

# Konko Mission of Honolulu

## 2026 CHURCH SCHEDULE REMINDER



### April

		Spring Grand Service –Waipahu 4/12 (Sun.) 10:30 a.m., 4/13 Wahiawa (Sun.) 5:00 p.m.
4	Sat.	10:00a.m. Mochi-Making & Preparation for the Spring Grand Service
5		11:00a.m. <b>Spring Grand Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami</b>
12		Sunday Service – Family Sunday (Attending Waipahu Church Grand Service)
19		Sunday Service
26		<b>Monthly Service &amp; Monthly Memorial Service</b> Church Clean-up

### Spring Grand Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami, Our Divine Parent

We warmly invite you to join us for our **Spring Grand Service** on **Sunday, April 5, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.** This special service is a time to come together and offer our sincere gratitude to Tenchi Kane No Kami, the Divine Parent of the Universe, for the many blessings, guidance, and care we receive each day.

As we prepare for this meaningful occasion, we welcome your help with **Mochi Making on Saturday, April 4 at 10:00 a.m.**

Following the service, **Naorai refreshments** will be served. Let us gather in faith and appreciation, strengthen our connections, and share this joyful time together. We look forward to seeing you there!

### March Sermon Summaries:

3/1/2026

This sermon focused on the importance of **being attentive in faith** and learning to recognize the blessings that already exist in our daily lives. A teaching from Konko Daijin explains that when traveling, some people feel they see nothing new, while others find everything interesting. The difference is not the place, but the **attitude of attention**. In the same way, when practicing faith, if we are careless, we miss blessings—but if we pay attention, we begin to see them everywhere.

Rev. Koichi reflected on how practicing faith changes our perspective. Over time, through continued faith, prayer, and reflection, we begin to notice things we could not see before. This awareness deepens our gratitude and allows us to receive more blessings.

One story shared described a person who struggled with a dislike of winter. As she grew older, the cold became increasingly difficult, and she felt discouraged thinking about future winters. After asking Kami for guidance, she received the message, “Convince yourself that you like winter.” Although surprised, she practiced this teaching by changing her mindset whenever negative feelings arose. Within a few days, her strong dislike disappeared. She began to see winter differently, even praying for the safety of others during snowy weather. This experience showed that what we consider “dislikes” or “difficulties” may come from fixed ideas in our own minds. When we turn to Kami and follow guidance sincerely, our hearts can change, and blessings appear.

Another story told of a woman who suffered from depression during her university years. Feeling lost and unable to continue school, she visited Konko Headquarters with her parents. During toritsugi mediation, she received simple but powerful guidance: begin each action by asking Kami for help, and after completing it, offer thanks. By doing this for everyday activities—waking up, going

Continued on the back

to the restroom, eating, and getting dressed—her heart gradually became lighter. Through continued gratitude and prayer, she recovered, returned to school, and went on to build a fulfilling life. Even decades later, this teaching continued to support her during difficult times.

The sermon emphasized that **nothing happens without meaning**. Difficult feelings and situations are opportunities to deepen our relationship with Kami. When we focus only on negative aspects, we lose sight of blessings. But when we turn our hearts toward gratitude, even small daily events become meaningful and uplifting.

In conclusion, practicing faith helps us develop the ability to notice blessings and see life from a new perspective. Just as travelers can discover something new when they look carefully, we too can experience a richer and more joyful life through faith. By continuing prayer, worship, and torisugi, we strengthen this awareness and positively influence those around us. Faith allows us to transform our thinking, receive guidance, and live with greater gratitude, peace, and happiness.



<https://youtube.com/live/TO5T1aMevTo>

3/15/26

This sermon centered on the meaning and importance of the **Spring Memorial Service (Mitama Service)** and how remembering our ancestors shapes the way we live today. Despite the recent heavy rains and storm damage, members gathered for the service, showing their sincerity and appreciation. Rev. Koichi emphasized that when we come to the service, both we and the Mitama spirits are happy.

When we lose loved ones, we naturally feel sadness, loneliness, and a deep sense of longing. These feelings are not negative—they are proof of the strong bond we shared. If we felt nothing, that would be even more painful. However, the teaching reminds us not to remain only in sorrow. Over time, those painful memories can transform into cherished memories that bring smiles. When we remember our loved ones with peace in our hearts, the Mitama spirits are also at ease.

The minister shared personal experiences of losing family members—grandparents and his father—and how memories passed down through family stories helped keep their presence alive. Even when we do not clearly remember someone, their existence continues through the stories and love shared by others. This shows that our ancestors are still connected to us, supporting and watching over us.

The sermon emphasized that a memorial service is not only about remembering the past, but also about **reflecting on how we live now and in the future**. When we feel that we are living together with our ancestors, our way of living naturally changes. We begin to think more carefully about our actions and strive to live in a way that would make them proud.

A powerful example was shared about a minister who lost her husband at a young age. At first, she was overwhelmed with grief and regret, especially because she could not express her gratitude to him before he passed away. However, through sincere prayer and continued service, her heart gradually changed. Instead of focusing on sorrow, she began to feel gratitude for the life they shared. Her feelings



transformed from “I’m sorry” to “Thank you. I was happy to be with you.” Through this change, she realized that her husband’s life had been filled with blessings and purpose, and that she was still being guided and protected by both Kami and his spirit.

