

**\*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**

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:	Sue Goodwin, Carla Hart
Ushers:	Judy Fukuman, Tak Fukuman
Parking:	Russ Hart
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Dave McGill
Sound System:	Dave McGill
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Aki Kumagai
Altar Flowers:	Steve & Barbie Fujinaka, In loving memory of Jane Matsuoka



## **The Celebration of Worship**

May 12, 2024 • Mother’s Day & Ascension Sunday

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Carla Hart
Pianist:	Nancy Arata-Fong
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Michael Wright
YES:	Lynn Yamamoto

### **Centering Prayer for Worship**

*O Divine Companion, You call us to this place where we feel loved and  
welcomed and call it home. You invite us into this place where we meet  
kindred spirits and call them friends. Here and now, help us to let go of  
worry and anxiety and open ourselves to Your caring Spirit. God, our  
perfect Parent, we come home to You and gratefully offer ourselves to You  
in praise and service. Amen.*

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.**

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*\* Those who can, please stand*

## Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

### Call to Worship

Carla Hart

Leader: Come home, home to God's embrace.

**People: We have come home to worship, to hear of God's amazing grace, to find God's guidance, and to respond to God's call.**

Leader: Surrounded by springtime splendor, let's joyfully sing praises to our God!

**All: We thank God, source of all beauty and goodness, as we worship our Risen and Ascended Lord!**

### \*Opening Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns (#151)

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,  
and hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love; behold His hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:  
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and  
praise. His reign shall know no end; and round His pierced feet  
fair flowers of Paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of years, the potentate of time;  
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

## 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: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (#376)

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come  
down, fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies  
crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love  
thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;  
let us all in Thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts  
above, pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy  
perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee:  
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and  
praise.

## Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

## Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Easter Series: Easter Practices 'Life Together'

Acts 9:36-42

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

## Musical Interlude

Nancy Arata-Fong

## 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

Carla Hart

## Invitation to Confession

Carla Hart

Leader: Our Mother of Compassion calls to be one body, but we fragment ourselves into a million selfish pieces. How we need God's healing and wholeness in our lives. Together let's confess our need for God's grace and forgiveness.

## Prayer of Confession

Carla Hart

Leader: Dear Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, you came into the world to heal the brokenness in the human family and throughout all creation.

**People: But we are sometimes absent from each other, giving into pressures at work or distracted by the routines of daily life. We carry grudges and deep resentments that block the flow of your grace.**

Leader: Forgive us. Restore our sense of belonging to each other. Heal our relationships and infuse our lives with grace and gratitude.

**All: Gracious Lord, restore us to a holy balance in our lives and an appreciation of Your presence with us each moment. Amen.**

*Time for silent reflection and confession to God*

## Assurance of God's Grace

Carla Hart

Leader: God's love and forgiveness are powerful reminders of Who God is. You are no longer alone. You are God's Beloved. Believe the Good News of the Gospel:

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Forgiven and made whole, we are made one family in faith. Thanks be to God! 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** Carla Hart  
Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**All: And also with you.**

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

**Choir Song**  
*Children and youth may now leave for YES.*

**Hymn of Reflection:** For the Beauty of the Earth (#473)  
For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the  
love which from our birth over and around us lies,  
*Refrain.* Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful  
praise.  
For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of  
light,  
*Refrain.*  
For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,  
*Refrain.*  
For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and  
mild,  
*Refrain.*

For Thy church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,  
offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love,  
*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 10:25 Michael Wright  
Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and  
helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do but  
spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day  
approaching.

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading:** Acts 1:6-11 Carla Hart  
When they were together for the last time they asked, "Master,  
are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now? Is this the  
time?" Jesus told them, "You don't get to know the time.  
Timing is the Father's business. What you'll get is the Holy  
Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able  
to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria,  
even to the ends of the world."  
These were his last words. As they watched, Jesus was taken up  
and disappeared in a cloud. They stood there, staring into the  
empty sky. Suddenly two men appeared—in white robes! They  
said, "You Galileans!—why do you just stand here looking up  
at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among  
you to heaven will come as certainly—and mysteriously—as he  
left."