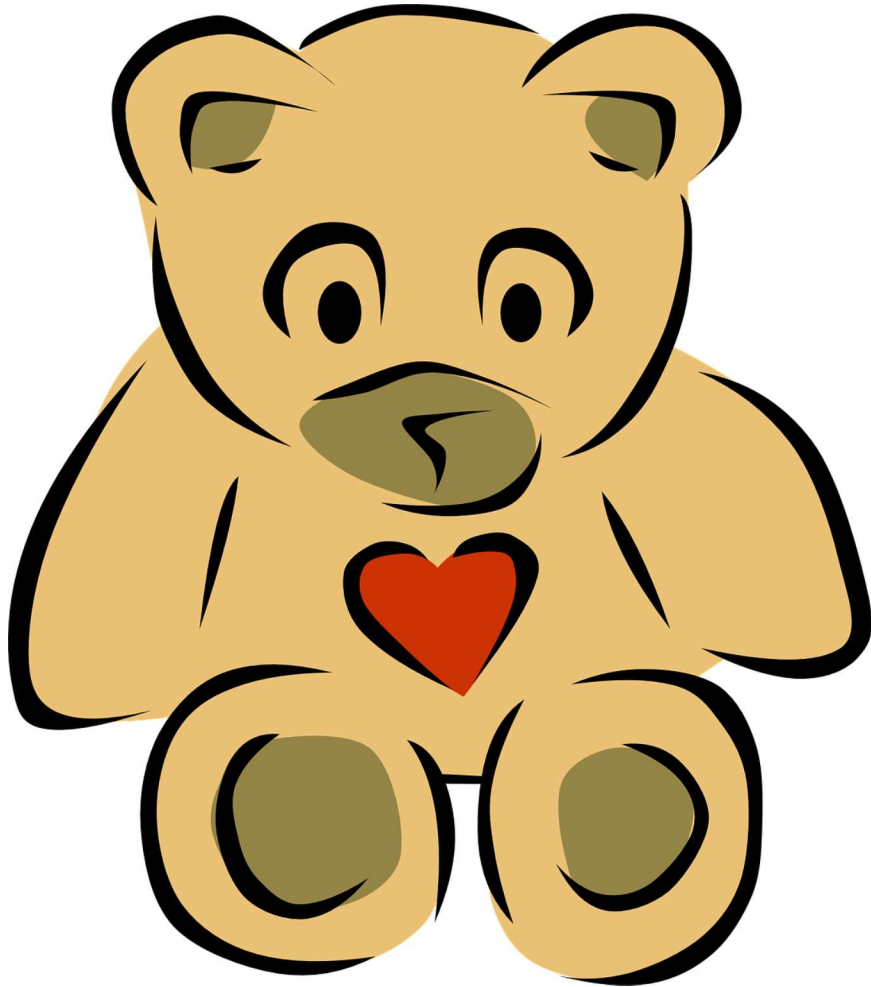




The Celebration of Worship

August 27, 2023 • 13th Sunday after Pentecost



Pastor:
Worship Leader:
Pianist:
Japanese Reader:

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Liam Wright
Janet Hill
Miko Kumagai

Centering Prayer for Worship

Lord God, we thank you for Your wondrous love. Who are we among all your glorious creation that You take thought of us? Yet You have made us just a little lower than the angels, able to delight in Your presence and partner with you in redeeming the world. Thank You for Your faithfulness to us and to all creation. Amen.

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.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

** Those who can, please stand*

Call to Worship

Liam Wright

Leader: We come to worship the God who knows us and loves us.

People: Our thankful hearts glorify God, as we worship God together.

Leader: We come to respond to the greatest opportunity life offers us:

People: The Gospel's invitation to come to know, come to love, come to serve Jesus Christ.

All: We come to worship to experience God's love and receive healing and transformation through God's grace.

*Opening Hymn: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (#263)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might; Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small; In all life Thou livest, the true life of all; we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree, then wither and perish; but naught changes Thee.

Thou reignest in glory, Thou dwellest in light, Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight; all praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

Invitation to Confession

Liam Wright

Leader: In unfailing love Christ forgives our heartfelt failures. God offers us pardon and acceptance, and brings us new life. Relying on God's grace and willingness to transform us, let's pray to God.

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

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:	Judy Fukuman, Gary Younglove
Ushers:	Judy Fukuman, Tak Fukuman
Parking:	Carl Odell
Parking Barriers (Sat)	Titus Toyama
Sound System:	Jonathan Sakakibara
Zoom Moderator & Greeter:	Lori Hart
Altar Flowers:	Jerry & Maurine Huang

***Prayer of Dedication**

Liam Wright

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: "The Summons" (#2130 Black Hymnal)**

Sing verses 1, 2, 4, and 5

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known; will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Prayer of Confession

Liam Wright

Leader: God of Comfort and Justice, forgive the suffering we have caused others: the harsh, hasty word, that, once spoken, cannot be unsaid; the impatience and irritability that makes us critical instead of compassionate.

People: Forgive us for blaming You for the bad choices we could have avoided, the evil we could have prevented.

All: Guide us to an understanding of You, not as the source of troubles in our lives and our world, but as the One who longs to fill everyone with joy and peace-the abundant life of Christ.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace

Liam Wright

Leader: Through the love of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God takes away our sin.

People: We are so grateful that God loves and forgives us; for Christ's work of redemption and transformation in us and through us.

All: We believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made new. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Response to God's Forgiveness: "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" (#582 GtG)**

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**

Liam Wright

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

All: And also with you.

The Gospel in Story

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

*Hymn of Praise: “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” (#372)

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

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: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Miko Kumagai

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.”

1st Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:18

Liam Wright

And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.

Sermon & 2nd Scripture Reading

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

“The Spirituality of Stuffed Toys”

Exodus 34:29-35

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai carrying the two Tablets of The Testimony, he didn’t know that the skin of his face glowed because he had been speaking with God. Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, saw his radiant face, and held back, afraid to get close to him. Moses called out to them. Aaron and the leaders in the community came back and Moses talked with them. Later all the Israelites came up to him and he passed on the commands, everything that God had told him on Mount Sinai.

When Moses finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face, but when he went into the presence of God to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. When he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, they would see Moses’ face, its skin glowing, and then he would again put the veil on his face until he went back in to speak with God.

Musical Offering

Janet Hill

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.