

In Appreciation:

Greeters: Haruko Sakakibara, Lynn Yamamoto
Ushers: Luda Wright, Michael Wright
Parking: Gary Younglove
Parking Barriers (Sat): Neil Matsuoka
Sound System: Lois Van Beers
Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Judy Yee
Altar Flowers: Hach & Linda Yasumura



The Celebration of Worship

September 10, 2023 • 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Dave McGill
Pianist:	Janet Hill
Japanese Reader:	Mieko Davis

Centering Prayer for Worship

O Holy Spirit, Divine Companion, we gather in response to your gracious invitation. We are here to worship and to grow closer to God and to each other. We are here to listen, to wonder and to learn. Quench the thirst of our hearts, tender God. Heal our wounds as you sing the song of your love deep within us. Raise us up so that we might be true followers of Jesus. Amen.

- Adapted from *SOULfeast*

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

Dave McGill

Leader: Eternal God, Your touch makes this world holy.

People: Open our eyes to see Your hand at work in the splendor of creation, and in the beauty of human life.

Leader: As we worship, we seek You, the God who has spoken and still speaks to those who will listen for Your voice.

All: Almighty God, we celebrate these moments when we find joy in Your Presence with us. We come to worship You, to love each other, and to serve the world.

*Opening Hymn: “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty” (#482)

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth, shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen how thy desires e’er have been granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him! Let the amen sound from His people again; gladly for aye we adore Him.

Invitation to Confession

Dave McGill

Leader: Through the love of Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God takes away the sin of the world. In gratitude for Christ’s work of redemption, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are called to bear witness to God’s love. Let’s prayerfully bring our lives to God.

*Sending Hymn: “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” (#281)

Guide Me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy powerful hand; Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through; Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be Thou still my strength and shield, be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death and hell’s destruction, land me safe on Canaan’s side; songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee, I will ever give to Thee.

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.

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.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Dave McGill

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.

Prayer of Confession

Dave McGill

Leader: Loving God, when the breezes of faith blow strong and cool and our spirits are invigorated, You are with us.

People: When life’s troubles are heavy and our spirits become wilted, You are with us.

Leader: You ask us to speak up for those in need, but our fears and prejudices run deep. We feel overwhelmed and turn away from those struggling for the basics of home, health, water, and work.

All: Forgive us. As we admit the ways we have failed You, hurt others, and done things we shouldn’t have done, lift us from guilt and shame to new life. Inspire us to whole-hearted devotion to you.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God’s Grace

Dave McGill

Leader: As God's people, we are ready to bring light into the shadows, to choose love, not hate.

People: As those gifted by the Spirit, we are ready to look for things to cheer about, and bring Your blessings to others.

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” (#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**

Dave McGill

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

All: And also with you.

***Hymn of Reflection: "Great Is the Lord" (#2022 black songbook)**

Refrain. Great is the Lord, He is holy and just;
by His power we trust in His love.
Great is the Lord, He is faithful and true;
by His mercy He proves He is love.

Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord; now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

Refrain.

Great are You, Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great are You, Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great are You, Lord; I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice:
Great are You, Lord! Great are You, Lord!

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: Exodus 20:3

Mieko Davis

"You shall have no other gods before me."

1st Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-5

Dave McGill

Moses said, "This is the commandment, the rules and regulations, that God, your God, commanded me to teach you to live out in the land you're about to cross into to possess. This is so that you'll live in deep reverence before God lifelong, observing all his rules and regulations that I'm commanding you, you and your children and your grandchildren, living good long lives.

Listen obediently, Israel. Do what you're told so that you'll have a good life, a life of abundance and bounty, just as God promised, in a land abounding in milk and honey.

Attention, Israel! God, our God! God the one and only! Love God, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got!

Sermon & 2nd Scripture Reading

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Ten Touchstones for Living: #1 - "God Is Still Speaking"

Deuteronomy 6:6-13

Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night.

When God, your God, ushers you into the land he promised through your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to give you, you're going to walk into large, bustling cities you didn't build, well-furnished houses you didn't buy, come upon wells you didn't dig, vineyards and olive orchards you didn't plant. When you take it all in and settle down, pleased and content, make sure you don't forget how you got there—God brought you out of slavery in Egypt. Deeply respect God, your God. Serve and worship God exclusively.