



The Celebration of Worship

November 29, 2020 1st Sunday of Advent

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Pamela Anderson
Pastoral Residents: Rola Al Ashkar
Veronica Gould
Worship Leader: Titus Toyama
Pianist: Haruko Sakakibara
Japanese Reader: Michael Wright
Zoom Greeter/Monitor Nancy Arata-Fong

Welcome and Announcements

Please join in lighting a candle at home.

The Davis Family

Today, on this first Sunday of Advent, we are called to be ready to receive something life-changing, something wholly new. In the light of the deep darkness which descended upon our lives, the lighting the first candle reminds us that there is hope – salvation is awaiting us. May we find God’s hope in our lives, and be bearers of this hope in our world.

Introit

All: Make us one, Lord, make us one. Holy Spirit make us one. Let Your love flow so the world will know, we are one in You.

Call to Worship

Titus Toyama

Leader: The time of waiting and watching is here! Are you ready?

Congregation: We are waiting for the Lord of peace to open our hearts.

Leader: The Lord of Peace comes to us this day to free us from our sin.

Congregation: We are ready to receive the precious blessings of God.

All: Watch, wait. God is coming into the world!

Confession Prayer

Titus Toyama

Forgive us, merciful God, when we spend so much time looking for the scary things in life. Focus our attention on ways in which we can be of service with whatever time we have. Forgive us when we seek the darkness of anger and fear and turn our backs on the light of possibilities and peace.

All: Open our hearts once again to Your redeeming love and transforming peace.

Assurance of God’s Grace

Titus Toyama

Friends, even in the midst of difficult times, God is with us, bringing peace to us. Today, receive God’s rich blessing of peace and hope. Amen.

Response to God’s Forgiveness (spoken)

Titus Toyama

All: Glory be to Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Titus Toyama

Leader: The peace of Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Children’s Message

Rev. Dr. Pamela Anderson

Unison Prayer Of Guidance

Titus Toyama

All: Now may the words of our mouth, the meditation of our hearts, the interpretation of our minds, and the response of our hands be acceptable to You, our Lord and our Redeemer. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Japanese Psalm Reading (Psalm 80:1-4)

Michael Wright

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

You who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,

stir up Your might and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

O Lord God of hosts,

how long will you be angry with your people’s prayers?

1st Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Titus Toyama

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord

Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

2nd Scripture Reading Mark 13:24-37

Rola Al Ashkar

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then He will send out the angels, and gather His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that He is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Sermon

Rola Al Ashkar

“Watch, Wait”

Musical Offering

Haruko Sakakibara

Time for silent reflection.

Opportunity To Present Offerings

Titus Toyama

Doxology (spoken)

Titus Toyama

All: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Titus Toyama

Joys & Concerns/Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dr. Pamela Anderson
Nancy Arata-Fong

The Lord’s Prayer

All: Our Parent Who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn

“Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates”

Benediction

Rola Al Ashkar

Response: “Shalom”

Sha rom, sha rom, mata a u hi ma de. Sha rom, sha rom, Kami no mi megumi. (Peace, peace, until we meet again. Peace, peace, may we be blessed with grace from God.)

Sha rom, sha rom, mata a u hi ma de. Sha rom, sha rom, yuta kani, yuta kani, yuta kani. (Peace, peace, until we meet again. Peace, peace, abundantly, abundantly, abundantly.)

In Appreciation:

Coffee Time Hosts

PPW