

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.

In Appreciation:

Greeters:	Julie Chew, Lynn Yamamoto
Ushers:	Aki Kumagai, Miko Kumagai
Parking:	Tak Fukuman
Parking Barriers (Sat):	William Yee
Sound System:	Lois Van Beers
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Lori Hart
Altar Flowers:	Tak & Judy Fukuman



The Celebration of Worship

November 26, 2023 • Christ the King Sunday

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Phillip Chew
Pianist:	Janet Hill
Japanese Reader:	Miko Kumagai

Centering Prayer for Worship

Jesus, our Lord, King of our life, we glorify You. Help us to discover our place and service in your Kingdom. By your Spirit, please speak to us as we worship You, dear Lord, and tell us the things You want us to know and do. We are honored to be Your willing servants, today and always. Amen.

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.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

** Those who can, please stand*



Call to Worship

Phillip Chew

Leader: We praise You, Almighty God, for you are ruler of the universe, and have sent Your Son to be King of Kings.

People: By Your Spirit, receive our grateful love and loyalty, and establish Christ's rule in every land and in every heart.

All: Accept our praise and worship as we offer our lives in the service of Christ's kingdom, for He is Lord forever and ever.

*Opening Hymn: All Creatures of Our God and King (#455)

Sing verses 1, 2, 5, 6

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And everyone of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part. O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on God cast your care!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All creatures, your Creator bless, and worship God in humbleness. O sing ye! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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: O for a World (#386)

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

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.)

As she went to get it, he called out, “And while you’re at it, would you bring me something to eat?” She said, “I swear, as surely as your God lives, I don’t have so much as a biscuit. I have a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a bottle; you found me scratching together just enough firewood to make a last meal for my son and me. After we eat it, we’ll die.”

Elijah said to her, “Don’t worry about a thing. Go ahead and do what you’ve said. But first make a small biscuit for me and bring it back here. Then go ahead and make a meal from what’s left for you and your son. This is the word of the God of Israel: ‘The jar of flour will not run out and the bottle of oil will not become empty before God sends rain on the land and ends this drought.’” And she went right off and did it, did just as Elijah asked. And it turned out as he said—daily food for her and her family. The jar of meal didn’t run out and the bottle of oil didn’t become empty: God’s promise fulfilled to the letter, exactly as Elijah had delivered it!

Musical Interlude

Janet Hill

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

Phillip Chew

Joys & Concerns

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Invitation to Confession

Phillip Chew

Leader: The apostle Paul assures us that we have been rescued from the power of evil, and transferred into the kingdom of God’s beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. With that promise, that assurance, let’s draw near to God in confession.

Prayer of Confession

Phillip Chew

Leader: Too often, we find ourselves parched in the deserts of temptation, feasting on scraps found on worry’s table, and we wonder why we still feel hungry and thirsty.

People: Come find us, Christ our King, so we might be filled with your grace and life, and share Your plentiful provision with all the world.

All: Take our brokenness, O King Eternal, scatter our anger and fears, fill us with your patient kindness, and make us whole.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God’s Grace

Phillip Chew

Leader: God has made Jesus Christ to be Savior and Lord of all. May we rejoice in His lordship as we trust when we are in Christ, our old life has gone; a new life has begun.

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**

Phillip Chew

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

All: And also with you.

Gratitude Dance

Miyo Uchida & Valerie Gnassounou

***Hymn of Reflection: Be Thou My Vision (#339)**

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
nought be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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 58:10-12

Miko Kumagai

Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.

1st Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:31-40

Phillip Chew

When he finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take his place on his glorious throne. Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, putting sheep to his right and goats to his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what’s coming to you in this kingdom. It’s been ready for you since the world’s foundation. And here’s why:

I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me.’

“Then those ‘sheep’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?’ Then the King will say, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.’”

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Matthew 25 Series #3 - Eradicating Systemic Poverty

“Elijah and the Widow of Z: A Tale of Cornbread and Crisco”
1 Kings 17:7-16

Eventually the brook dried up because of the drought. Then God spoke to Elijah: “Get up and go to Zarephath in Sidon and live there. I’ve instructed a woman who lives there, a widow, to feed you.” So he got up and went to Zarephath. As he came to the entrance of the village he met a woman, a widow, gathering firewood. He asked her, “Please, would you bring me a little water in a jug? I need a drink.”