

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.*

In Appreciation:

Greeters:	Tia Kilpatrick, Irene Uno
Ushers:	Maurine Huang, Donna Komure-Toyama
Parking:	Phillip Chew
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Jonathan Sakakibara
Sound System:	Tom Tambara
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Aki Kumagai
Altar Flowers:	Tom Tambara & Wade Tambara
Coffee Time:	PPW Circle 2 and PPW



The Celebration of Worship

December 17, 2023 • 3rd Sunday of Advent

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Jonathan Sakakibara
Pianist:	Nancy Arata-Fong
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Miko Kumagai
YES (Youth Enrichment Session):	J. Chew
Advent Candle Lighters:	Ian, Mieko, Hannah & Sora Davis

Centering Prayer for Advent

*All glory to you, great God, for the gift of your Son, whom You sent to
save us. With singing angels, we praise Your name, and tell the earth His
story, that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down, acknowledging Your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

- From *Book of Common Worship*

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*

Advent Candle Lighting

Reader: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light two purple candles on the Advent wreath, and one pink candle. The candle of JOY. (Light the three candles now).

Joy shines in the darkness. It sings in the shadows. It cannot be silenced. It was the hope of the saints, the call of the prophets, the courage of young Mary, the faithfulness of Joseph, the excitement of the shepherds, and magnificent glory of the angels. Open your heart to joy and you will recognize joy shining in the most challenging struggle to the most wondrous delight, for God's joy flows through everything. Let's pray:

Reader: Promised One, as we prepare the way for Your coming, help us find joy in You.

All: We will give love and joy with open hands, and we'll find God's joy shining in the power that can transform lives. Candle in the window, twinkling lights on a tree, star in the night sky. Jesus, Light of God's joy, lead us home to You. Amen.

Call to Worship

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: How beautiful are the voices of the angels, who teach us new songs of joy.

People: How beautiful are the feet of the shepherds, who ran to tell of what they had seen and heard.

Leader: Thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, born of Mary. In His face we behold your glory, for in his life and death is your gift of salvation for all.

All: Teach us to proclaim His birth of splendor and mystery, so all the weary world may be filled with Your peace and joy.

***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: Joy to the World (#40)**

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her king; Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Advent #3 - "A Song in the Air"
Luke 1:46-56 The Magnificat

And Mary said, "I'm bursting with God-news;
I'm dancing the song of my Savior God.
God took one good look at me, and look what happened—
I'm the most fortunate woman on earth!
What God has done for me will never be forgotten,
the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others.
His mercy flows in wave after wave
on those who are in awe before him.
He bared his arm and showed his strength,
scattered the bluffing braggarts.
He knocked tyrants off their high horses,
pulled victims out of the mud.
The starving poor sat down to a banquet;
the callous rich were left out in the cold.
It's exactly what he promised,
beginning with Abraham and right up to now."
Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months, and then went
back to her own home.

Musical Interlude

Nancy Arata-Fong

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.

*Opening Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (#31)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King,
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored! Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heavenborn Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of
righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we may no more die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Invitation to Confession

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: It's God Who provides the source of our joy. It runs
deep and wide underneath all of life. Since we're tempted to
depend on others for security and happiness, let's ask God to
draw us back to Jesus, the One who brings us joy.

Prayer of Confession

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: Dear God, in the darkness of the world's pain, Your
blessed light begins to kindle. In the midst of temptations and
missed opportunities, of our doubting of You and of
ourselves, the great hope begins to rise again: the hope that You
will come to us, that the child will be born again in our midst,
the Prince of Peace in a world at war.

**People: Giver of Advent joy, rid us of our warring ways.
Help us to open ourselves to receive the gift of new life
from You.**

All: To all left unchanged by the good news of Christ's birth, send angels to sing carols of hope and peace. May we be present to those You send us to serve this holy season.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: Glory to you, Almighty God, for You sent Your only Son to earth, that we might have new life.

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for You became flesh and lived among us that we might become Your people.

All: Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for You guide and direct our lives. In the name of Jesus Christ, joy of the angels, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***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 Parkview Youth and Friends
"Unto You"

Choir Song
"The Joy of Christmas" Arr. Van Denman Thompson
Children and youth may now leave for YES.

***Hymn of Reflection: Still, Still, Still (#47)**

Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill!
The Virgin's tender arms enfolding, warm and safe the Child is holding.
Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber deep while angel hosts
from heaven come winging, sweetest songs of joy are singing.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber deep.

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 15:11 Miko Kumagai

Jesus told His disciples, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."

1st Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7 Jonathan Sakakibara

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.