



The Celebration of Worship

April 16, 2023 • 2nd Sunday after Easter



Pastor:
Worship Leader:
Pianist:
Japanese Reader:

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Haruko Sakakibara
Nancy Arata-Fong
Miko Kumagai

Centering Prayer for Worship

Redeeming God, Your life has dawned on us this glorious Eastertide, and we surround You with praise. The tomb has been opened, and we walk into new life with You.

Risen Lord, You breathe peace into our souls, so that we may bring healing to a troubled world. Holy Spirit, You show us Your hope, so we may live in Your joy. 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.

** Those who can, please rise*

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Call to Worship

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: Gracious God, we praise You for the blessing of this day.

People: God of resurrection hope and power, in the light of this new day we see the dawning of Your new creation.

Leader: We praise You, O God, for You bring good news of death-defying new life into every moment.

All: Let all our lives be proof of the good news: Jesus Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen indeed!

*Opening Hymn: "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright" (#121)

That Easter day with joy was bright, the sun shone out with fairer light, when, to their longing eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord.

O Jesus, King of gentleness, do all our inmost hearts possess, and we to You will ever raise the tribute of our grateful praise,

From every weapon death can wield, Your own redeemed forever shield; O Lord of all, with us abide in this our joyful Eastertide.

Invitation to Confession

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: When we keep our faults and failures locked away, we think we have no need to confess. But God comes into our hearts when we least expect, so we can be filled with forgiveness and hope.

Prayer of Confession

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: God of empty tombs and anxious people: when we hesitate to talk about the hope we find in You, forgive us, and give us the words.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

*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:	Tia Kilpatrick, Irene Uno
Online Greeter:	May Lee
Ushers:	Donna Komure-Toyama, Irene Uno
Parking:	Russ Hart
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Russ Hart
Sound System:	Jonathan Sakakibara
Zoom Moderator:	Lori Hart
Altar Flowers:	Glenn & Evelyn Kubota

***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**

Haruko Sakakibara

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: "Christ Is Alive!" (#108)**

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains, but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide, Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

People: when we find it hard to love each other forgive us and give us Your patience and compassion.

Leader: When we stay locked behind our fear and doubts, forgive us, and send us out to share Your grace.

All: When we cannot believe Your Word of new life is meant for us, forgive us, and fill us with Your joy.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: Our Risen Lord comes into every shadowed corner of our lives with the light of Easter.

People: Our Risen Lord comes to forgive us and fill us with peace, so we may proclaim God's good news of love and grace to everyone.

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**

Haruko Sakakibara

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

All: And also with you.

Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

***Reflection Hymn: “O How He Loves You and Me”
(#2108 Black Hymnal)**

Oh, how He loves you and me, Oh, how He loves you and me.
He gave His life, what more could he give? Oh, how He loves
you; Oh, how He loves me; Oh, how He loves you and me.

Jesus to Calv’ry did go, His love for sinners to show. What He
did there brought hope from despair. Oh, how He loves you;
Oh, how He loves me; Oh, how He loves you and me.

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: 1 Peter 1:3

Miko Kumagai

By God’s great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1st Scripture Reading: John 20:19-25

Haruko Sakakibara

Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but,
fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus
entered, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.” Then he
showed them his hands and side. The disciples, seeing the
Master with their own eyes, were awestruck. Jesus repeated his
greeting: “Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you.”
Then Jesus took a deep breath and breathed into them.
“Receive the Holy Spirit,” he said. “If you forgive someone’s
sins, they’re gone for good. If you don’t forgive sins, what are
you going to do with them?”

But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve,
was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told
him, “We saw the Master.” But he said, “Unless I see the nail
holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my
hand in his side, I won’t believe it.”

Sermon & 2nd Scripture Reading

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Easter tide Series: Easter Practices ‘Bring Doubts to Church’

John 20:26-31

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time
Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors,
stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.”
Then he focused his attention on Thomas. “Take your finger
and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side.
Don’t be unbelieving. Believe.” Thomas said, “My Master! My
God!” Jesus said, “So, you believe because you’ve seen with
your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who
believe without seeing.” Jesus provided far more God-revealing
signs than are written down in this book. These are written
down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of
God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the
way he personally revealed it.

Musical Offering

Nancy Arata-Fong

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.**