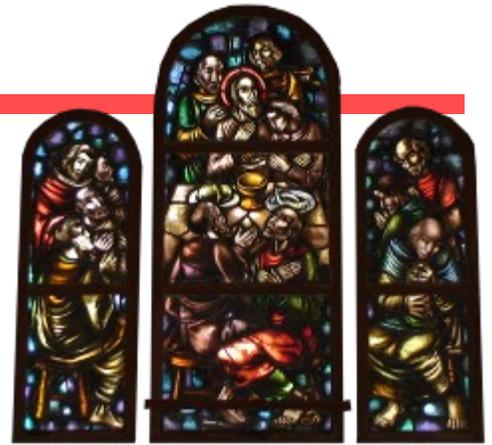




The Journey

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

An Online Monthly Pictorial News Record



February 2022

Let us this month

- * Pray more often
- * Let God use us
- * Get the booster vaccination and encourage our family members to do so also
- * Get prepared
- * Forgive
- * Remember God wants you to be a blessing to others, your church and yourself

St. Mary's Celebrated a January



Birthday During Aloha Hour

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Bless the Lord



Photo by Graham White

Reflections

by Fr. Charles A. Browning II
Priest in Charge

"On Hidden Christians"

February 5 marks, in the Episcopal Church's calendar, a commemoration of the 26 Martyrs of Nagasaki (also known as **the Martyrs of Japan** or the Martyrdom of Saint Paul Miki and His Companions), one of the most notable feast days in Japanese Christianity.

The brief version of the story is this: in 1596, the *San Felipe*, a Spanish cargo ship that travelled between colonial Mexico and the colonial Philippines, was shipwrecked off the coast of Shikoku in Japan. The cargo was seized by a local daimyo and brought to the attention of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, one of the feudal lords seeking to unite Japan during the turbulent Sengoku period (a time marked by civil war among various fiefdoms). The pilot, perhaps attempting to impress Hideyoshi, said that the greatness of the Spanish Empire was due to missionaries preparing the way for a later arrival of Spanish armies to conquer the land.

This pilot likely did not know that such a comment came around a decade after Hideyoshi had had an inexplicable outburst seeking to rid Japan of various foreigners, particularly Catholic missionaries. This had subsided (with Hideyoshi himself wearing a rosary and dressing in a Portuguese style, according to Boxer's *The Christian Century in Japan*). But this statement from the Spanish ship pilot reignited Hideyoshi's suspicions and temper and the result was brutal violence enacted against a number of European Catholic priests and seventeen Japanese lay Franciscans (known as "Third Order Franciscans"), culminating in their crucifixions after being marched from Kyoto to Nagasaki. This event would precipitate the eventual rise of the Edo period, where Japan would isolate itself from the rest of the world for nearly 200 years.

But there is a kind of spiritual irony in the story. Hideyoshi, like some of the other prominent daimyos of the time, had come to embrace the arrival of the missionaries because they saw in them a rival to Buddhist priests that were viewed as a threat to the daimyo's rise to power. Additionally, Hideyoshi managed to see the growing interest in drinking tea as a means to make political advancement.

During his reign, Hideyoshi appointed a man named Sen no Rikyū as tea master, and who became a close confidante. Rikyū is notable in the history of Japan as a major popularizer of *wabi-sabi* aesthetics and the more rustic, simple, and egalitarian nature of the Japanese tea ceremony. These latter aspects eventually caused the relationship between Rikyū and Hideyoshi to sour (culminating in Rikyū being forced to take his own life by Hideyoshi), but the impact of their relationship is still felt in Japan's tea culture.

Among the more enduring aspects of Rikyū's influence is the tea room as we often think of it:

small, simple, intimate. A place where people gather to ritualistically drink tea from an earthen bowl, accompanied by a savory snack, and to enjoy poetry and art. The Jesuits who had come to bring the good news to Japan had experienced this and felt that the Japanese tea ceremony served a good compliment to Christian practice.

After the martyrdom of the 26 Christians (followed by several years of violence enacted against Christians in Japan), Japan outlawed Christianity and drove it underground. However, after 1868 and the Meiji Restoration brought Japan back into contact with the rest of the world, Catholic missionaries were amazed to discover a number of people known as **“Kakure Kirishitan”** (or, **“hidden Christians”**), who had managed to maintain some semblance of the faith during a time of suppression. One of the ways that this happened? They hid their sacramental practice in the tea ceremony. Some

of these hidden Christians built cross-shaped tea houses and served the sacrament in tea bowls. The irony is that while Hideyoshi sought to rid Japan of Christianity, he also helped foster the mechanism that would keep it going. By supporting Sen no Rikyū’s ideas about tea and the tea ceremony, the means to keep the embers of the gospel fire going were established.

