

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them abideth. The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also. The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

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

Wade Tambara

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:	Mana Nozue, Rumi Nozue
Ushers:	Bill Grissom, Herning Grissom
Parking:	Russ Hart
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Jonathan Sakakibara
Sound System:	Dave McGill
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Lori Hart
Altar Flowers:	Jana Nakase-Lee



The Celebration of Worship

October 29, 2023 • Reformation Sunday

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Guest Preacher:	Rev. Sheri Edwards
Worship Leader:	Jonathan Sakakibara
Pianist:	Wade Tambara
Japanese Reader:	Miyo Uchida

Centering Thoughts for Reformation Sunday Worship

2023 marks the 460th anniversary of the Heidelberg Catechism. Written in Germany, the birthplace of the Protestant Reformation, it reminds us that we belong to God who loves us. The most famous Question and Answer of the Catechism is the first one:

Q: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A: That I am not my own but belong- body and soul, in life and in death - to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him

Prelude

Wade Tambara

** 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

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: We gather to worship, so God can teach us:

so we may learn to be more loving and compassionate.

People: We gather to worship so Christ can teach us: the wisdom to choose forgiveness over holding a grudge, the language of hope and joy so we may encourage all.

Leader: We gather to worship where the Spirit imparts wisdom, so we might know how to share grace and build peace, so we would be eager to welcome all.

All: We come to worship God, to open our hearts to God's guidance, to offer our lives for God's purposes.

***Opening Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth (#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.

***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**

Jonathan Sakakibara

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: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (#260)**

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing. Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He. Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same, and He must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God has willed His truth to triumph through us. The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for Him. His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.

But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Saul's son Jonathan, because of the oath of the Lord that was between them, between David and Jonathan son of Saul. The king took the two sons of Rizpah daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Merab daughter of Saul, whom she bore to Adriel son of Barzillai the Meholathite; he gave them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they impaled them on the mountain before the Lord. The seven of them perished together. They were put to death in the first days of harvest, at the beginning of barley harvest.

Then Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it on a rock for herself, from the beginning of harvest until rain fell on them from the heavens; she did not allow the birds of the air to come on the bodies by day or the wild animals by night. When David was told what Rizpah daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done, David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan from the people of Jabesh-gilead, who had stolen them from the public square of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hung them up, on the day the Philistines killed Saul on Gilboa. He brought up from there the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan, and they gathered the bones of those who had been impaled.

They buried the bones of Saul and of his son Jonathan in the land of Benjamin in Zela, in the tomb of his father Kish; they did all that the king commanded. After that, God heeded supplications for the land.

Musical Interlude

Wade Tambara

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.

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

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: With Christ in our lives, we can become the people we are created to be: loving, kind, courageous and compassionate children of God. Believing that God saves us by grace and fills us with faith, let's ask God to free us from grudges, resentment and hopelessness as we pray together.

Prayer of Confession

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: How wonderful are the paths of peace, O God; forgive us when we put on shoes laced with anger.

People: Forgive us when harsh, critical words pour from our mouths. We confess our hardness of heart toward each other's faults, and our quickness to make allowances for our own.

Leader: Have mercy on us, God of Grace. Thank You for calling us and claiming us and working in our lives to strengthen and guide us.

All: With Your Spirit's help, help us to respond to You with all that is in us, and share Your love and justice with all the world.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: "For by grace you have been saved by faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." - Ephesians 2:8.

For God so loved the world; enough to become one of us, enough to suffer along with us, enough to take our guilt and shame and offer us new life.

All: Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. We are God's beloved children, and we will share God's grace and love with others.

***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** Jonathan Sakakibara

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

All: And also with you.

Children's Message Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

***Hymn of Reflection: To God Be the Glory (#485)**

To God be the glory, great things He has done! So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, who yielded His life an atonement for sin, and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Refrain. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give Him the glory: great things He has done!

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

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: Isaiah 11:6

Miyo Uchida

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

1st Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:18-22 Jonathan Sakakibara

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Sermon Rev. Sheri Edwards

“Keeping the Vigil”

2 Samuel 21:1-14

Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year, and David inquired of the Lord. The Lord said, “There is bloodguilt on Saul and on his house because he put the Gibeonites to death.” So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them. (Now the Gibeonites were not of the people of Israel but of the remnant of the Amorites; although the people of Israel had sworn to spare them, Saul had tried to wipe them out in his zeal for the people of Israel and Judah.) David said to the Gibeonites, “What shall I do for you? How shall I make expiation, that you may bless the heritage of the Lord?” The Gibeonites said to him, “It is not a matter of silver or gold between us and Saul or his house; neither is it for us to put anyone to death in Israel.” He said, “What do you say that I should do for you?” They said to the king, “The man who consumed us and planned to destroy us so that we should have no place in all the territory of Israel, let seven of his sons be handed over to us, and we will impale them before the Lord at Gibeon on the mountain of the Lord.” The king said, “I will hand them over.”