

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:	Carla Hart, Lynn Yamamoto
Online Greeter:	May Lee
Ushers:	Judy Fukuman, Tak Fukuman
Parking:	Tak Fukuman
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Tak Fukuman
Sound System:	Titus Toyama
Zoom Moderator:	Judy Yee
Altar Flowers:	Pattie Hashimoto



The Celebration of Worship

January 8, 2023 • Epiphany Sunday

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Jana Nakase-Lee
Pianist:	Janet Hill
Japanese Reader:	Mieko Davis

Centering Prayer for Worship

*Thank You, Revealing God,
For giving Yourself to the world, not in the powerful and extraordinary,
but in weakness and the familiar:
In a baby; in bread and wine.
Thank You for offering, at journey's end, a new beginning;
For setting, in the poverty of a stable, the richest jewel of Your love;
For revealing, in a particular place, Your light for all nations.
Thank You for bringing us to Bethlehem, House of Bread,
Where the empty are filled, and the filled are emptied;
Where the poor find riches, and the rich recognize their poverty;
Where all who kneel and hold out their hands are fed.
- Kate Compston in *Bread for Tomorrow**

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

Call to Worship

Jana Nakase-Lee

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

People: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; On those living in the shadow of death, a light has dawned.

All: Let us go with all the peoples of the nations to worship Christ the Lord!

*Opening Hymn: “As With Gladness Men of Old” (#63)

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed, there
to bend the knee before Him whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin’s alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee our heavenly
King.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at
last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy
glory hide.

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

Jana Nakase-Lee

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: “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (#29)

Refrain. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; o, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Refrain.

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth.

Refrain.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain.

Musical Offering

Janet Hill

Time for silent reflection

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

- from the Iona Community

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Receiving the Elements

Opportunity To Present Offerings

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.

Invitation to Confession

Jana Nakase-Lee

As the wise ones came from afar to bring their gifts to worship the Christ Child, let us offer the truth of our lives, as an act of repentance and worship to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Prayer of Confession

Jana Nakase-Lee

Leader: Gracious God, our Guide, who once used a star to lead people to Christ, we confess our poor sense of direction.

People: We are easily confused, distracted, and lose our way in life. We fail to follow the guidance You provide. Our comfortable lives convince us we do not need to follow Jesus.

Leader: Our fear of others' beliefs and cultures convinces us that we don't need to share Your grace with them.

All: Forgive us. God of glory, You sent Jesus as the light of the world, to reveal Your love for all people. May we leave our comfort zones, trusting You to lead us to others who need Your love. Amen.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace

Jana Nakase-Lee

Leader: By a bright star God led the wise ones to worship Jesus, the light of the world. Believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus, God's grace has dawned upon the world with healing for all humankind.

All: Guiding Star of Holy Light, we thank You for forgiving us and setting us free to proclaim Your glory to all. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Jana Nakase-Lee

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

All: And also with you.

Childrens' Message

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Hymn of Reflection: "What Child Is This" (#53)

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch
are keeping?

Refrain. This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard
and angels sing; haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the
Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is
pleading.

Refrain.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to
own Him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts
enthroned Him.

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: Jeremiah 29:13

Mieko Davis

"You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with
all your heart."

1st Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-8

Jana Nakase-Lee

From *The Message*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—
this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived

in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we
find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We
observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're
on pilgrimage to worship him."

When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—
and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost
no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars
in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed
to be born?"

They told him, "Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet
Micah wrote it plainly: It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land, no
longer bringing up the rear. From you will come the leader who
will shepherd my people, Israel."

Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from
the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them
to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared.
Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said,
"Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you
find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship."

Sermon & 2nd Scripture Reading

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

"Three Wise Ones Following Joy"

Cont. Matthew 2:9-12

Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared
again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led
them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could
hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place!

They had arrived at the right time!

They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary,
his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then
they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold,
frankincense, myrrh. In a dream, they were warned not to
report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left
the territory without being seen, and returned to their own
country.