

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: Cathy Nishizaki, Leah Nishizaki
Ushers: Diane Younglove, Gary Younglove
Parking: Russ Hart
Parking Barriers (Sat): William Yee
Sound System: Cathy Nishizaki
Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Judy Yee
Altar Flowers: Sue Goodwin



明けましておめでとうございます。
Happy New Year!



The Celebration of Worship

December 31, 2023 • New Year's Eve Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader: Sue Goodwin
Pianist: Janet Hill
Choir Conductor: Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader: Michael Wright

Centering Prayer for Advent

The One who is our hope has arrived; The One who is our life has come to us; The One who is our joy is here with us. God of Christmas wonder and mystery, You came to us as a baby to hold us in Your grace. You came to us in a stable so we would have no trouble finding You; You came to us in poverty to enrich our lives. You alone are worthy of worship. Fill our hearts with Yourself and receive our grateful praise. 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

Sue Goodwin

Leader: The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

People: Christ is born! Give Him glory! Christ has come down from heaven! Praise Him!

Leader: Jesus, Son of the Living God, splendor of the Father, Light eternal.

All: We lift our voices to join the angels in worshiping the newborn King, the Child of wonder, the Prince of Peace.

*Opening Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful (#41)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,

Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exaltation!

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Invitation to Confession

Sue Goodwin

Leader: In the carols of the Christmas season, we are reminded of the reason why God came to us in Jesus, so that we may experience God's love and share it with others. Let's confess how we have neglected this great gift as we bring our prayers to God.

*Sending Hymn: Go, Tell It on the Mountain (#29)

Refrain. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Refrain.

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain.

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.)

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**

Sue Goodwin

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.

Prayer of Confession

Sue Goodwin

Leader: Jesus, born of Mary, You knew life as we know it; our pain, our doubts, our temptations, our hopes.

People: As we think about our lives, the harmful things we've said and thought and done, we don't want fear or shame to keep us from You, God.

All: May Your healing Spirit fill us so that the shadows of our souls are transformed by the brilliance of Your love and Light.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace

Sue Goodwin

Leader: May the stars of the Christmas sky lead you out of darkness into the lap of God where peace becomes your shelter and love becomes your home. Believe the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: It's almost over - this year is nearly gone. Our words, our thoughts, what we've done, are in the past. Today, we begin anew. God's light has come into the world in a manger in Bethlehem. May the light of our faith in God shine in all we do. 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**

Sue Goodwin

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: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (#28)**

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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: Joshua 1:9

Michael Wright

The Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

1st Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:13-15

Sue Goodwin

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

"Taking the Plunge"

Matthew 2:16-23

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."