

# Statement of the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial for the Missions of Japan Alliance Christ Church

## Introduction

We, the churches, ministers, and all the believers who belong to the Japan Alliance Christ Church, by celebrating this day the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the mission, hereby declare with our renewed dedication, in praise of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and in our expectation of the return of our Lord Jesus and the consummation of the kingdom of God:

## Our Past

We, Japan Alliance Christ Church, began our walk on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1891, when 15 missionaries sent by the North American Scandinavian Alliance Mission landed in Yokohama. We thank our Lord who gave us the Gospel, called us to the mission, gave us aspiration and passion to respond to the calling, and made us work together with one heart.

We, as people who are “repenting of the church’s cooperation in war and the sins of idol worship that took place in the past, yet decidedly adhering to faith in Christ till the end of the world,”<sup>1</sup> repent of our own sins and guilt before the presence of God.

We express the purpose of the existence of our denomination as “under unification ‘in biblical faith, in missional cooperation, and with a system of shared responsibility,’ by the power of the Holy Spirit responding to the Great Commission of Christ and by expressing the glory of God.” We have been “promoting domestic mission by not sparing our sacrifices, actively planting churches, and solidly forming churches as well as overseas missions with a view to ‘Japan, Asia, and the World,’ and the proclamation of the Gospel to the end of the world.”<sup>2</sup> We have continued to work hard to this day.

We frankly admit that we have not yet fulfilled our mission. Nevertheless, the Lord has been using us to do His saving work, and we give our thanks to Him for helping us bear much fruit.

## Our Present

This world God created with His love is hurt, groaning in the midst of sin and misery. Humans, who were created in God’s image, have lost this image that God bestowed on them because of sin, and are unable to love their neighbors and rule the world properly. Thus, walls of division are rising up all over the world, and discontinuity has spread. Conflicts, divisions, and disparities are emerging in all areas.

The Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and subsequent disasters gave us opportunities to rethink our ministry and service for this era. The imperial succession from 2019 to 2020 provided an opportunity to question our faith in confessing Jesus Christ as the only Lord in this country. And now, in the midst of the Covid-19 global pandemic, we are questioning our own ways of life and the way the church should be, and we are being urged to reform the church.

In the midst of this reality, we look up to the Lord who loves this world, and we look at this world as we are being prompted by the Lord’s gaze. We strain our ears for the voices of those who are like weakened sheep without a shepherd, and we strain our ears to hear the voice of the Lord, who seeks out the lost sheep.

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<sup>1</sup> Preamble to the Constitution of Japan Alliance Christ Church

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

## **Our Future**

Today, on the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our mission, we confess to obey Jesus Christ our true King, never to bow down to anything other than Him, and worship Him only as our Lord.

Sent out by the Holy Spirit, who is the fulfillment of the promise of the words, “you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,”<sup>3</sup> we respond to the Lord’s call, “Arise, let us go from here,”<sup>4</sup> and proclaim the cross and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We use various means and seize every opportunity for leading as many people as possible to Christ. Ministers and church members will work together, unified to evangelize people.

We go beyond the traditional “domestic and overseas missions” framework to encourage people in all areas of society, including ethnicities, languages, generations, and professions, to repent, and we invite them to return to Christ.

We love and respect the lives of all generations and grow with youth and children.

We witness to the gospel throughout our lives, reveal the values of the kingdom of God through our words and works of love, and serve local people as our neighbors.

We pray for justice and peace to be established in lands of violence and oppression.

We, by recognizing our responsibility as good stewards of this world, aspire to properly govern this world that is entrusted to us by the Lord and to live together with our neighbors.

We, as children of God, the people of the kingdom, are called to bring the blessings of God to this world, build the church of the body of Christ and be sent out as the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

We, as those knowing that this is the end time, look forward to the Lord’s coming again. Lord, please come.

## **Our Prayer**

O Lord, who says to us, “Arise, let us go from here.”

We love you.

We love the people you loved.

We love the world that you loved.

We dedicate ourselves to you today.

Send us out anew from here today.

We pray this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021  
Japan Alliance Christ Church  
All ministers and believers

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<sup>3</sup> Acts 1:8 (NASB)

<sup>4</sup> John 14:31 (NASB)