

***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:	Betsy Eskridge, Luda Wright
Online Greeter:	May Lee
Ushers:	Aki Kumagai, Miko Kumagai
Parking:	Gary Younglove
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Dave McGill
Sound System:	Lois Van Beers
Zoom Moderator:	Judy Yee
Altar Flowers:	Aki & Miko Kumagai

In Honor of Aki’s father, Ichiro Kumagai



The Celebration of Worship

March 26, 2023 • Fifth Sunday of Lent & PPW Installation

Guest Pastor:	Rev. Rola Al Ashkar
Worship Leader:	Jonathan Sakakibara
Pianist:	Nancy Arata-Fong
Japanese Reader:	Michael Wright
YES (Youth Enrichment Session) Time:	Lynn Yamamoto

Centering Prayer for Worship

*God of life, present and promised,
you are the One to whom we call:
for you are the One who hears,
and you are the One who acts,
bringing us new life
with your grace and love and power.
Lead us in our time of worship,
that we may be prepared to follow your lead
in places where life is at risk—
places where hope seems far away,
places where dreams die during sleep.
When we leave these walls,
help us live the teachings we proclaim
within this place of worship. 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. Rola Al Ashkar

Call to Worship

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: Creator God, In the warmth of an early spring rain, we hear Your voice;

People: Spirit of Holiness, in the silence of a cloudless blue sky, we breathe in your grace;

All: Come and fill our hearts, Life-giving Lord. May we see You, hear You, and know You as we move through this Lenten season, drawing ever closer to Holy Week and Your redeeming work on the cross.

***Opening Hymn: “Come and Fill Our Hearts” (#2157 Black)**

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia!

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia!

Invitation to Confession

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: As we offer our prayers of confession, let’s remember that God chooses to forget about our past; forgiving us so we may embrace the new life and new hope God offers to us in grace. Unbound, we notice what God has done for us, and what God is doing in us.

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer Rev. Rola Al Ashkar

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: “In the Bulb There Is a Flower” (#250GtG)**

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt
there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a
resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

Benediction

Rev. Rola Al Ashkar

Jesus wept. Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

Musical Offering

Nancy Arata-Fong

Time for silent reflection

PPW Installation

Rev. Rola Al Ashkar

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**

Jonathan Sakakibara

Joys & Concerns

Rev. Rola Al Ashkar

Prayer of Confession

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: Forgive us, O God, when we see the world through rose-colored glasses rather than as it really is, much less the way You seek it to be.

People: Forgive us, Holy One, when we forsake lively and risky faith calling us to be agents of change in our world for the bland conviction that all will be well.

All: Renew us with your grace and ground us with your Spirit, that we might be empowered to live, in word and deed, as testimonies to the power of your love over the grave. Amen.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: The God we serve is the God of life, the God of hope, the God of new beginnings—even for dried-up bones and shattered dreams.

All: This we trust, and by this we live. Thanks be to God!

***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**

Jonathan Sakakibara

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

All: And also with you.

Children's Message

Rev. Rola Al Ashkar

After this message, children may leave for YES time with Lynn Yamamoto

*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: Psalm 130:1-5

Michael Wright

Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
Let Your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!
If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with You,
so that You may be revered.
I wait for the Lord;; my soul waits,
and in God's word I hope;

1st Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-6

Jonathan Sakakibara

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and the Lord brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. The Lord led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. The Lord said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then the Lord said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

Sermon & 2nd Scripture Reading

Rev. Rola Al Ashkar

"A Matter of Life ... and Life"

Excerpts from John 11: 1, 3, 17, 21-26, 32-35, 38, 43

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.