The sermon concluded with an important teaching: “**Revere the Mitama spirits.**” Memorial services are precious opportunities for us to spend time spiritually with those who have passed, to express gratitude, and to reflect on our own lives. When we keep a heart that remembers our parents, ancestors, and loved ones, they continue to live within us.

In daily life, this means living sincerely, cherishing each day, and acting in ways that bring peace and joy not only to ourselves but also to those who came before us. By remembering them and living well, we honor their lives and continue the connection across generations.

<https://youtube.com/live/DnRwlo1NelA>

3/22/26

This sermon focused on the importance of **prayer as a daily practice**, especially during both ordinary times and moments of crisis. A teaching from *Voice of the Universe* reminds us that we must receive divine blessings not only in emergencies but also in our everyday lives. When a crisis comes, we should be able to immediately turn to Kami in prayer. However, in reality, we often forget to pray, even in important moments.

Rev. Koichi began by reflecting on the recent Kona low storm that caused heavy rain and flooding across Oahu. Seeing the damage and disruption reminded us how important it is to rely on faith and prayer during uncertain times. Even so, it is easy to forget to pray first and instead react with worry or urgency.

One personal experience illustrated this clearly. A car suddenly stopped at the church gate, blocking both entry and exit. The driver had been working for hours and, after stopping nearby for food, found the car would not start. The situation became more stressful as rain began to fall and access to the church was blocked. Various attempts were made to fix the problem, and eventually, with help, the car was moved and a tow truck arrived. Everything worked out smoothly in the end. However, afterward, Rev. Koichi realized something important: “*Did I pray?*” Although the situation was resolved with what seemed like good timing and favorable conditions, he had forgotten to ask Kami for help. This led to reflection, gratitude, and apology.



Another powerful example was shared by Rev. Edna regarding a long power outage in Wahiawa during the 1<sup>st</sup> Kona low storm. Her initial prayer focused only on her own need: asking for electricity to return by a certain time so preparations could continue. Her prayer gradually deepened. She began to think not only about herself but also about the utility workers repairing the power lines and the many people affected by the outage. Her prayer expanded to include concern for others. Remarkably, the power was restored just before that time.

These stories highlight an important teaching: we should pray for anything, but our prayers should grow from self-centered requests into compassionate prayers for others. Another teaching reminds us to put others first in our prayers. When we do so, Kami will take care of our own needs. Prayer is not just asking—it is a form of communication that strengthens our relationship with Kami.

The sermon emphasized that prayer itself requires practice. Just as we train ourselves in other areas of life, we must also train ourselves to remember to pray first, to express gratitude, and to reflect sincerely. Through this practice, our awareness of daily blessings deepens, and our hearts naturally

expand to include others.

In conclusion, the message encouraged us to **make prayer a constant part of our lives**. Even simple prayers—“Konko Daijin, please help me”—can bring calmness and guidance. By following the Founder’s teachings, expressing gratitude, offering apologies, and praying for others, we strengthen our connection with Kami. As our faith deepens, our prayers become less self-centered and more compassionate, leading to greater blessings for ourselves and for everyone around us.

<https://youtube.com/live/jn7KcPtk-bw>

3/8/26

This sermon focused on the essential role of **prayer as the foundation of our faith** and our connection with Kami. A teaching from *Voice of the Universe* explains that practicing faith is not difficult—it is simply living each day in communication with Kami: giving thanks in the morning, asking for guidance, reporting our actions, and expressing gratitude at night. In this way, prayer becomes a natural part of daily life.

Rev. Koichi emphasized that prayer is not only for making requests. It is a way to build a relationship with Kami, like speaking with a parent. We can share everything—our requests, doubts, suffering, anger, and gratitude. Through prayer, we strengthen our “vertical connection” with the Divine Parent and deepen our awareness of being supported by Kami.

The teaching of the Tenchi Kakitsuke was introduced as a guide for prayer: to pray with sincerity, with a single heart, and in harmony with Kami. The sermon highlighted that blessings begin within our own hearts. When we pray with gratitude and a caring spirit, we become aligned with Kami, and blessings naturally unfold.

A key teaching was to pray with three essential attitudes: **gratefulness (arigataki)**, **awe (osoreoki)**, and **reverence (mottainaki)**. These attitudes remind us that Kami is the source of our life, constantly caring for us even when we forget. When these feelings are present, our prayers become sincere, and Kami responds.

The sermon also stressed that we should pray directly to Kami, rather than relying only on others. Whether we know formal prayers or not, sincere prayer from the heart is enough. We can ask Kami for anything—health, success, solutions to problems—and also offer apologies for our mistakes and the accumulated shortcomings from ourselves and our ancestors.

Another important point was to pray not only for ourselves but also for others. When difficulties occur, we should give thanks for being protected from greater harm and pray for the well-being of everyone involved—even those who may have caused harm. This reflects a heart that aligns with Kami’s wish for all people to be saved.

The sermon explained that prayer should be continuous and persistent. Just as cleaning a well requires removing all the dirty water, we must continue praying until the roots of our problems are fully resolved. Stopping halfway will not bring complete blessings.



Finally, the message emphasized that prayer is ongoing communication with Kami. Even when we feel unsure or wonder if our prayers are heard, Kami is always listening. Prayer may include joy, pain, frustration, or quiet reflection—but all of it reaches Kami.

In conclusion, by continuing to pray sincerely every day—with gratitude, humility, and trust—we deepen our relationship with Kami. Through this connection, we are guided, supported, and led toward a better life.

<https://youtube.com/live/oy0liGpK5AU>