

In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide, Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

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

“Suite No.4: Allemande,” by Henry Purcell (England 1659-95)

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:	Judy Fukuman, Miyo Uchida
Ushers:	Terri Bowman, Julie Chew
Parking:	Gary Younglove
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Neil Matsuoka
Sound System:	Titus Toyama
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Lois Van Beers
Altar Flowers:	Ben Pryor & Kishwer Vikaas



The Celebration of Worship

April 7, 2024 • 1st Sunday in Eastertide

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Betsy Eskridge
Pianist:	Haruko Sakakibara
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Haruko Sakakibara
Communion Elders:	Carol Sakai, Irene Uno
YES:	Kishwer Vikaas

Centering Prayer for Easter Sunday Worship

We behold Your glory, O God, in the love shown by Your Son, risen from the grave and exalted on high. Living God, You meet us in unexpected places and surprise us with the abundance of Your love. Fill us with Your Spirit so that we may follow You and live for You today, and always, through Jesus Christ, Your Son. 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.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

** Those who can, please stand*

Call to Worship

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: Eternal God, Creator of springtime splendor that delights and dazzles us, look with mercy upon all creation.

People: Bring to completion Your saving work so that the whole world may see the fallen lifted up, the old made new, and Your transforming power bring hope from despair.

All: We no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for He is alive and has become the Lord of life!

*Opening Hymn: Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! (#104)

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed. In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown. Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair. Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare. Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend. Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same. Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain. Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!" God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

Invitation to Confession

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: Let's declare our intention to live for God through the transforming power of our risen Lord. Let's bring our hurts and grudges and faults and failings to the One who hears and heals us.

Prayer of Confession

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: O God, through Jesus, you long to fill us with Your comfort and peace, but we continue to take on more anxiety, more worry, more fear.

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

Betsy Eskridge

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: Christ Is Alive! (#108)

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains, but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior in the Godhead reigns

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

Musical Interlude Haruko Sakakibara
"I Surrender All" arr. by Phillip Keveren

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

- from the Iona Community

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Receiving the Elements

People: Sometimes we focus only on our own concerns and neglect to share Your grace with those who need it most. Forgive us.

Leader: Transform us as we reveal our brokenness to You.

All: Let our words and actions radiate Your care and compassion to all; our love and service bear witness to Your resurrection power. For the sake of our living Lord. Amen.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: We are healed, to bring healing to our world; we are strengthened in faith, to bring grace and kindness to others;

People: We are set free from our bondage to sin, so we may become faithful servants of Christ.

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**

Betsy Eskridge

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

All: And also with you.

Children's Message:

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Children and youth may now leave for YES.

Hymn of Reflection: Were You There? (#102)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? (Were . . .)
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? (Were . . .)
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? (Were . . .)
 Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? (Were . . .)
 Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? (Were . . .)
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? (Were . . .)
 Were you there?
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? (Were . . .)
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? (Were . . .)
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? (Were . . .)
 Were you there when He rose up from the dead?(Were . . .)
 Were you there when He rose up from the dead? (Were . . .)
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when He rose up from the dead? (Were . . .)

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 3:16-17 Haruko Sakakibara

"This is how much God loved the world: God gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in Jesus, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. Jesus came to help, to put the world right again.

1st Scripture Reading: Betsy Eskridge

Genesis 29, 1-6, 9-10, 18-20
 Then Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the east. As he looked, he saw a well in the field and

three flocks of sheep lying there beside it, for out of that well the flocks were watered. Jacob said to the shepherds, "My brothers, where do you come from?" They said, "We are from Haran." He said to them, "Do you know Laban?" They said, "We do." He said to them, "Is it well with him?" "Yes," they replied, "and here is his daughter Rachel, coming with the sheep." While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she kept them. Now when Jacob saw Rachel, the daughter of his mother's brother Laban, and the sheep of his mother's brother Laban, Jacob went up and rolled the stone from the well's mouth and watered the flock of his mother's brother Laban. . . . Jacob loved Rachel, so he said to Laban, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

"Nothing but Love" John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.