

Postlude

Nancy Arata-Fong

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
Ushers: Donna Komure-Toyama, William Yee
Parking: Tak Fukuman
Parking Barriers (Sat): Russ Hart
Sound System: Tom Tambara
Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Aki Kumagai
Altar Flowers: TBD
Coffee Time: Nancy Arata-Fong, Terri Bowman, Lori Hart,
Linda Nagata, Carol Sakai, Irene Uno



A Fond Farewell to May O. Lee



The Celebration of Worship

September 17, 2023 • 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader: Sue Lorens
Pianist: Nancy Arata-Fong
Japanese Reader: Miyo Uchida
YES (Youth Education Session): Jana Nakase-Lee,
Lynn Yamamoto

Centering Prayer for Worship

We seek You, God. Deep within us where peace and truth reign over sadness and confusion..In the midst of our daily activities and the many things-to-do that fill our calendars. Among the beloved people who come into our lives - our family, our friends, our colleagues and companions. When we feel empty, lonely, and lost; when we wonder in which direction to go. As we move into the heart of worship and hear Your call to be transformed, thank You for finding us. God of all seekers, bless our yearnings for home. Keep us on the path that leads us to You. Amen.

- Adapted from *May I Have This Dance?* by Joyce Rupp

Prelude

Nancy Arata-Fong

* 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

Sue Lorens

Leader: We come to worship to draw near to God and open our lives to God's loving touch.

People: We join our hearts in worship, as we leave our worries and fears behind.

Leader: We gather with others who seek to follow Jesus, for all are welcome here.

All: We open our lives to God's Spirit, so that we may be filled with love and light. Holy Lord, receive our thanks and praise!

***Opening Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! (#138)**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee, Who wert, and art, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee, though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see, only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee perfect in power, in love and purity.

***Sending Hymn: Here I Am, Lord (#525)**

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

Chorus. Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?

Chorus.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?

Chorus.

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.)

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

Sue Lorens

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.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Invitation to Confession

Sue Lorens

Leader: God isn't mean-spirited or vengeful. God is patient and gracious, always willing to listen to our prayers, and to hear whatever is on our hearts. Trusting God's love for us and willingness to transform us, let's make our confession to God.

Prayer of Confession

Sue Lorens

Leader: Ever-loving God, Who having loved us loves us still, help us to hear and embody Your word, "By this they will know you are my disciples; that you love one another."

People: Turn our hostility into hospitality and our critical cold-heartedness into care.

Leader: Help us glorify Jesus by dismantling conflict and division with His acceptance of all people.

All: Confident of His presence in every moment, empowered by His grace, we will live to bring Christ's love and justice to all the world.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace

Sue Lorens

Leader: God's love is sure and steadfast, always providing a way out, a way through, a way back to God.

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**

Sue Lorens

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

All: And also with you.

Choir Song

“Grace Alone”

A Fond Farewell

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

May O. Lee

***Hymn of Reflection: His Eye Is on the Sparrow (#2146 black songbook)**

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.

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: Matthew 5:4

Miyo Uchida

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

1st Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29:11

Sue Lorens

“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Sermon & 2nd Scripture Reading

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

“Praying Our Goodbyes”

Romans 12:1-2 *The Message*

So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what God wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Musical Offering

Nancy Arata-Fong

Time for silent reflection