

Our parents' God, to Thee, author of liberty, to Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; Protect
us by Thy might, great God, our King.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

***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

"Scherzo" from "Partita No.3" by J.S. Bach

*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:	Bill Grissom, Herning Grissom
Online Greeter:	May Lee
Ushers:	Terri Bowman, Julie Chew
Parking:	TBD
Parking Barriers (Sat)	Titus Toyama
Sound System:	Cathy Nishizaki
Zoom Moderator:	Lois Van Beers
Altar Flowers:	Carla Hart



The Celebration of Worship

July 2, 2023 • 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Betsy Eskridge
Pianist:	Haruko Sakakibara
Japanese Reader:	Aki Kumagai
Communion Elders	Carla Hart, Pattie Hashimoto

Centering Prayer for Worship

1 Peter 2:9 You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the One who called you out of the darkness into God's marvelous light.

Eternal God, Lord of heaven and earth, we come to worship hungry for truth, for guidance and meaning in our lives. May we hear You in the songs and in the silence, in the Word and Sacrament, and in prayer with Your Spirit. We are here to be formed into a spiritual community, growing in Your grace and freedom. May we walk in Your light and bless the world with Your love. Amen.

Prelude

Haruko Sakakibara

** Those who can, please stand*

***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 and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Call to Worship

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: From shore to shore let God's praise be sung.

People: From mountains high to valleys low, let thankful hearts glorify God.

Leader: We bless you, God of the covenant. You are present with us in Word and Sacrament, by water and the Spirit, so we join with all Your works in praising Your great glory.

All: Almighty God, we proclaim your steadfast love and faithfulness with a song of joy.

***Opening Hymn: "God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand" (#262)**

God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine has led us in the past. In this free land by Thee our lot is cast; Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay; Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense; Thy true religion in our hearts increase; Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way, Lead us from night to never-ending day; Fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

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**

Betsy Eskridge

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: "My Country 'Tis of Thee" (#561)**

Sing verses 1, 3, and 4

My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing; land where my parents died, land of the pilgrims' pride, from every mountainside let freedom ring.

Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song. Let mortal tongues awake; let all that breathe partake, let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.

Musical Offering

Haruko Sakakibara

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Time for silent reflection

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.

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

- from the Iona Community

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Receiving the Elements

Opportunity To Present Offerings

Invitation to Confession

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: In our lives, we are bossed around by our faults and fears, our poor choices, by pervasive negativity and the hurts we cause to others. But by God's grace, we are set free from all these toxins. Let's join in offering our confession to the One who welcomes each of us with forgiveness and hope.

Prayer of Confession

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: Holy God, You are all around us and in us. Thank You for Your transforming Presence here and in the world.

People: Deliver us, God, from hard hearts and impatient sighs. Deliver us from destructive words and limited perception.

Leader: In a world filled with soul-crushing poverty and inequality, You tell us to care for each other, and treat each person as our sister and brother. You desire justice and wholeness for all creation.

All: Purify our hearts so that we change our ways. Lead us into freedom from self-centeredness, to trusting faith, to lives rich in meaning and service. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God’s Grace

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: Broken, we are made whole; thirsty, we are filled with living water; longing for a renewed relationship with God, we are welcomed with open arms by the One who forgives us.

All: Thank you, God of compassion, for your amazing grace! 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**

Betsy Eskridge

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

All: And also with you.

Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

***Hymn of Rejoicing: "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" (#564)**

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw;
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! May God thy gold refine till all
success be nobleness and every gain divine!

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: Galatians 5:1

Aki Kumagai

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened by a yoke of slavery."

1st Scripture Reading: Proverbs 3:5-6

Betsy Eskridge

The Message

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; God's the One who will keep you on track.

Sermon & 2nd Scripture Reading

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Sermon "True Freedom"

John 8:31-36

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free?'" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."