

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: Tia Kilpatrick, Donna Komure-Toyama
Ushers: Tia Kilpatrick, Donna Komure-Toyama
Parking: Dave McGill
Parking Barriers (Sat): Russ Hart
Sound System: Tom Tambara
Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Aki Kumagai
Altar Flowers: Bill & Linda Nagata
Coffee Time: Mieko Davis, Luda Wright, Diane Younglove



The Celebration of Worship

April 21, 2024 • Earth Day Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader: Steve Hanway
Pianist: Nancy Arata-Fong
Choir Conductor: Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader: Haruko Sakakibara

Centering Prayer for Worship

A Prayer for Our Time and for the Earth

*Dear God, Creator of the earth, this sacred home we share;
Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around and to protect the wonders
of creation.
Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us and to know them
as family.
Give us new ears to hear and understand those who live off the land and
to hear and understand those who extract its resources.
Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness in our communities and to
heal the wounds we have inflicted.
Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people and to shape beloved
community.
For you are the One who seeks the lost, binds our wounds and sets us
free, and it is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.*

– Bishop Carol Gallagher, Member of the Cherokee Nation

* Those who can, please stand

Prelude

Nancy Arata-Fong

***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

Steve Hanway

Leader: Let's praise God, for the awakening of each new day, announced by singing birds and the return of light to guide our steps.

People: Let's praise God, for refreshing breezes and warm spring sun, for the dazzling colors of a glowing sunset.

All: We praise You, O God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, for Your overflowing grace and holy Presence in all the world.

***Opening Hymn: I Sing the Mighty Power of God (#288)**

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise; that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day; The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food; God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good. Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eyes; if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the skies!

There's not a plant or flower below but makes Thy glories known; And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne; While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care, and everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along, O sing ye! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou fertile earth, that day by day
Unfoldest blessings on your way, O sing ye! Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them God's glory also show!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And everyone of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part. O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on God cast your care!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Sakura Chorus

“Dona Nobis Pacem”

***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.)

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

Steve Hanway

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: All Creatures of Our God and King (#455)

Sing verses 1, 2, 4, 5

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Invitation to Confession

Steve Hanway

Leader: Sometimes, instead of being our best selves, we're impatient and irritable, demanding our own way. But God comes to transform us by grace into the people we're meant to be. Let's open ourselves to the One Who overflows with love for us, and confess our sins to God.

Prayer of Confession

Steve Hanway

Leader: Creator God, we celebrate Earth as a sacred place, a sanctuary filled with Your gifts. We confess that we're part of a culture that urges over-consumption rather than conservation, personal satisfaction instead of sustainability.

People: Instead of viewing nature's wonders with reverence, we treat this planet as a source of endless resources to be used with no thought of those who come after us. Forgive us. All: Teach us to live in ways that honor You and preserve our beautiful, fragile planet. In the name of Christ, Lord of Creation.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God's Grace

Steve Hanway

Leader: God offers us guidance in restoring the face of the earth. As we humbly turn to God, we will learn to live in harmony, safety and just sharing of resources among all.

All: Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free to bring God's Kingdom of ever-increasing wholeness and splendor to Earth. 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**

Steve Hanway

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

All: And also with you.

Children’s Message

Sue Goodwin

Sakura Chorus

“Rainbow.” Summary of the lyrics: “It rained. Wind blew. The trip got canceled, but the sun came out! And the rainbow made me feel much better. It will be a sunny day tomorrow.”

Hymn of Reflection: “God of the Sparrow” (#272)

Sing verses 1,3, 5 6

God of the sparrow, God of the whale

God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe

How does the creature say Praise

God of the rainbow God of the cross

God of the empty grave

How does the creature say Grace

How does the creature say Thanks

God of the neighbor God of the foe

God of the pruning hook

How does the creature say Love

How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand

God of the loving heart

How do your children say Joy

How do your children say Home

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: Psalm 148:1-5

Haruko Sakakibara

Hallelujah! Praise God from heaven, praise God from the mountaintops; Praise God, all you God’s angels, praise God, all you God’s hosts, Praise God, sun and moon, praise God, you morning stars; Praise God, high heaven, praise God, heavenly rain clouds; Praise, oh let all creatures praise the name of God!

1st Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Steve Hanway

From *The Message*

Don’t be naive. There are difficult times ahead. As the end approaches, people are going to be self-absorbed, money-hungry, self-promoting, stuck-up, profane, contemptuous of parents, crude, coarse, dog-eat-dog, unbending, slanderers, impulsively wild, savage, cynical, treacherous, ruthless, bloated windbags, addicted to lust, and allergic to God. They’ll make a show of religion, but behind the scenes they’re animals. Stay clear of these people.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Easter Practices #2 - “Reverence for All of Life”

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”

Musical Interlude

Nancy Arata-Fong