

Sung Benediction: “We’ve Come This Far By Faith”

(GtG #656)

All Sing:

We’ve come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord, trusting in the holy Word; God’s never failed us yet.

O, can’t turn around, we’ve come this far by faith.

We’ve come this far by faith.

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: Miko Kumagai, Sue Lorens

Online Greeter: May Lee

Ushers: Terri Bowman, Julie Chew

Parking: Gary Younglove

Parking Barriers (Sat): Neil Matsuoka

Sound System: Jonathan Sakakibara

Zoom Moderator: Lois Van Beers

Altar Flowers: Titus & Donna (Komure) Toyama



The Celebration of Worship

February 5, 2023 • 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Worship Leader:

Titus Toyama

Pianist:

Janet Hill

Japanese Reader:

Miko Kumagai

Centering Prayer for Worship

Lord Jesus, our Savior, we proclaim that you are the One who leads us to life. Holy Spirit, Hope of the despairing, come to our lives and bring us resilient joy. Living God, healer of the wounded, come make us whole. Show us the way to new light and life as we join in your redeeming work bringing love and justice to the world. Amen.

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

Titus Toyama

Leader: The Creator of all life and love has filled our earth with bountiful blessings.

People: God has created humanity to share in the wonder and joy of these blessings.

All: We come to worship Almighty God, the King of creation, who is worthy of all blessing and honor and glory and power. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

*Opening Hymn: "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

(#482)

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near; join me in glad adoration.

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him! Let the amen sound from His people again; gladly for aye we adore Him.

Invitation to Confession

Titus Toyama

Leader: We rejoice that God is faithful even when we're distracted and weary, anxious and angry. Let's confess the times when our fears were bigger than our faith.

Joys & Concerns

Titus Toyama

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: "It is Well with My Soul" (GtG #840)

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain. It is well (It is well) with my soul; (with my soul;)

It is well; it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come let this blest assurance control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed His own blood for my soul.

Refrain

He lives: O the bliss of this glorious thought. My sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain

Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

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.

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

Titus Toyama

Prayer of Confession

Titus Toyama

Leader: Faithful God, we admit that we have fallen short. We have given up. We have stopped hoping. We have doubted and distrusted. We have failed to seek Your presence and hold on to Your promises.

People: Forgive us when we give up so easily. Forgive us when we complain and try to numb our feelings. Forgive us when we forget Your willingness and power to help us.

All: You have not given up on us. You continue to renew us again and again. You continue to transform us and bring us back to life so that we can restore the world.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace

Titus Toyama

Leader: Never forget how much God loves you or how God is always yearning for you. You are God's beloved.

People: We walk through the valley of the shadow, but we do not walk alone. Whether that valley be death or despair or depression or confusion, God is our shepherd, and God will lead us to the other side.

All: Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and gifted with peace. Amen.

Response to God's Forgiveness: "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" (#582GtG)

All Sing:

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Titus Toyama

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

All: And also with you.

Children's Message

Sue Lorens

Hymn of Reflection: "Be Thou My Vision" (#339)

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that Thou art; Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, Thou mine inheritance now and always: Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord; Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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: Galatians 6:9

Miko Kumagai

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.

1st Scripture Reading: Matthew 15:22-28

Titus Toyama

From there Jesus took a trip to Tyre and Sidon. They had hardly arrived when a Canaanite woman came down from the hills and pleaded, "Mercy, Master, Son of David! My daughter is cruelly afflicted by an evil spirit." Jesus ignored her. The disciples came and complained, "Now she's bothering us. Would you please take care of her? She's driving us crazy." Jesus refused, telling them, "I've got my hands full dealing with the lost sheep of Israel."

Then the woman came back to Jesus, dropped to her knees, and begged. "Master, help me." He said, "It's not right to take bread out of children's mouths and throw it to dogs." She was quick:

"You're right, Master, but beggar dogs do get scraps from the master's table." Jesus gave in. "Oh, woman, your faith is something else. What you want is what you get!" Right then her daughter became well.

Sermon & 2nd Scripture Reading

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Sermon Series:

Words of Hope for the World – "Persistence"

Luke 18:1-8

Jesus told them a story showing that it was necessary for them to pray consistently and never quit. He said, "There was once a judge in some city who never gave God a thought and cared nothing for people. A widow in that city kept after him: 'My rights are being violated. Protect me!'

"He never gave her the time of day. But after this went on and on he said to himself, 'I care nothing what God thinks, even less what people think. But because this widow won't quit badgering me, I'd better do something and see that she gets justice—otherwise I'm going to end up beaten black-and-blue by her pounding.'"

Then the Master said, "Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? So what makes you think God won't step in and work justice for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won't he stick up for them? I assure you, he will. He will not drag his feet. But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?"

Musical Offering

Janet Hill

Time for silent reflection