

Wagakokoro Revolution (Sermon Feb. 7, 2021)

Good morning! Happy Sunday in this New Week of Kami's blessings! Thank you very much for joining today's service. This is our monthly service for February 2021.

I would first like to extend a birthday greeting to a special friend. Today, Feb. 7, is the 83rd Birthday. Ben Vose was the fourth-grade homeroom teacher for our oldest son, Mitsunori, when we were in Portland. That was back in 1994. Since then, our friendship has deepened. For many years he has edited my English writing. He now is in Senior Living. He still sends his precious donations to KC Chicago every month. *Ben, Happy Birthday! We continue to pray that you are in good health and in excellent spirits for many more years.*

The recent presidential race has led to much prayerful soul searching and seeking for a divine response. Through Kami's wondrous workings I'd like to tell of my own journey to find the peace and joy of Wagakokoro within this situation.

The US Presidential Inauguration Ceremony was held on Wednesday, Jan. 20. Mr. Joseph Biden has become the 46th president. I had supported the Democratic Party for a long time, because I simply thought the policy of the Democratic Party was for the underprivileged people and they valued the global environment, etc. On the other hand, I had thought Republicans had the policy to favor the rich.

Voting last year, I thought the self-assertion of Mr. Donald Trump was too strong and could cause more division of America. So, I had already marked Biden in my mail-in ballot when I found out his son, Hunter, had gotten questionable money from Ukraine & China. My first thought was not to send in my vote, as an expression opposing both candidates.

Then I had a divine dream. In it a car stopped in front of our church. Biden came out of the car. There was a big gathering at the back on the other side of the street. Biden, without thinking of it at all, entered our church and sat on one of the chairs in a circle in our worship room. Then Biden & I talked with each other.

Through this divine dream, I realized Kami would wish me to pray sincerely & more intensely than ever for the Divine Wish that this presidential election be fulfilled. So, that's what I did, and left everything up to Kami.

Since then, I have had much more information, good and bad. I heard there were many ingenious frauds in the election, and many things that have caused much agitation. I was made aware of various things. It has got me to thinking much more about this election.

I now believe that Kami responded to my sincere prayers. And that every single thing was within the Divine Work of Kami; everything that happened was part of Kami's Wish. I realized whoever would be elected would be the Divine *intension* for that time.

The thing that struck me the most was how strong the wall built by human knowledge and human power really was, and also the depth of darkness within those walls. It's the reality of the world consumed with 'unrelenting desires,' thinking 'as long as we ourselves are satisfied.' However, unless this wall is broken down, true human happiness and true world peace will not be attained. This wall is so strong that it will not collapse by human power alone. But even if the wall were to fall down by some human power, it would only create another wall of human power, as human history shows so far. Therefore, no matter how strong the wall is, the only way for it to collapse is to self-destruct.

That is why a quiet 'Wagakokoro Revolution' will be needed. In front of Wagakokoro (the peaceful joyful heart) any sins, any karma or any strong walls of selfishness shall disappear; it's similar to icy frost meeting boiling water.

For that, we first – must experience how this Wagakokoro affects us, and prove how having a Wagakokoro brings about divine favor. We need to develop our peaceful joyful heart to the extent that it naturally influences others to get rid of their selfishness.

First of all, it must begin within my heart, then in my home, and then all around me. Even if a small campaign for the era of Wagakokoro is launched, undoubtedly the Wagakokoro Revolution will start and the Wagakokoro era shall be established. This might come in five hundred years or a thousand years from now, but it will surely come. Unless we reach that stage, true peace and happiness throughout mankind cannot be realized. In Wagakokoro there is such strength and truth. It is the earnest wish of Kami to establish the Wagakokoro era.

Now that I understand that, I would like to nurture 'my power of Wagakokoro' and develop from the bottom of my heart 'my light of Wagakokoro'. I am now doing

my best to direct my heart toward Kami and pray to deepen an unbreakable peace & unending joy within me to truly help the world and all humankind.

I am so excited now to know that Kami is working so hard & responding to my heart as it is deepening. My excitement builds greater and greater each step of the way.

Soon it was Jan. 25, my 73rd birthday. To my surprise, the evening before my family gathered to celebrate my birthday, which in Japan would be Jan. 25. It was the first time we had been together since our Autumn Memorial service last September. Mitsunori came with his wife, Yim and my daughter, Hiroko brought her three children. Fortunately, from that day I heard the city of Chicago started allowing 10 or fewer people among family could gather.

We had a brilliant & enjoyable time together, eating delicious Japanese take-out from our favorite Japanese restaurant. My youngest granddaughter, Katelyn made a birthday cake for me with strawberries inside. It was also very delicious.

I think this was proving again that if we get serious about aiming for Wagakokoro, we will be able to receive such grateful workings of Kami. Let us quietly promote the Wagakokoro revolution. And together may we realize many Divine workings happen close to us in everyday life; and we'd be able to experience the essence of our founder's faith: As if by touching, we'd feel its warmth and by poking, it would spurt blood.