

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 in B-Flat” by Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

*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:	Judy Fukuman, Cathy Nishizaki
Ushers:	Diane Younglove, Gary Younglove
Parking:	Tak Fukuman
Parking Barriers (Sat)	Russ Hart
Sound System:	Kaz Nozue
Zoom Moderator:	Aki Kumagai
Altar Flowers:	William & Judy Yee



The Celebration of Worship

August 13, 2023 • 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Worship Leader:

Carla Hart

Pianist:

Haruko Sakakibara

Japanese Reader:

Aki Kumagai

Centering Prayer for Worship

*We praise You, Creator God, for the joyful awakening of each dawn,
announced by singing birds and the return of light to guide our steps.*

*We praise You, Creator God, for refreshing breeze and warm sun, for the
constancy of waves on the shore and the dazzling beauty of a glowing
sunset.*

*We praise You, O God, our Creator, Comforter, and Redeemer, for Your
abundant grace and holy presence in all 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 stand*

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Call to Worship

Carla Hart

Leader: Praise God from the heavens!

People: Praise God from the skies above!

Leader: Praise God, angels and all the hosts of heaven!

People: Praise God, sun and moon, and shining stars!

Leader: Praise God, all creatures great and small,

People: Praise God, animals and birds, reptiles and fish!

Leader: Let all the earth bring praise to the Lord, at Whose Word creation came into being.

All: All praise to you, Magnificent Creator! The whole earth is filled with your glory!

*Opening Hymn: “Morning Has Broken” (#469)

Morning has broken like the first morning, Blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play! Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's re-creation of the new day!

Invitation to Confession

Carla Hart

Leader: It's never easy to ask for forgiveness. But as God's children, called to live in relationship with one another, we must admit how we have hurt others, and harmed our planet, so we can be forgiven and restored to new life. Please join me as we pray to God together.

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: “His Eye Is On the Sparrow” (#2146 Black Hymnal)

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come? Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home, when Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He: His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Refrain. I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free, for His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

“Let not your heart be troubled”, His tender word I hear, and resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears; though by the path He leadeth but one step I may see: his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Refrain.

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise, when song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies, I draw the closer to Him; from care He sets me free: His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Refrain.

What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way God works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes."

Musical Offering Haruko Sakakibara
Pie Jesus from the *Requiem* by Gabriel Faure (1845-1934)

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.

*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** Carla Hart

Joys & Concerns Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Prayer of Confession Carla Hart

Leader: Loving God, our Divine Companion, You know us so well. We long to be faithful and eager in following You, but life gets in the way.

People: We get worn-out and worn-down, distracted and snappish. Our efforts to show kindness to our neighbors are often mediocre, our justice-seeking is meager.

Leader: Rather than celebrating our life with You, we give in to frustration and despair. Forgive us. Renew us.

All: Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that we may be people who breathe new life into lifeless situations. For the sake of Him who is Love: Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace Carla Hart

Leader: We believe that our lives can change.

People: We believe that following Jesus can transform how we see ourselves, how we treat others and the world around us.

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** Carla Hart

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

All: And also with you.

The Gospel in Story Dr. Lisa Pruitt

***Hymn of Reflection: “God of the Sparrow” (#272)**

Sing verses 1,3, 5, 6

God of the sparrow, God of the whale

God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe

How does the creature say Praise

God of the rainbow God of the cross

God of the empty grave

How does the creature say Grace

How does the creature say Thanks

God of the neighbor God of the foe

God of the pruning hook

How does the creature say Love

How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand

God of the loving heart

How do your children say Joy

How do your children say Home

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 50:10-11

Aki Kumagai

God said, “Every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine.”

1st Scripture Reading: Genesis 8:6-12

Carla Hart

Noah and the Raven and the Dove

After forty days Noah opened the window that he had built into the ship. He sent out a raven; it flew back and forth waiting for the floodwaters to dry up. Then he sent a dove to check on the flood conditions, but she couldn’t even find a place to perch—water still covered the Earth. Noah reached out and caught her, brought her back into the ship. He waited seven more days and sent out the dove again. She came back in the evening with a freshly picked olive leaf in its beak. Noah knew that the flood was about finished. He waited another seven days and sent the dove out a third time. This time she didn’t come back.

Sermon & 2nd Scripture Reading

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

“The Spirituality of Birds”

Matthew 6:25-34 from The Message

Jesus said, “If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don’t fuss about what’s on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to God than birds.

Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them.

If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don’t you think God will attend to you, take pride in you, do the best for you?