



The Celebration of Worship

December 6, 2020 2nd Sunday of Advent

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Pamela Anderson
Pastoral Residents: Rola Al Ashkar
Veronica Gould
Worship Leader: Christine Umeda
Pianist: Haruko Sakakibara
Japanese Reader: Miyo Uchida
Zoom Greeter/Monitor: May Lee

Welcome and Announcements

Please join in lighting two candles at home. Lucas and Liam Wright

On this Second Sunday in Advent, we are called to be messengers of God's peace. We remember God's promise of peace on earth and good will to all. We light the second candle to invite the peace of Christ into our lives today. And we pray for a world where all will know peace.

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

Christine Umeda

Leader: I will listen to what God will say; surely the Lord will declare peace.

People: God's salvation is near to us!

Leader: Faithful love and truth will join together;

People: Righteousness and peace will embrace.

Leader: Truth will spring up from the earth,

People: and righteousness will look down from heaven.

Leader: Let us worship our God!

Confession Prayer

Christine Umeda

Leader: When we return to God and confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and forgives us and renews us in grace.

All: God of All Mercy, we confess that sin has power in our lives. We turn to Your power, which is greater. Free us from the desire to put ourselves first and the failure to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Free us from the humanity we deny, in others and in ourselves. You have called us beloved children. Give us grace to live as one family, united in love.

Assurance of God's Grace

Christine Umeda

Leader: Hear the word of God from Second Peter: "But do not ignore this one fact, beloved. With the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance."

Response to God's Forgiveness (spoken)

Christine Umeda

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

Christine Umeda

Leader: The peace of Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Hymn

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Children's Message

Rola Al Ashkar

Unison Prayer Of Guidance

Christine Umeda

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 85:4,6-7)

Miyo Uchida

Restore us again, God our Savior,
and put away your displeasure toward us.

[. . .]

Will You not revive us again,
that Your people may rejoice in you?
Show us Your unfailing love, LORD,
and grant us Your salvation.

1st Scripture Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

Christine Umeda

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

2nd Scripture Reading Mark 1:1-8

Veronica Gould

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Sermon

Veronica Gould

"Desert Highways"

Musical Offering

Haruko Sakakibara

*Time for silent reflection.***Opportunity To Present Offerings**

Christine Umeda

Doxology (spoken)

Christine Umeda

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

Christine Umeda

Joys & Concerns/Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dr. Pamela Anderson

May Lee

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

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Benediction

Veronica Gould

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

There is no coffee hour this week.