

## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

INTRODUCTION      On this particular Sunday of the year that Christians celebrate as World Communion Sunday we cannot help but think of our ties with others throughout the world. We think not only of the variety of the human family but also its oneness and of the needs of brothers and sisters elsewhere.

It was on a World Communion Sunday such as this a number of years ago that we witness at the altar rail of our Church that wonderful "oneness" that we have in Christ Jesus, where for a few moments close to twelve or maybe it was fifteen different nationalities were linked in prayer and communion. I was aware of it and I recall some of you were, too. Dr. Ellen Nicholson called me that afternoon and said something like this,

"Phil...I just had to call and tell you what a meaningful service that was this morning. It was so moving...all of those people, representing so many different nationalities and races and backgrounds....brought together at the altar for communion. Were you aware of it? How many different countries were there? I was aware of at least fourteen or fifteen...."

Indeed, it was a moving experience as we saw people from Fiji, Japan, Vietnam, India, Yugoslavia, Italy, Germany, Uganda, Zambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Swaziland, England, Greece, Mexico, Brazil, Canada...sharing together in communion that Sunday morning. Guyana

TODAY      As we celebrate World Communion Sunday today and reflect for a few moments on the length of God's table and the oneness of His family, it is only fitting that we let our imaginations stretch along with our compassion to another part of the world where in these very moments thousands of refugees are huddled together, jammed together in a camp in Hong Kong. One of our own members had opportunity to see for himself the conditions of a refugee camp in Hong Kong in August and he's going to tell you about it in a few moments.

Shiro Oda, Co-chairman of our Indochinese Refugee Committee, travelled to that part of the world and was recently interviewed for a magazine article on what he saw and the writer of that article was so moved that she sent to me some of her own reactions and I would share them with you before Shiro steps into the pulpit to speak and to tell you all about it.

QUICK REPORT      "Shiro was on a four-day charter from Japan to Hong Kong. He got there on the weekend, when no one from the Refugee Office was available. Through his ingenuity, he looked in the Hong Kong phone book for the name of a contact person there, and got his assistant instead. The assistant made arrangements for Shiro to go to the "North Camp" where Tinh's nephews were living on Tuesday, which was the last day of Shiro's trip. His plane was due to leave at noon.

Through a series of circumstances, the cab driver took Shiro to the wrong camp, and eventually, with the clock ticking away, he found his way to the right place where Tinh's nephews were waiting for him. But all of that is for Shiro to tell.

What was fascinating to me, was the reaction of the Japanese people on his plane. All of the people on his charter were Japanese, and all were going to Hong Kong for one reason: to stop. In four days, some of them managed to drop

several thousand dollars apiece for Gucci's, etc. They all stayed in a ritzy hotel, and every morning the group met for breakfast. Shiro was the only one who was asked what he did the day before -- that's because he was the only person who didn't buy one thing in Hong Kong. One day he took a public bus to a local beach and went swimming so he could see how the locals lived. Another day he went to the Church -- and met a women from New Zealand who was fascinated by his mission. She vowed that when she returned to New Zealand she would try to generate interest in sponsoring refugees or at least in supporting American churches who were already sponsoring some.

Shiro's tour director was very proud that Shiro was doing something so "un-Japanese". As Shiro said, they had never met a Japanese like him. As a result, the tour director had told everyone else why Shiro was there and what he planned to do. When people asked why he was going to the refugee camp, he explained how many American businessmen are involved in philanthropy and also that he was a Christian. When they asked why he went to church in Hong Kong, he explained it was because he liked to see how other Christians worshipped.

CLOSING When Shiro finally made it back to the plane in the nick of time, he was enthusiastically greeted by the others on the tour. And while everyone else had to pay hundreds of dollars to the customs officials as duty for their purchases in their four day spending spree, Shiro didn't pay a penny. He came away from Hong Kong richer than anyone on that plane.

I think the thing that's interesting to me is that Shiro is a bridge between two worlds. Although to the Japanese, he's a Japanese - and a weird one at that - he's really an American at heart. But more than that, as a Christian who can operate effectively in two cultures, he can do a lot to spread the gospel where others can't."

PRESENT HIM Those are the observations and reactions of a writer who talked to Shiro following his trip. Let's hear from Shiro himself. Friends, Shiro Oda, a member of our fellowship and co-chairmen of the Indochinese Friends Committee.

PRAYER

FOLLOW-UP Thank you, Shiro, for sharing your faith in Christ with us.  
Your presence before us reminds us of the Worldwide reach of  
the arms of Christ...and of the length of His table...a table that ~~encompasses~~  
the globe this day.

LET US PRAY Make us sensitive to Your presence in our midst today, O God.  
Make us sensitive to the needs of others, and grant us the  
courage and the willingness of heart to do something about them.

Brood over this congregation assembled in worship. Bind us together in  
these moments.

Lead us, O Lord, ever more deeply into the mysteries of life and death  
as we see them revealed in the bread and wine of the Last Supper of our  
Lord, Jesus Christ. And may we see there plainly, clearly and simply stated,  
the meaning of our existence and of thy purpose for us and all thy people  
everywhere.

