

***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

Janet Hill

*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:	Miyo Uchida, Diane Younglove
Online Greeter:	May Lee
Ushers:	Maurine Huang, William Yee
Parking:	Tak Fukuman
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Tak Fukuman
Sound System:	Tom Tambara
Zoom Moderator:	Judy Yee
Altar Flowers:	Bill & Linda Nagata
Coffee Hour:	Janet Hill, Evelyn Kubota, Lois Van Beers, Judy Yee



The Celebration of Worship

May 21, 2023 • Ascension Sunday

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Donna Komure-Toyama
Pianist:	Janet Hill
Japanese Reader:	Miyo Uchida
YES (Youth Enrichment Session):	Lynn Yamamoto

Centering Prayer for Worship

*O God of earth and sky, as Jesus came among us in Bethlehem to raise us
up to heaven, we recall His departing from us at Jerusalem to be in all
places. Though He is hidden from our sight, enable us to abide in Him by
the power of the Holy Spirit, until His mercy and grace fill Your whole
creation. Amen.*

-From The Daily Office: A Book of Hours for Daily Prayer

Prelude

Janet Hill

***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 stand*

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Call to Worship

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: Come people of God, with praises in your hearts.

People: Even when we are feeling isolated and fearful, we can glorify the One who holds our loneliness and comforts us.

Leader: Come into the presence of the Holy One who makes sacred every place, every space, everyone who turns to God.

All: We bless You, Lord Jesus. You ascend to Your place with God Most High, yet You remain in our midst forever. Receive our grateful praise!

*Opening Hymn: “Rejoice, the Lord Is King!” (#155)

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore: Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again, I say, rejoice!

God’s kingdom cannot fail, Christ rules o’er earth and heaven; the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given: Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again, I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come to glorify the saints for their eternal home: Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again, I say, rejoice!

Invitation to Confession

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: We don’t have to fear punishment from God when we mess up or when we deliberately choose to do the wrong thing. If we admit our faults and failings, God promises to forgive us and help us do better. Let’s entrust our brokenness to God, so that we may be made whole.

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: “Crown Him with Many Crowns” (#151)

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne; hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own! Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee, and hail Him as the matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love; behold His hands and side, rich wounds yet visible above, in beauty glorified: no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight, but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace; whose power a scepter sways from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise: His reign shall know no end; and round His pierced feet fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time; creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime. All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou hast died for me; Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn't have muscle and bone like this." As He said this, He showed them his hands and feet. They still couldn't believe what they were seeing. It was too much; it seemed too good to be true. He asked, "Do you have any food here?" They gave Him a piece of leftover fish they had cooked. He took it and ate it right before their eyes.

He then led them out of the city over to Bethany. Raising His hands He blessed them, and while blessing them, made His exit, being carried up to heaven. And they were on their knees, worshipping Him. They returned to Jerusalem bursting with joy. They spent all their time in the Temple praising God.

Musical Offering

Janet Hill

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

Donna Komure-Toyama

Joys & Concerns

Donna Komure-Toyama

Prayer of Confession

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: Because you live in our hearts, Eternal God, You know how the stress, the fear, the hurt in our lives threatens to crowd You out.

People: Your Spirit alive within us can teach us Your faithful ways. Our Lord Jesus Christ whispers to us of Your grace, Your hope, Your love.

All: Strengthen our faith that Your reign will be proclaimed in our lives as the presence of Your Spirit guides our thoughts, words, and actions. We pray through Christ who is head of the Church, whose body we are. Amen.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: Jesus Christ came into the world so that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. From the darkness of death God has raised Him to the right hand of God's majesty on high.

People: As we watch and wait for Jesus' return, may we find our hope in His glory, for He is Lord forever.

All: We believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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** Donna Komure-Toyama

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

All: And also with you.

Children's Message Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Children may leave after the Children's Message for YES.

***Hymn of Reflection: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"**

(#383) *Sing verses 1-3*

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine: now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, O let me from this day be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire; As Thou has died for me, O may my love to Thee, pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be Thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

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 47:5-7 Miyo Uchida

God has ascended with a shout, the Lord, with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises For God is the King of all the earth.

1st Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-11 Donna Komure-Toyama

Dear Theophilus, in the first volume of this book I wrote on everything that Jesus began to do and teach until the day He said good-bye to the apostles, the ones He had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. After His death, He presented Himself alive to them in many different settings over a period of forty days. In face-to-face meetings, He talked to them about things concerning the kingdom of God. As they met and ate meals together, He told them that they were on no account to leave Jerusalem but "must wait for what the Father promised: the promise you heard from me. John baptized in water; you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit. And soon." When they were together for the last time they asked, "Master, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now? Is this the time?" He told them, "You don't get to know the time. Timing is the Father's business. What you'll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world."

These were His last words. As they watched, He was taken up and disappeared in a cloud. They stood there, staring into the empty sky. Suddenly two men appeared—in white robes! They said, "You Galileans!—why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among you to heaven will come as certainly—and mysteriously—as He left."

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

"Gazing on Glory"

Luke 24:36-43 and 50-53

While they were saying all this, Jesus appeared to them and said, "Peace be with you." They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death. He continued with them, "Don't be upset, and don't let all these doubting questions take over. Look at my hands; look at my feet—it's really me. Touch me.