



*Ida B. Wells (1862-1931)
Investigative journalist, educator,
early leader of the civil rights movement &
co-founder of the NAACP*



The Celebration of Worship

January 14, 2024 • Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

“The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them.
- Ida B. Wells

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Jana Nakase-Lee
Pianist:	Nancy Arata-Fong
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Miko Kumagai

Centering Prayer

God of wisdom and beauty, God of history, God of us all, today is all we have. We will rejoice, we will be renewed, we will learn from the past, cherish today, and welcome the future because You have given us a powerful and sacred history. We will teach and learn, speak and listen, and, empowered by Your strong Holy Spirit, we will walk with You every day. Amen.

Prelude Nancy Arata-Fong

** Those who can, please stand*

***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

Call to Worship

Jana Nakase-Lee

Leader: How good it is to worship You, God! For You gather us into a community where we discover grace that breaks down barriers.

People: You call us to glorify Jesus by dismantling conflict and division with His acceptance of all people.

All: We will live to reflect Christ’s glory, empowered by His Spirit, and confident of His presence with us in every moment. Amen.

***Opening Hymn: He Is Exalted (#2070 black songbook)**

Sing twice

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted and I will praise His name!
He is the Lord, forever His truth shall reign;
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

Invitation to Confession

Jana Nakase-Lee

Leader: Our Lord, this morning we come to celebrate You, to affirm ourselves as reflections of You in all your glory and to say You are the One who leads us to life. Transform us as we come into Your presence with repentance, expectancy and gratitude.

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: Carla Hart, Lynn Yamamoto
- Ushers: Judy Fukuman, Tak Fukuman
- Parking: Tak Fukuman
- Parking Barriers (Sat): Tak Fukuman
- Sound System: Lois Van Beers
- Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Lori Hart
- Altar Flowers: Steve & Jana (Nakase) Lee

***Prayer of Dedication**

Jana Nakase-Lee

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: 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.

Sung Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

“We’ve Come This Far by Faith” (#656 GtoG)
We’ve come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord,
trusting in the holy Word; God’s never failed us yet.
O, can’t turn around, we’ve come this far by faith.
We’ve come this far by faith.

Prayer of Confession

Jana Nakase-Lee

Leader: God, You teach us that we are all created in Your image. Remind us that Your image doesn’t just look like the face we see in the mirror each morning.

People: Remind us that we can only be reflections of Your holiness if we understand that the person standing next to us is a reflection of Your holiness as well. Remind us because it seems as if too many of us have forgotten.

Leader: We confess that sometimes we feel like giving up in a world where it seems like prejudice and racism and violence will always be with us.

People: Forgive us. Remind us that apathy and cynicism are the easy way out. Help us correct our attitudes and actions when they diminish others.

All: Renew in us Your vision of a world made new. Empowered by Your Spirit, we will work to overcome the injustices that oppress others, and restore community among us.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God’s Grace

Jana Nakase-Lee

Leader: We are not our own, we are God's: We have been saved by the gift of God’s amazing grace, so let’s choose to live for God, and serve all of God's children.

All: Thanks be to God for filling our hearts with forgiveness and sustaining us with hope. 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** Jana Nakase-Lee
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: We Are Called (#2172 black songbook)**
Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain. We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear! We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and violence will be no more.

Refrain.

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love.

Refrain.

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: Luke 18:7-8 Miko Kumagai
Jesus said, "And will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones, who cry out to Him day and night? Will God keep putting them off? I tell you, God will see that they get justice."

1st Scripture Reading: Isaiah 26:3-4 Jana Nakase-Lee
People with their minds set on You, You keep completely whole, Steady on their feet, because they keep at it and don't quit. Depend on God and keep at it, because in the Lord God you have a sure thing.

Sermon Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Sermon "Ida B. Wells - Beacon of Justice and Light"
Matthew 5:14-16
"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

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.

***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.