

In Appreciation:

Greeters: Judy Fukuman, Pattie Hashimoto
Ushers: Bill Grissom, Herning Grissom
Parking: Tak Fukuman
Parking Barriers (Sat): Russ Hart
Sound System: Kazunari Nozue
Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Judy Yee
Altar Flowers: Jerry & Marilyn Champa,
in loving memory of Zee Champa



The Celebration of Worship

December 10, 2023 • 2nd Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader: Titus Toyama
Pianist: Nancy Arata-Fong
Japanese Reader: Mieko Davis
Advent Candle Lighters: Michael, Luda, Liam & Luca Wright

Centering Prayer for Advent

Gracious God of Advent, once again the world journeys to the manger in search of peace. Wondrous God, as Your glory transforms the world, receive our grateful worship and prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming. 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.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

** Those who can, please stand*



Advent Candle Lighting

Reader: This morning we light the second candle in the Advent wreath, the candle of peace. We light the first candle in hope. (Light the first candle.) We light the second candle for peace. (Light the second candle.)

Advent sets a mood of waiting in the dark for Christ's coming, waiting for the One who is the Light of the world. Each new candle we light shows we are getting closer to the day we celebrate Christ's birth. We light these candles to remind us that Christ is the Prince of Peace, the One who brings peace to all who will receive it. Let's pray:

Reader: Prepare our hearts, O God to welcome Your Son. We anticipate His coming, and the light of Your love that burns so brightly in Jesus.

All: Shine Your light on our path through the difficult times in our lives. May we live in peace with all people and all creation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Call to Worship

Titus Toyama

Leader: Now in this season of waiting, may we welcome the Lord who comes to restore our lives.

People: Lord Jesus, we rejoice when You come to us, for you bring love and healing, justice and peace;

Leader: Now in this season of watching, may we see Jesus at work in the world, and rush to help Him.

All: Watching and waiting, the whole earth rejoices in the hope of our Savior's coming, the One who is called Emmanuel, God-with-us.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing: O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold, when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold; when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

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

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.

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

Titus Toyama

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: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (#38)

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King": the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world: above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

*Opening Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (#9)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Invitation to Confession

Titus Toyama

Leader: We live in a world of violence, which we tolerate because we are overwhelmed and numbed by the suffering all around us. Come to us, God, with Your peace. We bring Your our longings and failings as we pray to You.

Prayer of Confession

Titus Toyama

Leader: Emmanuel, God-with-us: give us peace as we need peace; and give us courage to live in times without peace.

People: As we come through Advent again, free us to claim our own welling-up joy, and sustain us when joy seems far away.

All: Spirit of holiness and good tidings, purify our mixed motives and strengthen our willingness to serve. Our hearts rejoice in Your promised Presence and the gifts of Your peace.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace

Titus Toyama

Leader: Jesus comes to us with grace. Not to punish us, but to give us peace. Not to harsh on us, but to save us.

All: Thanks be to God. In Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, 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

Titus Toyama

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

All: And also with you.

Choir Song

Angels We Have Heard On High Arr. Edward S. Barnes

Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

*Hymn of Reflection: Away in a Manger (#25)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

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: John 14:1

Mieko Davis

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me."

1st Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:6-9

Titus Toyama

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. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put their hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Advent # 2 - "The Prince of Peace"

John 14:27

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

Musical Interlude

Nancy Arata-Fong