

In Appreciation:

Greeters: Betsy Eskridge, Luda Wright
Ushers: Maurine Huang, Michael Wright
Parking: Carl Odell
Parking Barriers (Sat): Russ Hart
Sound System: Cathy Nishizaki
Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Judy Yee
Altar Flowers: Steve Hanway, in loving memory of
Effie Komure-Hanway



The Celebration of Worship

January 28, 2024 • 4th Sunday after Epiphany

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

Centering Prayer

As you draw near to God and prepare to worship, be still and know that God is with us. Listen and respond to God who meets us today where we are, to change us and empower us to be God's people in the world today, and every day.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, as we worship, let us hear again Your call, "Follow Me". We are prone to wander, to take shortcuts and get lost, to give up. Come, we pray, and make Your way clear to us. Amen.

Prelude

Miko Kumagai

*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*

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Call to Worship

Phillip Chew

Leader: In the sanctuary, in our homes, the Holy One whose glory fills the whole earth, calls us.

People: Beside the river, along the sidewalk, in our daily work, God calls us.

Leader: Listen for the promise of God's steadfast love and faithfulness. God calls us and fulfills God's purposes for our lives.

All: We long to deepen our connection with God. We are listening for God's call in our lives as we sing of God's majesty.

*Opening Hymn: Shout to the Lord (#2074 black songbook)

Refrain. Shout to the Lord all the Earth, let us sing,
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of Your name. I sing for joy at the work of Your
hands. Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand. Nothing
compares to the promise I have in You.

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord there is none like You.
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty
love. My comfort, my shelter, Tower of refuge and strength.
Let every breath, all that I am never cease to worship You.

Refrain.

*Sending Hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus (#403)

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge- take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in
prayer! In His arms He'll take and shield thee; thou will find a
solace there.

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

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 alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary—we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!

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

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.

Invitation to Confession

Phillip Chew

Leader: We are not our own: we belong to God. But life is challenging, we get wounded, and forget God is with us. Sometimes we turn our backs on God's good intentions for us. Sometimes we harm others with careless words or selfish choices. Let's ask for God's forgiveness together.

Prayer of Confession

Phillip Chew

Leader: O God, You meet us where we live and invite us to be part of your redeeming purposes for the world. Loving Lord, if we're going to follow You each day, we have to begin right where we are.

People: As we admit the ways we have failed you, hurt others, and done things we shouldn't have done, release us from critical attitudes that judge others or ourselves too harshly.

Leader: Forgive us. By the power of Your Spirit, lift us from guilt and shame to new life.

All: Strengthen us to share the power of Your Gospel with those who long for Your life-giving joy. Inspire us to whole-hearted devotion to You. Amen.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace

Phillip Chew

Leader: Grace is the gift which flows to us from God's heart; People: Joy is the seed planted deep within our souls, that it might blossom into lives of service to all.

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.

Children’s Message

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Ordination and Installation of Elders

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Elders for the Class of 2026:

Jana Nakase Lee

Donna Komure-Toyama

Gary Younglove

Children and youth may now leave for YES.

***Hymn of Installation: Take My Life (#391)**

Sing verses 1,2,3,5,6

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee,
swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing, always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from Thee,
filled with messages from Thee.

Take my will, and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne,
it shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee,
ever, only, all for Thee.

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 15:5

Miko Kumagai

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in Me, and I in them, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

1st Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 11:19-20

Phillip Chew

From The Message Bible

God said, “I’ll give you a new heart. I’ll put a new spirit in you. I’ll cut out your stone heart and replace it with a red-blooded, firm-muscled heart. Then you’ll obey my statutes and be careful to obey my commands. You’ll be my people! I’ll be your God!”

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Series: Making All Things New #2

God’s Invitation to Friendship

Romans 5:1-5 *The Message Bible*

By entering through faith into what God has always wanted to do for us—set us right with God, make us fit for God—we have it all together with God because of our Master Jesus. And that’s not all: We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that God has already thrown open his door to us. We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand—out in the wide open spaces of God’s grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise.

There’s more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we’re hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next.