I reflect on this story because I think of our current day. While we are under the oppression of a pandemic, the Holy Spirit is still at work. While church services were put on hold, people have still been encountering the Lord Jesus because the gospel will never be contained or expelled. And I wonder what will happen once we enter into a post-pandemic world.

Will we be surprised to find a new kind of “Kakure Kirishitan” eager to openly worship?

Evensong

You Are Invited

Join us for a service of Evensong in honor of

The 26 Martyrs of

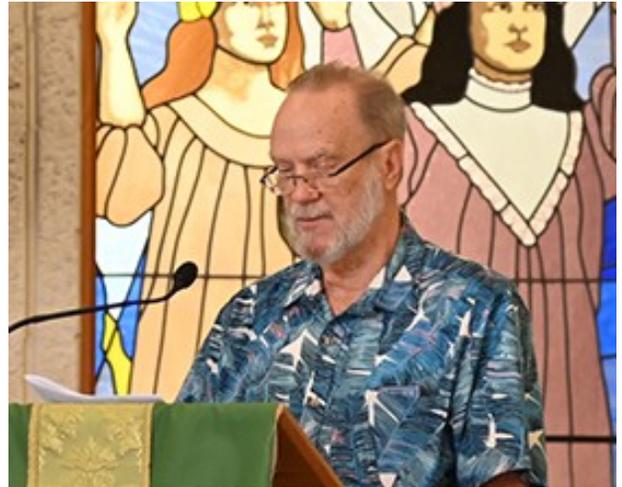
Japan

5:00 pm, Saturday, February 5
in the Memorial Chapel

Saint Mary’s Episcopal Church • Honolulu

Floral Guild

Readers



Organist

Senior Warden

Prayer Group

Congregants

Treasurer

Greeters

Junior Warden

Sexton

Sunday Tellers

Clerk



ECW Representative

Altar Guild

Convention Delegates

Soloist/Song Leaders

Vestry Members

Christian Formation Leader

Celebrant

Webpage Technician

A/V Technican

Acolytes

Sandwich Outreach

Annual Meeting 2022



Pablo Cortez III—Annual Meeting Secretary

Appointments: of the Annual Meeting:
Secretary, **Pablo Cortez III**
Tellers, **Carlton Pang and Kyle Ushijima**
Senior Warden, **William Mok**

Elected:
Christopher Date, Junior Warden,
Misty Kiyuna, Vestry Member,
Ruth Yoshioka, Vestry Member,

Isaiah Horimoto, Diocesan Convention Delegate
Jackie Mok, Diocesan Convention Delegate
Pablo Cortez III, Diocesan Convention Delegate



Rev. Charles A. Browning, Priest in Charge



William Mok, Senior Warden speaking to congregants

Enjoying Aloha Hour after Annual Meeting



The Call for Ministry

- **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**
- **COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE USE OF ANNEX SPACE**

Contact Fr. Charles Browning for specifics



Happy Birthday



Clifford is **super** happy because he got just the kind of cake he wanted,
and people to eat with him outside the house! 😊



Poinsettias for Christmas season

*Hard at
work sexton*



*Chuck
Williams*

You Are Invited To Attend Christian Formation Classes Every Wednesday 6pm - live on YouTube Saint Mary's Honolulu



Three Weeks in the *Psalms*

Join us for three weeks on the most beloved and read passages in all the scriptures. Wednesdays, 6:00 pm on our YouTube channel.

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church • Honolulu

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The Journey Team Together Since 2014



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Road Map



An Online Monthly Pictorial News Record

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Vestry Meeting

10:15am
February 20



Sunday Worship Service 9:00am

In-Person and Live Streamed
on YouTube & FaceBook

Prayer Ministry

8:15am
Sundays in
Memorial Chapel

"The Lord loves a cheerful giver"



February Birthdays

1-Roy Horimoto
11-Janice Horimoto
12-Martha Blanchett

New Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8:30 am—12:30 pm

Evensong

5pm
Saturday - February 5
Memorial Chapel

