



## The Celebration of Worship

February 18, 2024 • 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Titus Toyama
Pianist:	Janet Hill
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Haruko Sakaibara

### Holy Dates:

February 18:	First Sunday in Lent
March 24:	Palm Sunday
March 29:	Good Friday
March 31:	Easter Day

### Centering Prayer for Lenten Worship

*Needing the Sacred*

*Finding the sacred in our lives becomes increasingly difficult as the chatter and clutter of a chaotic world presses in around us: distracting, confusing, weakening our spirits.*

*We have need of the sacred to feed and nourish our souls; speaking to our hearts, our eyes, our senses of God; reminding us to step aside in the shelter and presence of our Creator; returning again to be renewed and transformed by God.*

*- Steve Gunther*

### Prelude

Janet Hill

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\* 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**

Titus Toyama

Leader: Yet even now, says the Lord, return to Me with all your heart.

**People: In this season of Lent, we return to God. For God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: Great is Your faithfulness, O God! We praise You for Your mighty works in our lives and in the world.

**All: As in Jesus Christ You gave yourself to us, so we give ourselves to You. May your glory shine brighter in us each day, blessing all the world with faith, hope and love.**

**\*Opening Hymn: Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty (#482)**

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before  
Him! Let the amen sound from His people again;  
gladly for aye we adore Him.

**\*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.)*

**Sakura Chorus**

"Donna Nobis"

**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:	Tia Kilpatrick, Irene Uno
Ushers:	Julie Chew, Gary Younglove
Parking:	Phillip Chew
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Titus Toyama
Sound System:	Lois Van Beers
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Aki Kumagai
Altar Flowers:	Phillip and Julie Chew

**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: Great Is Thy Faithfulness (#276)**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not; Thy compassions they fail not; As Thou hast been thou forever will be.

*Refrain.* Great is thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed Thy hand has provided.  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

*Refrain.* Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

**Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

**Invitation to Confession**

Titus Toyama

Leader: God receives the broken heart, the troubled conscience, the conflicted spirit, with the power to make us whole. As we admit our faults and failings, God meets us with love and grace. With repentant hearts, let's pray to God.

**Prayer of Confession**

Titus Toyama

Leader: We come before you, O God, aware of how frayed our lives have become; we are a collection of bad moods, loose ends and half-kept promises.

**People: We have not kept our hearts focused on your saving grace or listened to your ever-loving voice. We have not accepted ourselves or those we find irritating as persons for whom you died.**

**All: Forgive us. Stir our hearts to sense you in every moment, and serve you at every opportunity. Amen.**

- adapted from Touch Holiness by Ruth Duck

*Time for silent reflection and confession to God*

**Assurance of God's Grace**

Titus Toyama

Leader: God's love is constant and sure, always providing a way out, a way through, a way back to God.

**All: Thanks be to God! We believe the Good News of the Gospel. 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** Titus Toyama

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

**All: And also with you.**

**Sakura Chorus**

“Grandfather’s Clock”

**Children’s Message** Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

**Hymn of Reflection: As the Deer (#2025 black songbook)**

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after You.  
You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship You.

*Refrain.* You alone are my strength, my shield; to You alone may  
my spirit yield. You alone are my heart’s desire and I long to  
worship You.

You’re my Friend and You are my brother,  
even though You are a King. I love You more than any other,  
so much more than anything.

*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: Hebrews 11:1** Haruko Sakaibara

Now faith is the certainty of things hoped for, the proof of  
things not seen.

**1st Scripture Reading: Proverbs 3:5-6** Titus Toyama

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your  
own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge God, and  
God will make your paths straight.

**Sermon** Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Lenten Series: Ladder to the Light #1 “The Rung of Faith”

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Though the fig tree does not blossom, and there is no fruit on  
the vines, Though the yield of the olive fails and the fields  
produce no food, Though the flock is cut off from the fold,  
and there are no cattle in the stalls, Yet I will exult in the Lord,  
I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my  
strength, and He has made my feet like the feet of the deer, and  
makes me walk upon the high places.

**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** Titus Toyama

**Joys & Concerns** Titus Toyama