

In Appreciation:

Greeters: Pattie Hashimoto, Gary Younglove
Ushers: Betsy Eskridge, Carla Hart
Parking: Carl Odell
Parking Barriers (Sat): Neil Matsuoka
Sound System: Titus Toyama
Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Judy Yee
Altar Flowers: Cathy Nishizaki



The Celebration of Worship

February 25, 2024 • 2nd Sunday in Lent



Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader: Liam Wright
Pianist: Haruko Sakakibara
Choir Conductor: Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader: Aki Kumagai
YES: Lynn Yamamoto

Centering Prayer for Lenten Worship

Loving God, you fill all things with a hope that we can never comprehend. We pray that you will take away our natural temptation for cynicism, denial, fear and despair. Help us have the courage to awaken to greater humility and greater care for each other. May we place our hope in what matters and what lasts, trusting in your eternal presence and love. Caring God, may we see you, hear you, and know you as we move through this Lenten season. Amen.

Prelude

Haruko Sakakibara

*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

Liam Wright

Leader: God of Steadfast Love, you bring beauty and goodness into every moment.

People: The morning stars profess Your glory: the waking birds harmonize a refrain of grace.

Leader: The sun warms us with God's hope, the night sky whispers peace to our sleepy souls:

People: Creation's voice echoes in our hearts, reminding us of God's steadfast love.

All: Gather us with those who long to draw near to You, as Your grateful people sing your praise.

*Opening Hymn: When Morning Gilds the Skies (#487)

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awakening cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised! Alike at work and prayer to Jesus
I repair: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:
may Jesus Christ be praised! Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound:
may Jesus Christ be praised! Let air and sea and sky
from depth to height reply: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this while life is mine, my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised! Be this the eternal song
through all the ages long: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Invitation to Confession

Liam Wright

Leader: In every moment, God reaches out to us as we are.
God sends love to support us on our way, and calls us to turn
from wounding ways to receive the gift of a cleansed heart.
Let's bring our lives to God in prayer.

Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be, the right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.

God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.

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

Haruko Sakakibara

From "Variations in E-flat" by F.Mendelssohn

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.

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

Liam Wright

Joys & Concerns

Haruko Sakakibara

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: Live into Hope (#332)

Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed. The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!

Live into hope the blind shall see with insight and with clarity, removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.

Prayer of Confession

Liam Wright

Leader: O God, we turn to you now, seeking comfort from the wounds of the world and power to face all that disturbs and damages us.

People: When we seek justice for another, when we love kindness more than recognition, we live as You ask us to live.

Leader: When we walk hopefully through life, when we offer forgiveness to those who hurt us, we are the blessing You hope we will be.

All: Stir our hearts to sense You in every moment, and serve You at every opportunity. Amen.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace

Liam Wright

Leader: It is God's gift of a new beginning through the resurrection of Jesus which gives us the hope that lives within us.

People: Now that we have let go of the pain, the bitterness, the anger of our lives, we will be kind, tender-hearted, and gentle towards each other, forgiving others as God has forgiven us.

All: Thanks be to God! We will live each day as God's people: forgiven and set free to serve, loved with an everlasting love.

*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**

Liam Wright

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: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (#379)

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain. On Christ the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace; in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

Refrain.

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood; when all around my soul gives way, he then is all hope and stay.

Refrain.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found, dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

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

Aki Kumagai

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

1st Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 1:3

Liam Wright

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to God's great mercy, God has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Lenten Series: Ladder to the Light #2 "The Rung of Hope"

Jeremiah 29:11-14

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Musical Interlude

Haruko Sakakibara

"The Era of Our Hearts" by Won Wintsan,
arr. by Tomohiro Wakayama