

Charge and Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

The Spirit of Christ rises to meet the needs of a world in pain - a world threatened by violence and exploitation, by a refusal to change, by condemnation and greed. The groans of the earth, the precious lives of all people, the possibilities of genuine cooperation and collaboration - they depend on the manifestation of a radical love: Bold. Determined. May it be so among us, to the glory of God.

*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

Nancy Arata-Fong

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, Diane Younglove
Online Greeter: May Lee
Ushers: Donna Komure-Toyama, Lynn Yamamoto
Parking: Dave McGill
Parking Barriers (Sat): Jonathan Sakakibara
Sound System: Kaz Nozue
Zoom Moderator: Judy Yee
Altar Flowers: Betsy Eskridge & Lois Van Beers



The Celebration of Worship

February 12, 2023 • 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader: Carla Hart
Pianist: Nancy Arata-Fong
Japanese Reader: Aki Kumagai

Centering Prayer for Worship

Beloved One, You are a protector, a healer, a friend. You place feasts before the hungry and welcome strangers with shelter. Come and deepen our capacity to practice love that is as substantial as Yours. Amen.

Prelude Nancy Arata-Fong

*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

Carla Hart

Leader: Eternal God, You are the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who yearn for justice and peace.

People: Creator God, You have called us by name; we belong to You.

All: God of Grace and Glory, inspire us and fill us with Your Spirit, so we may become more like Your Beloved Son, and love all people as You call us to love.

*Opening Hymn: “God of Grace and God of Glory”

(#420)

God of grace and God of glory, on Thy people pour Thy power; crown Thine ancient church’s story; bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail Thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure thy children’s warring madness; bend our pride to Thy control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss Thy kingdom’s goal, lest we miss Thy kingdom’s goal.

Set our feet on lofty places; gird our minds that they may be armored with all Christlike graces, pledged to set all captives free. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, that we fail not them nor Thee! That we fail not them nor Thee!

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the gift of Thy salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving Thee whom we adore, serving Thee whom we adore.

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

Carla Hart

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: “Arise, Your Light Is Come!” (#411)

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit’s call obey; show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captives’ liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing; God’s power will make us strong.

They shackled him in irons and put him to the work of grinding in the prison. But his hair, though cut off, began to grow again.

The Philistine tyrants got together to offer a great sacrifice to their god Dagon. They celebrated, saying, our god has given us Samson our enemy! Someone said, “Get Samson! Let him show us his stuff!” They got Samson from the prison and he put on a show for them. They had him standing between the pillars. Samson said to the young man who was acting as his guide, “Put me where I can touch the pillars that hold up the temple so I can rest against them.” The building was packed with men and women, including all the Philistine tyrants, there were at least three thousand in the stands watching Samson’s performance.

And Samson cried out to God: Master, God! Oh, please, give strength yet once more. With one avenging blow let me be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes! Then Samson reached out to the two central pillars that held up the building and pushed against them, one with his right arm, the other with his left. Saying, “Let me die with the Philistines,” Samson pushed hard with all his might. The building crashed on the tyrants and all the people in it.

Musical Offering

Nancy Arata-Fong

Time for silent reflection

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

Carla Hart

Leader: We don’t have to twist God’s arm in order to get God to forgive us. Let’s entrust our regrets and failings to God, that we may be forgiven.

Prayer of Confession

Carla Hart

Leader: God of compassion and justice, we confess that sometimes we feel like giving up in a world where it seems poverty and violence will always be with us.

People: In our world there is a very large gap between promise and performance; between neighborhoods and opportunity; between our capacity to lessen poverty and disease and violence, and our will to do so. Forgive us. Empower us.

Leader: Use then, O Lord, even our failures, and our fears of failing, to advance Your purposes in our hearts and in this world.

All: O God of possibility and hope, our confidence is in You. We commit ourselves to pray and work for a world that brings You joy.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God’s Grace

Carla Hart

Leader: We are not our own, we are God’s: our stumbling attempts at faithfulness have been met by the gift of God’s redeeming grace.

People: As our response to God’s grace, we choose to live for God with gratitude, and serve all of God’s children.

All: Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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

Carla Hart

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: "This Is My Father's World" (#293)

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world: Oh, let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet. This is my Father's world: the battle is not done; Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.

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: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 Aki Kumagai

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

1st Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:6-9

Carla Hart

For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen containers, so that the extraordinary greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

Sermon & 2nd Scripture Reading

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Sermon Series:

Words of Hope for the World – "Determination"

Judges 16:5-30 Selected verses.

Some time later Samson fell in love with a woman. Her name was Delilah. The Philistine tyrants approached her and said, "Seduce him. Discover what's behind his great strength and how we can tie him up and humble him. Each man's company will give you a hundred shekels of silver." So Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me, dear, the secret of your great strength, and how you can be tied up and humbled." She kept at it day after day, nagging and tormenting him. Finally, he was fed up—he couldn't take another minute of it. He spilled it. He told her, "A razor has never touched my head. I've been God's Nazirite from conception. If I were shaved, my strength would leave me; I would be as helpless as any other man."

When Delilah realized that he had told her his secret, she sent for the Philistine tyrants, telling them, "Come quickly—this time he's told me the truth." They came, bringing the bribe money. When she got him to sleep, his head on her lap, she motioned to a man to cut off the seven braids of his hair. Immediately his strength drained from him. Then she said, "The Philistines are on you, Samson!" The Philistines grabbed him, gouged out his eyes, and took him down to Gaza.