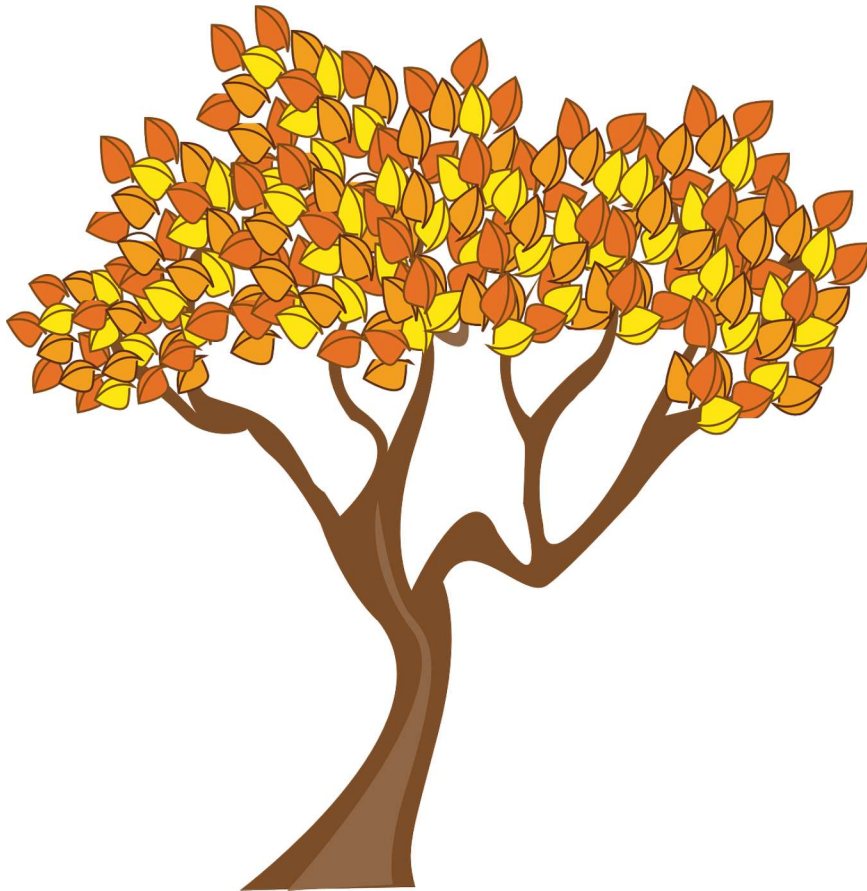




## The Celebration of Worship

September 24, 2023 • 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



*First day of Fall 2023 began September 23.*

Guest Pastor:  
Worship Leader:  
Pianist:  
Japanese Reader:

Rev. Larry Emery  
Haruko Sakakibara  
Nancy Arata-Fong  
Michael Wright

### Centering Prayer for Worship

*Here we are, gracious Lord!*

*We believe in Your power to change us;*

*Your creating power making relationships new,*

*Your redeeming power saving us from despair,*

*Your sustaining power giving us courage and strength.*

*In this time of worship as we encounter You and pray and listen together,  
we open ourselves to the transforming power of Your kingdom, changing  
our hearts, our lives and our world. Amen.*

### Prelude

Nancy Arata-Fong

### \*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

Haruko Sakakibara

### Call to Worship

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: Bless the Lord for the earth God has made, the rivers and skies, forests and fields,

**People: All show Your goodness and glory, awesome Creator. Reveal the power of Your majesty to us.**

Leader: As we worship, here and now God is among us, beside us, inside us, empowering us for the purposes of heaven.

**All: Not denying the world, but delighting in it, not condemning the world, but redeeming it through Jesus Christ. Receive our grateful praise, faithful Lord of all the earth!**

### \*Opening Hymn: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (#276)

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not, as Thou has been Thou forever will be.

*Refrain.* Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand has provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

*Refrain.*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Refrain.*

### \*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

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:	Betsy Eskridge, Luda Wright
Ushers:	Aki Kumagai, Miko Kumagai
Parking:	Dave McGill
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Tak Fukuman
Sound System:	Kaz Nozue
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Lori Hart
Altar Flowers:	Dave McGill

**Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer** Rev. Larry Emery

**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: "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"**  
(#466)

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin, and sets the prisoner free;  
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean, Christ's blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread  
through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.

**Benediction**

Rev. Larry Emery

**Invitation to Confession**

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: We don't have to fear punishment from God, Who promises to forgive us when we repent, and make us new. Let's entrust our brokenness to God, that we might be made whole.

**Prayer of Confession**

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: What can we say about our lives, Searcher of our hearts?

**People: Sometimes our anger roars like a flooded creek, but our forgiveness drips like a rusty faucet. Woundedness is deep in us, our worries and regrets keep us awake at night.**

Leader: Sometimes we're anxious and overwhelmed, and we lash out with harmful words and actions. Forgive us, Healer of hearts.

**People: Loving God, may Your mercy fall on us like an autumn shower on parched soil; may Your hope overflow in our hearts.**

*Time for silent reflection and confession to God*

**Assurance of God's Grace**

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: God's love is more resilient than our despair; God's joy is more powerful than our shame.

**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** Haruko Sakakibara  
Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**All: And also with you.**

**Children's Message** Rev. Larry Emery

**\*Hymn of Reflection: "Seek Ye First" (#333)**  
Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!  
Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and you shall find, Knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

**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: Luke 11:1-4** Michael Wright  
He was praying in a certain place, and when he ceased, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive every one who is indebted to us; and lead us not into temptation."

**1st Scripture Reading: Luke 11:9-13** Haruko Sakakibara  
And I tell you, Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for[a] a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

**Sermon & 2nd Scripture Reading** Rev. Larry Emery  
"Tall are Welcome"  
Galatians 4:6-7  
And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

**Musical Offering** Nancy Arata-Fong

*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** Haruko Sakakibara

**Joys & Concerns** Haruko Sakakibara