

***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

Haruko Sakakibara

Elve's Dance by Edvard Greig, Norway (1843-1907)

*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, Carla Hart
Ushers:	Luda Wright, Michael Wright
Parking:	Carl Odell
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Dave McGill
Sound System:	Cathy Nishizaki
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Lois Van Beers
Altar Flowers:	Rick & Irene Uno



The Celebration of Worship

November 5, 2023 • 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.

Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Dave McGill
Pianist:	Haruko Sakakibara
Japanese Reader:	Haruko Sakakibara
Communion Elders:	Judy Fukuman, William Yee
YES (Youth Education Session):	Lynn Yamamoto

Centering Prayer for Worship

*How good it is to worship you, God! For You gather us into a community
where we discover the grace that breaks down barriers. You call us to glorify
Jesus by dismantling conflict and division with His acceptance of all people.
We will live to reflect Christ's glory, empowered by His Spirit, and
confident of His presence with us in every moment. Amen.*

Prelude Haruko Sakakibara

***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: Sisters and brothers, rejoice, for we live sustained by God's presence and love; the One who creates us and loves us;

People: God made us to be family and gifts us with diversity.

Leader: God gives us Jesus Christ to show us how to live;

People: God inspires us to seek justice, share power, and live together in love and equality;

Leader: God invites us to join the struggle for wholeness and well-being for all. God's presence, grace, and love sustain us in our living.

All: We bless you, Creator God, and give you all glory, honor, and praise!

*Opening Hymn: Shout to the Lord (#2074 Black songbook for the refrain)

Refrain. Shout to the Lord all the Earth, let us sing,
Power and majesty, praise to the King,
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of Your name.

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord there is none like You.
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty
love. My comfort, my shelter, Tower of refuge and strength.
Let every breath, all that I am never cease to worship You

Refrain.

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: For Everyone Born (#769 GtG)

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born,
clean water and bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place for
growing, for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain. and God will delight when we are creators of justice and
joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are
creators of justice, justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles,
deciding the share, with wisdom and grace, dividing the power
for woman and man, a system that's fair,

Refrain.

For gay and for straight, a place at the table, a covenant shared,
a welcoming space, a rainbow of race and gender and color, for
gay and for straight, the chalice of grace,

Refrain.

For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and
simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for
everyone born, the right to be free,

Refrain.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

- from the Iona Community

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Receiving the Elements

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

Invitation to Confession

Dave McGill

Leader: Before God, let's acknowledge our failed attempts at creating a just world for all, even with the best of intentions. Aware of our limitations, we continue to dream of what is possible because of our faith in God's power to transform us, and the world.

Prayer of Confession

Dave McGill

Leader: O God, help us today to be hopeful and helpful rather than critical and judgmental; help us to avoid toxic words and destructive behavior.

People: Give us the courage to challenge racism whenever we encounter it; at home, school, work, or in the community, and to stand with others who are treated unfairly.

Leader: Help us to listen carefully to each other, especially those with whom we disagree. Give us grace to consider others' life stories as we affirm the dignity and worth of each person.

All: Help us not waste time fretting about the bad in the world, but to use the time we have working together for a better world.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace

Dave McGill

Leader: With God's hope in our hearts, we are renewed; we will learn from the past, cherish today, and welcome the future.

People: God has given us a powerful and sacred history. Empowered by God's Spirit, we will bring God's love and justice to the world each day.

All: Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*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.

Children’s Message

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Choir Song

“Set Me as a Seal Upon Your Heart”

Children and youth may now go to YES.

***Hymn of Reflection: 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: Proverbs 28:14

Haruko Sakakibara

A tenderhearted person lives a blessed life; a hardhearted person lives a hard life.

1st Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:1-9

Dave McGill

A Harvest Story

At about that same time Jesus left the house and sat on the beach. In no time at all a crowd gathered along the shoreline, forcing him to get into a boat. Using the boat as a pulpit, he addressed his congregation, telling stories. “What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn’t put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams. Are you listening to this? Really listening?”

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Matthew 25 Series #1: Dismantling Structural Racism
“The Practice of Encountering Others”

Matthew 13:18-23 The Meaning of the Harvest Story
Jesus said, “Study this story of the farmer planting seed. When anyone hears news of the kingdom and doesn’t take it in, it just remains on the surface, and so the Evil One comes along and plucks it right out of that person’s heart. This is the seed the farmer scatters on the road. The seed cast in the gravel—this is the person who hears and instantly responds with enthusiasm. But there is no soil of character, and so when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it.

The seed cast in the weeds is the person who hears the kingdom news, but weeds of worry and illusions about getting more and wanting everything under the sun strangle what was heard, and nothing comes of it. The seed cast on good earth is the person who hears and takes in the News, and then produces a harvest beyond their wildest dreams.”

Musical Interlude

Haruko Sakakibara

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” by Stuart Townend (1963-), arr. arranged by Phillip Keveren(1961-)