We ask this in the name of Jesus in whom we see life's deepest meaning  
and its highest hope. Amen

**PARK AVENUE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

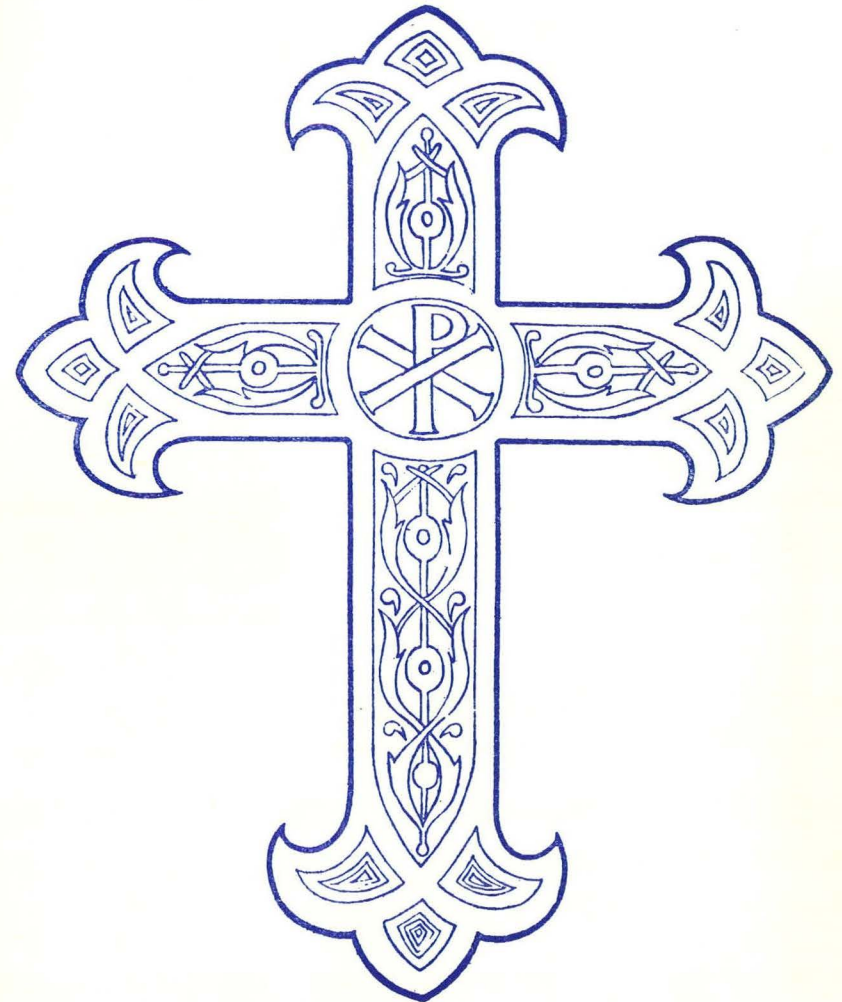
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**PARK AVENUE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY  
October 5, 1980

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
11 A. M.

ORGAN "Adagio Cantabile" Wesley  
CALL TO WORSHIP  
HYMN NO. 26 "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"  
APOSTLES' CREED No. 738  
GLORIA PATRI No. 792

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SCRIPTURE  
PARISH CONCERNS  
ANTHEM "The Last Words of David" Thompson  
PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH THE DOXOLOGY No. 809  
HYMN NO. 241 "Fight the Good Fight"  
MEDITATION Mr. Clarke and Mr. Oda

PRAYER

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THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION  
The Kyrie (The Choir) 834  
The Invitation (No. 832)  
The General Confession 837  
The Prayer for Pardon  
The Prayer of Consecration  
The Prayer of Humble Access  
The Partaking of the Elements  
The Prayer of Thanksgiving

HYMN NO. 483 "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

BENEDICTION

ORGAN "Toccata in E Minor" Pachelbel

\*\*\* Interval for Ushering 814

THE ROSE ON THE ALTAR

The rose on the altar today is in honor of Lisa Levi, infant daughter of Jane and Lloyd Levi. Lisa was born on September 20th, 1980 at NY Lying-In Hospital.

LAY READER

We welcome Mrs. William Proctor as our Lay Reader today. A native of Mineola and a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College, Pam is a free lance writer as well as a full time mother to Michael. Pam serves on the Indochinese Friends Committee and on the Christian Education Faculty of our Church.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given by David, Grace and Debbie Breien as an expression of grateful thanks for many blessings.

AN INVITATION

Coffee and tea will be served in the Russell Room following the service. Members and friends are invited to share in these moments of warmth made possible for us today by Mrs. Monge, Mrs. Broones, Mrs. Clarke, Ms. Molt, Mrs. Pew, Mrs. Radnay and Miss Walcott.

USHERS

The ushers today are Mr. Monge, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Breien, Mr. Brown, Mr. Murray and Mr. Williams.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Today we celebrate World Communion Sunday. On this day, as we partake of the bread and the cup, we are a part of a united witness to One Lord, at a table that figuratively circles the globe. On World Communion Sunday we receive a special offering for others. The envelope in the pew is for your gift. We hope you'll respond either today or next Sunday.