

Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, Your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be patient and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some, to love them as we find them or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice Your acceptance until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's freeing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on: renew us with Your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

*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.)

Postlude

Wade Tambara

We invite you to remain seated during the Postlude as we enjoy the music and God's presence together. If you need to go, please feel free to do so. Go with God's blessings.

In Appreciation:

Greeters:	Bill Grissom, Herning Grissom
Online Greeter:	May Lee
Ushers:	Maurine Huang, William Yee
Parking:	Tak Fukuman
Parking Barriers:	Jonathan Sakakibara
Sound System:	Tom Tambara
Zoom Moderator:	Judy Yee
Altar Flowers:	Hach & Linda Yasumura



The Celebration of Worship

September 11, 2022 • 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Jonathan Sakakibara
Pianist:	Wade Tambara
Japanese Reader:	Mieko Davis

Centering Prayer for Worship

Great is Your love for us, Welcoming God. When we are lonely, You whisper, 'come closer,' inviting us into Your heart. When we hunger for the crumbs of affirmation the world offers to us, You feed us with the fullness of your joy. We bring our lives to you, our loving Lord. We open our hearts to receive Your goodness!

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

Call to Worship

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: God welcomes us with celebration and joy.

People: How good it is to gather for worship! We welcome each other as we celebrate God's love and redeeming power.

All: Here, we discover the grace that breaks down barriers and brings reconciliation. Here, we learn to trust God and to faithfully follow where Almighty God leads us.

*Opening Hymn: "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!" (#476)

O worship the King, all glorious above! O gratefully sing God's power and God's love; Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space. The chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form, and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

** Those who can, please rise*

The earth with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, Thy power has founded of old; Established it fast, by a changeless decree, and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light; it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail; Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

Invitation to Confession

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: God loves us as we are, yet yearns for us to be more. Trusting God's willingness to transform our brokenness and bring wholeness to our world, let's confess our sin to God.

Prayer of Confession

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: God of courage and strength, we often fall short of Your intentions for us and our expectations of ourselves.

People: We want to go through life with confidence and joy, but find ourselves worrying about how others see us, and what the future holds. Forgive us.

Leader: Remind us that it is Your power working in us that enables us to overcome fears and failings, our grudges and regrets.

All: Help us to be led by Your Spirit to live with grace and kindness as Jesus did.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: As we open the door of our minds and hearts to confess our sins to God, God brings grace into our lives and sings forgiveness' freedom song in our hearts.

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

***Response to God's Forgiveness**

All Sing: 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.

28-30. "The older brother stomped off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn't listen. The son said, 'Look how many years I've stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on prostitutes shows up and you go all out with a feast!'

31-32. "His father said, 'Son, you don't understand. You're with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he's alive! He was lost, and he's found!'"

Musical Offering

Wade Tambara

Time for silent reflection

Opportunity To Present Offerings

Jonathan Sakakibara

All: Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ, God's Son. (Repeat) And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich" because of what the Lord has done for us. (Repeat) Give thanks. Give thanks.

***Doxology**

Jonathan Sakakibara

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**

Jonathan Sakakibara

Joys & Concerns

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

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: "Help Us Accept Each Other" (#358)**

Sing to the tune of "The Church's One Foundation" (#442)

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.

Luke 15:11-20 The Message

11-12. Then Jesus said, “There was once a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, I want right now what’s coming to me.’

12-16. “So the father divided the property between them. It wasn’t long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to feel it. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn-cobs in the pig pen, but no one would give him any.

17-20. “That brought him to his senses. He said, ‘All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I’m going back to my father. I’ll say to him, Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.’ He got right up and went home to his father.

Sermon & 2nd Scripture Reading

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

“The Spirituality of . . . Forgiveness”

Luke 15:20-32 The Message

20-21. “When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: ‘Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’

22-24. “But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ And they began to have a wonderful time.

25-27. “All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day’s work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, ‘Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbecued beef!—because he has him home safe and sound.’

Passing of the Peace

Jonathan Sakakibara

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

All: And also with you.

Children’s Message

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Hymn of Reflection “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

(#418 GtG)

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me. See, on the portals he’s waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Refrain. “Come home, come home! You who are weary come home.” Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, “O sinner, come home!”

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me? Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me?

Refrain

O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.

Refrain

Unison Prayer of Guidance

All: Now may the words of our mouths, the meditations 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: Ephesians 4:32

Mieko Davis

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

1st Scripture Reading: Luke 15

Jonathan Sakakibara

Luke 15:1-2

Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Jesus to listen to Him. Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, “The man receives sinners and eats with them.”