

Postlude

“Piano Trio in F-sharp Minor” (3rd Movement) by Arno Babadjanian

Igor Veligan, violin;

Michael Dahlberg, cello;

Natsuki Fukasawa, piano

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: Marilyn Champa, Cathy Nishizaki

Online Greeter: May Lee

Ushers: Diane Younglove, Gary Younglove

Parking: Dave McGill

Parking Barriers (Sat): Jonathan Sakakibara

Sound System: Titus Toyama

Zoom Moderator: Judy Yee

Altar Flowers: Edwin & Lisa Imura

In memory of Edwin's beloved parents,
Takeo & Frances Imura



The Celebration of Worship

April 9, 2023 • Easter Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader: Jana Nakase-Lee
Pianist: Haruko Sakakibara
Japanese Reader: Mieko Davis
YES (Youth Enrichment Session) Time: Julie Chew

Centering Prayer for Worship

Living Redeemer, Who can change night into day and darkness into light, and to whom even death is not an end, we praise You that Your glory has dawned upon us and brought us to this Day of Resurrection! God of all, fill our lives with courage and hope and roll away the stone of every resistance to Your will. Thanks be to You, Holy Spirit of God, for the indescribable gift of new life in Jesus Christ! Amen.

Prelude Natsuki Fukasawa, piano
“Melancolie for solo piano, FP 105” by Francis Poulenc

*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.

Easter Greeting

Jana Nakase-Lee

Leader: We begin our worship service with the greeting the Church has proclaimed for centuries on Easter morning...Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

*Opening Hymn: "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" (#123)

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Welcome/Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Invitation to Confession

Jana Nakase-Lee

Leader: God sent Jesus into the world to suffer, die and rise again for our sake. May we experience God's transforming resurrection power within our lives as we offer prayers of confession in the name and Spirit of Christ our Lord.

*Sending Hymn: "The Day of Resurrection!" (#118)

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from this world to the sky,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
and listening to His accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
His own, "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,
Let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

Charge and Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

The tomb is empty, so your life can be full. Live this day and everyday empowered by God's love and transforming grace.

May the risen Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up the light of His countenance on you and give you peace. Now and forevermore.

*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.)

Musical Offering

“Piano Trio in F-sharp Minor” (1st & 2nd Movements) by Arno Babadjanyan
Igor Veligan, violin
Michael Dahlberg, cello
Natsuki Fukasawa, piano

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

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.

Prayer of Confession

Jana Nakase-Lee

Leader: Jesus Christ, risen in glory, death could not contain You.

People: Emptier of tombs, on this day as we celebrate Your victory over the grave, we confess how broken we are.

Leader: Lord of Life, You defeated death to show that we can rise from what enslaves us: worry, envy, addictions, bitterness and hopelessness. Help us to trust that Your power can make us new.

People: We confess the harm we do to ourselves and to others, and to this amazing world You have made.

Forgive us.

All: Holy God, through the power of Jesus’ resurrection, change our lives, and use us to transform the world. That all of creation may be filled with the abundant life of our Risen Lord. Amen.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God’s Grace

Jana Nakase-Lee

Leader: All creation shouts the good news of resurrection. Daffodils and Easter lilies nod their yes to the heavens, springtime birds carol their songs of praise.

All: To God be the glory, great things God has done! 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** Jana Nakase-Lee

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

All: And also with you.

Choir Song

“Joy in the Morning” by Natalie Sleeth

Children’s Message Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Musical Offering

“Divertimento in B-flat Major” (Allegro assai) by W.A. Mozart

Igor Veligan, violin

Michael Dahlberg, cello

Natsuki Fukasawa, piano

After this performance, children may leave for YES time with Julie Chew.

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: Matthew 28:5-6 Mieko Davis

But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.

1st Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-6 Jana Nakase-Lee

But on the first day of the week, at dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why are you seeking the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen.

Sermon & 2nd Scripture Reading Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

“On Easter, Empty is Everything!”

Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.