

# Konko Mission of Honolulu

## 2024 CHURCH SCHEDULE REMINDER



### December 師走

Dear Konko Ohana,

Welcome to the December edition of our Konko Mission of Honolulu Monthly Reminder! As we embrace the festive spirit and reflect on the year, let's gather to celebrate our community's growth and the blessings we've shared. Join us for a season of joy and spiritual renewal.

#### December

1		Sunday Service	<b>Corporation Board of Directors Meeting</b>
8		<b>Monthly Service</b>	<b>Sunday Gathering</b>
15	10am	Sunday Service – Family Sunday	<u>(End-of-the-Year Celebration Potluck Party)</u>
22		<b>End-of-the-Year Appreciation Service and Monthly Memorial Service</b>	<b>Sunday Gathering</b>
29		Sunday Service – <b>Church Goyo</b> : Clean-up	
31	Weds. 10am	Mochi-Making for 2025 New Year's Day Service	

### End-of-the-Year Celebration Potluck Party

Join us for our End-of-the-Year Celebration Potluck Party on **Sunday, December 15, 2024!** Following our 10:00 a.m. Sunday Service, the festivities will begin around 11:00 a.m. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to come together, share delicious food, and enjoy fun games. We encourage you to bring a dish to share and help strengthen the bonds of friendship within our community. Let's gather to close out the year with joy and set the stage for a wonderful 2025, embracing the spirit of "All's well that ends well." Everyone is welcome – let's make this celebration a memorable one!

### November Sermon Summary

#### "Value Everything"

November 3, 2024

In the sermon delivered by Rev. Koichi at the Wailuku church during the Ikigami Konko Daijin Grand Service, he shared profound insights into the value of cherishing life in all its facets, aligning with the teachings he absorbed from his alma mater, Konko Gakuen. Celebrating its 130th anniversary this year, Konko Gakuen was founded by Konkokyo and instilled a powerful motto in its students: "Value others, value yourself, value things." This simple yet impactful phrase encapsulates a broader spiritual message deeply rooted in Konkokyo teachings, which emphasize the importance of treasuring every aspect of our lives.

Rev. Koichi expanded on this by discussing the concept of "Cherish everything with true sincerity," a principle taught by the 4th Konko-Sama, who was also a renowned calligrapher and poet. This teaching, Rev. Koichi explained, encompasses not only the physical items we possess but also our time, relationships, and emotions. He emphasized that true treasuring involves more than not wasting food or resources; it includes not wasting our worries or overthinking, which he views as forms of neglecting our spiritual and emotional well-being.

Moreover, Rev. Koichi touched on how even undesirable events such as illness, hardship, or personal conflicts fall under the umbrella of "everything" that we must value. He challenged the congre-

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gation to confront these adversities not with escape or anger but with earnest engagement and learning, transforming trials into treasured experiences. This approach, he argued, is essential not only for personal growth but for spiritual practice, where the difficulty of embracing what we typically disdain tests and strengthens our faith.

He also recounted the historical context of Konkokyo through the doctrine of Divine Arrangement, illustrating how everything in life, from the mundane to the significant, is orchestrated with intentionality by Kami-Sama. This view encourages an understanding that every occurrence has a purpose, serving as an opportunity for spiritual inquiry and growth.

The sermon concluded with Rev. Koichi urging the community to embody this mindset of valuing everything with sincerity as a daily practice. By doing so, he asserted, we align more closely with the divine will, seeing the hand of Kami-Sama in every aspect of our lives, and learning to accept and cherish the divine arrangement of our existences.

### **"Embracing Divine Blessings: Valuing Every Moment and Interaction"**      November 24, 2024

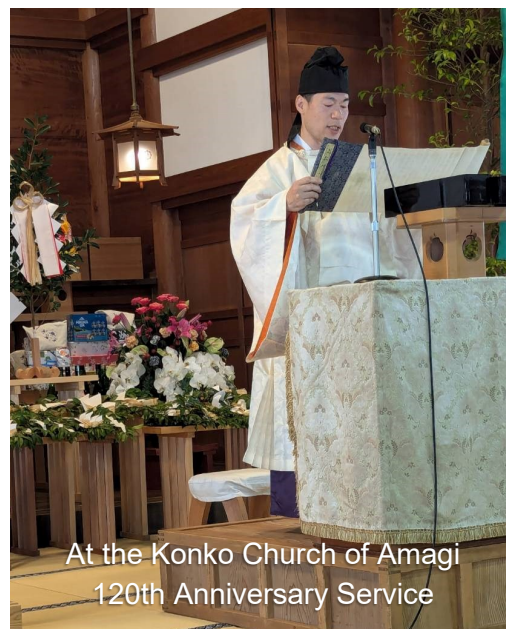
Rev. Koichi delved into the profound topic of how worries can transform into divine blessings through faithful practice. He initiated his sermon by expressing joy about his participation in the 120th-anniversary celebration of Amagi, where Rev. Michiyoshi Yasutake, the Head Minister of Konko Church of Amagi, radiated happiness. This event illustrated the deep connections and communal support that strengthen spiritual bonds within the Konkokyo community.

Rev. Koichi anchored his sermon in the teachings from the "Voice of the Universe," specifically focusing on how human worries, if entrusted to Kami, can metamorphose into blessings. He emphasized that while human nature predisposes us to concern over the future, the practice of faith offers a pathway to transform these worries into something spiritually enriching. This practice not only alleviates personal distress but aligns us more closely with divine will.

He also shared insights from a notable economic study by Angus Deaton, which correlates income levels with happiness, to further his point that beyond a certain financial threshold, happiness does not increase with wealth. This academic perspective supported his message that spiritual satisfaction transcends material gain, echoing the sermon's theme that true contentment arises from faith and spiritual understanding rather than worldly concerns.

Rev. Koichi illustrated this through personal anecdotes and theological reflections, including a poignant narrative about his experiences at the anniversary service. He described how the entire event, including worries about weather and arrangements, was left in the hands of Kami, leading to a successful celebration. This act of faith was mirrored in his sermon's call to place our daily concerns under divine care, thereby embracing a life free from the tyranny of worries.

The sermon concluded on a reflective note, urging the congregation to consider their own lives in light of these teachings. Rev. Koichi challenged everyone to evaluate how they handle personal anxieties and to cultivate a practice of entrusting these to Kami, thus opening themselves to receive divine blessings in return. His message was clear: embracing faith actively transforms our inner landscape from one of worry to one of peace, allowing us to live fully in the grace of Kami.



At the Konko Church of Amagi  
120th Anniversary Service