Eiichi Shimada In Concert - A NYC Thanksgiving Celebration / Tonight Nov. 22, 2011 at 8 p.m.
A NYC Thanksgiving Celebration with
Pianist Eiichi Shimada

Tonight, Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at 8 p.m.
Saint Peter's Church
619 Lexington Avenue at 54th Street, NYC

As all of you know, Thanksgiving and the approaching Christmas Season, is one of the most memorable experiences one can have here in New York City.

For my family and associates at REACH-NYC it all begins tonight. My good friend Eiichi Shimada who has been our organist and pianist at many REACH-NYC events is having a concert tonight at Saint Peter's Church located at 619 Lexington Ave at 54th Street, in New York City, at 8 p.m. The concert features works by J.S Bach, Schubert and Chopin.

Eiichi is one of New York City's talented musicians and we are humbled to have him play at our services this past year helping us to make our first group meetings filled with the music of heaven. His ministry means a lot to each of us here at REACH-NYC and we look forward to a future filled with his beautiful music.
God has been good to us here in New York City and in a few days, my family, each of whom are on busy schedules will sit together for the first time in the past year to recall the blessings of God to each of us.

Thanksgiving is a time when we can praise God for the many things each of us can be thankful for.

This past Saturday in my short homily on "Thankful Faith" in the historic sanctuary of Manhattan Church, I quoted something one of my favorite poet's said on being thankful. Maya Angelou said it this way: "I'm thankful for being here, for being able to think, for being able to see, for being able to taste, for appreciating love - for knowing that it exists in a world so rife with vulgarity, with brutality and violence, and yet love exists. I'm grateful to know that it exists."

Certainly each of us have pain and cares that test our metal, but we still can remain thankful. At times it takes all the spirit we can muster when disappointment comes but God is still with us and for that we must remain thankful.

Konrad von Gesner has stated, "Best of all is it to preserve in a pure, still heart, and let there be for every pulse a thanksgiving, and for every breath a song."

Robert Casper Lintner may have put it best when he said, "Thanksgiving is nothing if not a glad and reverent lifting of the heart to God in honor and praise for the Creator's goodness."

In Psalms 100 (NIV) we find these words of grateful praise:

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with Thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

In the painting above, we note the first Thanksgiving. I am sure the prayers must have been for the preservation of life and good friends that the Pilgrims met as Native American People helped them survive their first winter. Clearly it is good and a blessing to have friends who help us in our time of need.

I would ask you to lift a prayer this Thanksgiving season for one of our pastoral associates and friends, Pastor Bledi Leno who sits by hospital bed of his young wife Patricia in Brazil today, suffering from a rare medical malady. Keep this young family in your prayer's. They have been married only 9 months and we are moved by this need and the many others who face difficult situations during this season.

This is a time to pray for peace in our world, in our families in our church communities. It is a time to put petty feelings aside and to move toward kindness and the generosity of concern for
each person we meet.

I would also ask each of us to remember those in the military who serve all across the globe and for families who will sit at the Thanksgiving table in a few days missing a loved one killed in battle.

At a school I am attending, I pass New York City's Marble Collegiate Church on Fifth Ave. and 29th Street, Monday morning as I make my way to my classes. This outstanding church has placed for years, yellow ribbons on the iron gates that circle the church, with each service person’s name, rank and age at time of death from the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, there are thousands of yellow ribbons, each with a name of a father, a son, a husband, a daughter, a mother a wife. I pass these names with respect and the thought of when will we ever learn that war and conflict is not the answer to our world’s problems.

It is my prayer that around the Thanksgiving table, however humble it may be this year, that each of us dedicate ourselves to honesty, integrity and support of the powerless and a lifting up of those who we come in contact with each day.

Let our thoughts be filled with good wishes for our neighbors and with a prayer on our lips and good thoughts in our minds for members of all faith traditions. Take the time to call a friend who you may have not spoken with in years and if anything has come between you and someone else, perhaps it is time to bring peace to your life in accepting the most powerful gift of all, forgiveness.

Forgive as Christ has forgiven you.

If you have no church home in New York City or know of a friend who could use some Good News in their lives, I invite you to worship with us in the sanctuary of historic Manhattan Church, located at 232 West 11th Street, NYC. Our worship time will begin this Saturday, November 26, 2011 at 11:15 a.m. and you are cordially invited to gather with us as we celebrate the blessing of God and of Jesus Christ.

May God grant you peace this Thanksgiving and joy in each of your hearts. Be blessed.

Best regards -

Tony Romeo, Pastor / REACH-NYC

P.S. Below are a few gatherings you may want to join including a small group meeting we have on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in an intimate room located at Manhattan Church, 232 West 11th Street, NYC. We study the Bible and share issues and concerns that are important to each of us. You are welcome to join us on Wednesday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m.

- Please scroll down for more study and worship opportunities -
No meeting this Friday, November 25, 2011.

Our next Cafe Reach will be on December 2, 2011 at 7 p.m.

CAFE REACH
FRIDAY NIGHT, December 2 / CAFE REACH / 7 P.M.
232 WEST 11th STREET, NYC

Come to think, discuss and share!

- Please scroll down for more study and worship opportunities -
SATURDAY, November 26, 2011
11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

ENJOY A MORE FORMAL SERVICE IN THE HISTORIC SANCTUARY OF MANHATTAN CHURCH IN THE WEST VILLAGE AT 232 WEST 11th STREET, NYC
- Just one and a half blocks west of Seventh Ave. -

Pastor Tony Romeo will be sharing the topic
"It's Christmas Time In The City?"
In a Conversation with the Word.

Praise to God with music, prayer and a focused look at how the love of a caring God can bring joy and clarity to all of our lives. The morning service will provide a time for communal prayer for special needs in a community of shared reflection.

Families are invited to bring their children.

You are invited to stay for a healthy vegetarian lunch that will be served after the worship service.

Members of all faith traditions are welcome to attend.

Enjoy this New York City Landmark in one of the finest communities in NYC. A faith community dedicated to sharing the Word in Love.

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"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and
to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 1:5-8

Individual and group Bible study sessions are always available. Write to: reachnyc.contact@gmail.com.

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