

***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

Haruko Sakakibara

*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:	Cathy Nishizaki, Leah Nishizaki
Online Greeter:	May Lee
Ushers:	Bill Grissom, Herning Grissom
Parking:	Tak Fukuman
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Neil Matsuoka
Sound System:	Dave McGill
Zoom Moderator:	Judy Yee
Altar Flowers:	Barbie (Matsuoka) Fujinaka



The Celebration of Worship

April 30, 2023 • 4th Sunday of Easter

Guest Pastor:	Rev. Doug Abel
Worship Leader:	Jonathan Sakakibara
Pianist:	Haruko Sakakibara
Japanese Reader:	Mieko Davis
YES (Youth Enrichment Session) Time:	Jana Nakase-Lee

Centering Prayer for Worship

*Almighty God, as we gather for worship, help us remember we are Your
community in the world. As we gather to worship You, remind us that we
are raised and made alive with Christ. For Christ's love and light reaches
into the deepest shadows! As we leave this place, may we take the gifts You
offer to us: Grace, Forgiveness, and Peace. We bless You, Holy One, for
Your Spirit fills us with light to share, and love to transform the world!
Amen.*

Prelude Haruko Sakakibara

***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

Jonathan Sakakibara

Call to Worship

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: Creator God, we praise you for the blessing of this day.

People: and the promise of tomorrow.

Leader: God of endless life, in the light of this new day we see the dawning of Your new creation,

People: We bless you, gracious God, for You offer to bring Your hope and goodness into every moment.

All: Let our lives be proof of the good news of Easter: Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed!

*Opening Hymn: “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” (#288)

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise; that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;

The moon shines full at God’s command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food; God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good. Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where’er I turn my eyes; if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the skies!

There’s not a plant or flower below but makes Thy glories known; And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne; While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care, and everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.

Invitation to Confession

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: Let’s declare our intention to live for God through the transforming power of our Risen Lord. Let’s bring our hurts and grudges, our faults and failings to the One who hears and heals us.

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Doug Abel

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: “To God Be the Glory” (#485)

To God be the glory; great things He has done! So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, who yielded His life an atonement for sin, and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Refrain. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give Him the glory: great things He has done!

Great things He has taught us; great things He has done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; but purer and higher and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give Him the glory: great things He has done!

Benediction

Rev. Doug Abel

wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.” Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Musical Offering

Haruko Sakakibara

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

Prayer of Confession

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: Gracious God, our Lord Jesus said: I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

People: Forgive us when we choose to lurk in life’s shadows instead of walking in the light. When we indulge our own desires rather than attending to urgent needs in the world.

Leader: Deepen our desire for a more fruitful life for Your Kingdom.

All: As Christ lives in us, may we learn what pleases You, and live in ways that bring Your truth and goodness to the world. Amen.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God’s Grace

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: Jesus comes to forgive us, to set us free from shame and guilt and all that holds us back from God. He does by announcing who we truly are and then reminding us of this over and over again.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to live as God’s beloved children. Thanks be to God! 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

Jonathan Sakakibara

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

All: And also with you.

Children's Message

Rev. Doug Abel

Youth may now leave for YES time.

*Reflection Hymn: "Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

(#370)

Just as I am, without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me, and that Thou biddest me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thou will receive, will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thy love unknown has broken every barrier down; now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come; I come.

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 51:6

Mieko Davis

"Surely You desire truth in the inner parts; You teach me wisdom in the inmost place."

1st Scripture Reading: Psalm 51:1-9

Jonathan Sakakibara

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my

sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified in Your sentence and blameless when You pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have crushed rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Sermon & 2nd Scripture Reading

Rev. Doug Abel

"The Aroma of Forgiveness"

Luke 7:36-50

When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and