



Share Holiday Joy!

Join us right after worship service on **Dec. 19** for an informal sharing of holiday joy. Bring your individually wrapped “delectable edibles” to share and/or exchange in the church courtyard.

We will also be preparing goodie bags for some of our more vulnerable members and arrange delivery.

While Covid has twice forced us to cancel our usual holiday gatherings, we can still find ways to celebrate. See you then.

- Carla Hart
Maurine Huang
Donna Komure-Toyama
Haruko Sakakibara



The Celebration of Worship

December 12, 2021 • 3rd Sunday of Advent

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Donna Komure-Toyama
Pianist:	Wade Tambara
Japanese Reader:	Michael Wright
Advent Candle Lighting:	Linda Yasumura

Prelude

Wade Tambara

*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.

Welcome/Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Advent Candle Lighting

Linda Yasumura

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light two purple candles on the Advent wreath, and one pink candle: the candle of JOY.

Joy shines in the darkness. It sings in the shadows. It cannot be contained. It was the hope of the saints, the call of the prophets, the courage of young Mary, the faithfulness of Joseph, the excitement of the shepherds, and magnificent glory of the angels. Give love and joy with open hands and you will find God’s joy shining in the power that can transform lives. Let’s pray:

All: Promised One, as we prepare the way for Your coming, help us find joy in You. Candle in the window, beacon on the hill, star in the night sky. Jesus, Light of God’s joy, You lead us home. Amen.

** Those who can, please rise*

Call to Worship

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: Now in this season of watching and waiting, may we welcome the Lord who comes to restore our lives.

People: Lord Jesus, we rejoice when You come to us, for You bring love and healing, justice and peace;

All: We rejoice to worship God today and join with the angels to proclaim our Savior's birth!

*Opening Hymn: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (#31)

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

Invitation to Confession

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: With the songs of angels in our ears, we can no longer lash out with angry words that wound others. Looking for the shepherds to arrive, we cannot ignore the family living in their car under the freeway. Let's bring the weight of our regrets and missed opportunities and ask for God's forgiveness.

*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:

Greeters:	Haruko Sakakibara, Irene Uno
Online Greeter:	May Lee
Usher:	Maurine Huang
Parking:	Tak Fukuman
Sound System:	Tom Tambara
Zoom Moderator:	Lois Van Beers

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.

*Sending Hymn: "Joy to the World" (#40)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Prayer of Confession

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: God Most High, Your only Son became one of us, so we might draw closer to You. He came as a baby into our world, forgive us for ignoring the vulnerable ones who are hungry and lost around us.

People: Jesus became poor to serve the world, forgive us for our obsession with wealth and possessions.

Leader: Loving God, in this holy season, let neither busyness or selfishness overwhelm us. Cleanse us, and touch us with Your steadfast love;

All: Strengthen us, and pour out Your faithfulness on us. May our cleansed hearts welcome and adore You as we reflect Your light and love to those around us. Amen.

Time for silent reflection and confession

Assurance of God's Grace

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: The star of hope that brought light to a dark world that long-ago night in Bethlehem, shines still. Glory to God in the highest! Christ came to bring God's joyful Presence to all.

All: We believe the Good News of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*Response to God's Forgiveness

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

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

***Hymn: “Away in a Manger” (#25)**

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Unison Prayer Of Guidance

Donna Komure-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 Reading: Isaiah 55:12

Michael Wright

For you will go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before
you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

1st Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Donna Komure-Toyama

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice Let your gentleness
be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the
peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Sermon and 2nd Scripture Reading

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

“All I Want for Christmas Is ... Joy”

Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in
the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted
Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her
womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with
a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of
your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my
Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting,
the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed
that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

Musical Offering

Wade Tambara

Time for silent reflection

Opportunity To Present Offerings

Donna Komure-Toyama

***Doxology**

Donna Komure-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**

Donna Komure-Toyama

Joys & Concerns

Titus Toyama

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave