CARE CORNER

**The families of:** Agnes Matsuda, Hugh Perry, Ed Herring,  
George Sakato

**Others to be Held in Prayer:** Ken Miyoshi, Helen Goto,  
Irv Matsuda, Ruth Yamauchi

## Easter Cantata

On

Easter Sunday

Our celebration of Easter comes early again this year. March 27, 2016 is Easter Sunday! Our Chancel Choir is working hard to learn all the music. This year, we are combining old and new. You will hear traditional songs, classical pieces, spirituals and newer contemporary songs. We also will feature a small orchestra. Come experience "Ride On King Jesus" to the "Hallelujah Chorus"! I guarantee you will leave the service with the joy and love of Jesus Christ in your heart!

### STORIES OF CHRISTIAN HYMNS

#### **FAIREST LORD JESUS**—Author Unknown

This famous hymn had its origin in Germany in the 17th century, and was discovered in America in the year 1850 by Richard Storrs Willis, a musician and newspaper man, who wrote books on church music and other musical subjects. The tune is an ancient Silesian folk song derived from legend and story, which is a ballad picturing common life with its interests and enthusiasm. It was said to have been sung by the German Knight Crusaders on their way to Jerusalem in the 12th Century and is still referred to as The Crusaders' Hymn, although no proof of this has been established. This hymn telling of the beauty of Nature is often called "The Marching song of the out-of-doors" and is a favorite of young people. It is also interesting to note that pianist Franz Liszt made large use of this tune in his oratorio "St. Elizabeth."

#### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY! LORD GOD ALMIGHTY**

Reginald Heber 1783-1826

One of the greatest hymns of all ages, "Holy, Holy, Holy" was written in 1826 by Bishop Reginald Heber. It was based on the meter of the Apocalypse as found in revelation 4:8-11: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was and is, and is to come." The famed English poet—bishop wrote the hymn especially for Trinity Sunday as a tribute to the Trinity. It is one of the few hymns written for a specific Sunday of the Church Year, yet equally adaptable for every other Sunday. It is said of this hymn that it is found in more hymn books than any other hymn written.

## **▲ Note from Jane Fujioka...**

I have the privilege of being the liaison to Brenda Schroder. She has been our Sunday School teacher for over a year. She and Jason have 3 children. Kevin 8, Catie 9 and Justyn 2. They are excited to welcome a new addition to their family in April. Her favorite thing is being a MOM!

Brenda enjoys spending time with her family, her parents, Peter and Marcia, whom we have seen helping Brenda with Sunday school activities. She also enjoys her 2 dogs, Pepper and Porsche. Her passion is photography. Her other hobbies are painting and scrap booking. Her family especially enjoys time together camping and fishing.

Her husband Jason has been a supportive force to Brenda and our Sunday school. He said, "Brenda is a really good person." What a tribute! We have also witnessed the same at Simpson.

Brenda has initiated many new activities. What stands out through the year is Vacation Bible School. The children had such a good time. Especially the activity, "over flowing faith." She added mentos to a soda and they watched it shoot out with awe! Another is directing the Halloween trunk or treat for the neighborhood. Also in December, the very successful Children's Christmas program. Of course they got a standing ovation from the appreciative congregation. BRAVO to Brenda and the children!

She said, "I love Sunday school because we explore together and we learn about faith in new and fun ways." With that, I also appreciate the positive reinforcement she gives to the children.

Thank you Brenda for your hard work.

Jane Fujioka

## *THANK YOU*

Grace Ito is feeling much better after her spine fracture. She was even able to attend the 50+ lunch on January 20th. Grace wants you all to know that she is very appreciative of your prayers, cards, food and flowers. Thank you to everyone for their good thoughts and prayer.



**Simpson United Methodist Church**  
**Arvada CO 80003-6833**  
**Telephone: 303/428-7963, Fax: 303/427-1577**  
**www.simpsonumc.com**

**February 2016**

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
 Children Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
 Email: [simpsonumc@comcast.net](mailto:simpsonumc@comcast.net)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>7</b> 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/SS COMMUNION 11:00 am – Knit & Crochet	<b>8</b> 10:00 am - Ukulele 3:30 pm Tutorial	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Yoga	<b>10 ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 3:30 pm Tutorial	<b>11</b> 10:00 am staff mtg 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> Bowling Benito Work Day	<b>13</b> 9:00 Japanese Language Class Taiiko Yoga Make & Sell Bowling Benitos
<b>14</b> 9:00 am – Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/SS Trustees Meet	<b>15</b> 3:30 pm Tutorial	<b>16</b> 7:00pm Yoga	<b>17</b> 11:30 am – 50+ Lunch 3:30 pm Tutorial	<b>18</b> 10:00 am staff mtg 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 Japanese Language Class Taiiko Yoga
<b>21</b> 9:00 am – Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/SS Bridges to future Sunday 11:00 am – Knit & Crochet	<b>22</b> 10:00 am – Ukulele 3:30 pm Tutorial	<b>23</b> 7:00pm Yoga	<b>24</b> 3:30 pm Tutorial 6:00pm Finance 7:00pm Ad Council	<b>25</b> 10:00 am staff mtg 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 Japanese Language Class Taiiko Yoga
<b>28</b> 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/SS SPRC	<b>29</b> 3:30 pm Tutorial					

**LITURGISTS**  
 Feb 7 Carol FitzSimons  
 Feb 14 Bud Stark  
 Feb 21 No Liturgist today  
 Feb 28 Robin Miyahara

**GROCERY CERTIFICATES**  
 Ruby Hada

**USHERS**  
 Tim Cleary

Simpson United Methodist Church  
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Arvada. Co. 80003-6833

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***FEBRUARY 2016***

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Or Current Resident

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*HAPPY VALENTINES DAY*

*LOVE ONE ANOTHER*