

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!



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

Janet Hill

*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:	Judy Fukuman, William Yee
Online Greeter:	May Lee
Ushers:	Maurine Huang, William Yee
Parking:	Tak Fukuman
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Titus Toyama
Sound System:	Tom Tambara
Zoom Moderator:	Judy Yee
Altar Flowers:	Jane Matsuoka
	In Memory of George Matsuoka

The Celebration of Worship

December 11, 2022 • Third Sunday of Advent

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Donna Komure-Toyama
Pianist:	Janet Hill
Japanese Reader:	Mieko Davis
Advent Candle Lighters:	Russ and Lori Hart

Centering Thought for Advent Worship

*Built around the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day, Advent
provides us with time for preparation. We seek to prepare for the coming
of Jesus- who has come in the past, who continually comes in the present,
and who will come in the future. During Advent, we pray, Come Lord
Jesus, come. With this prayer of deep longing, we watch and wait, we
remember and repent, we believe and behold. Above all, we seek to become
aware. Jesus often enters our lives in quiet, hidden, and unexpected ways.
O Come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

Prelude

Janet Hill

*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

Lori Hart, Russ Hart

Today the candles on the Advent wreath symbolize the powerful presence of God with us in Jesus Christ. The One who was sent to our world to bring God's love to all who experience suffering and hard times.

Light 3 purple candles now.

We light these candles as a symbol of love. The bright light from the three candles reminds us of the great light that surrounded the shepherds who were out in the fields watching their flocks at night when the angels came and told them that Jesus was being born.

An angel choir sang, "Glory to God in the highest!" as they announced the good news of Jesus' birth. May our lives bring God glory as we share the Good News of our Savior's birth with all the world.

Let's pray:

Leader: O God, Your plan for the world needed the love of a mother.

All: May we, like Mary, open our lives to be messengers of Your love to the world. Lord Jesus, may Your coming bring love to every heart. Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting Song:

Silent Night, Holy Night (#60) verse 3

Silent night, holy night! Song of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Call to Worship

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: O Wondrous God, send your Spirit to us today with a word of grace;

People: If we are fearful, move us to confidence. If we are weary, bring us Your rest. If we are empty, fill us with hope.

Leader: We have been searching for you far away;

Doxology

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

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: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (#44)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering
love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters
in.

favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name Him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

Sermon & 2nd Scripture Reading

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

“Love Has Come”

Luke 1:34-38

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the Child to be born will be holy; He will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Musical Offering

Janet Hill

Time for silent reflection

Opportunity To Present Offerings Donna Komure-Toyama

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.

All: Let us find You at home in our midst, changing hearts and minds, urging us to join Your work of Love. We come to worship the One who is coming, Christ, the newborn King!

*Opening Hymn: “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” (#22)

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;

You, who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,

God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!

Invitation to Confession

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: If we want to welcome the Christ Child into our lives again this Christmas, we have to admit the ways we've hardened ourselves against the Good News He brings. Let's confess our sins to God so our hearts may be purified and filled with God's love.

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 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 to God

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 loving Presence to all.

All: In Jesus Christ, God's love come down at Christmas, we are forgiven. 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 of Reflection "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 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

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: Isaiah 7:14

Mieko Davis

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call Him Immanuel, which means God is with us.

1st Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-33

Donna Komure-Toyama

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found