



## The Celebration of Worship

December 27, 2020 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Pamela Anderson  
Pastoral Residents: Rola Al Ashkar  
Veronica Gould  
Worship Leader: Betsy Eskridge  
Pianist: Wade Tambara  
Japanese Reader: Mieko Davis  
Zoom Moderator: May Lee

### Welcome and Announcements

Rola Al Ashkar

*Please join in lighting a candle at home.*

### 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

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is here!

**Congregation: God's light of hope floods the earth and comes to us all.**

Leader: The time is fulfilled and God's salvation is among us.

**All: We receive Emmanuel, God is with us.**

### Confession Prayer

Betsy Eskridge

Lord, Your incarnation blesses and challenges our being. When your coming does not challenge us, break the bonds of comfort in us and help us to take risks as witnesses and followers of Your light. Shine brightly in us and through us. Give us vision of what You would have us be and do in the Light of Your Love. Amen.

### Assurance of God's Grace

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: Light has come to you. Your light has come and it has erased the darkness. Now we can walk and work in the light. You are loved by God and called to God's service.

**All: Amen.**

### Response to God's Forgiveness (spoken)

Betsy Eskridge

**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

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: The peace of Lord be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

### Hymn

"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

### Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Pamela Anderson

### Unison Prayer Of Guidance

Betsy Eskridge

**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 148: 1-4)

Mieko Davis

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights! Praise God, all God's angels; praise God, all God's host! Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars! Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

### 1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading Romans Galatians 4:4-7

Betsy Eskridge

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent God's Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of God's Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading Luke 2:22-38

Rola Al Ashkar

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed--and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

**Sermon** Rola Al Ashkar  
"The Time is Fulfilled"

**Musical Offering** Wade Tambara  
*Time for silent reflection.*

**Opportunity To Present Offerings** Betsy Eskridge

**Doxology (spoken)** Betsy Eskridge  
**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** Betsy Eskridge

**Joys & Concerns/Pastoral Prayer** Veronica Gould  
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**

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

### **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

Jujikai