

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

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

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:	Betsy Eskridge. TBD
Ushers:	Aki Kumagai, Miko Kumagai
Parking:	Phillip Chew
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Dave McGill
Sound System:	Titus Toyama
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Judy Yee
Altar Flowers:	Steve & Janet Hill



The Celebration of Worship

May 26, 2024 • Memorial Candle Lighting

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Liam Wright
Pianist:	Janet Hill
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Aki Kumagai

Centering Prayer for Worship

*God our Creator, we praise You, we worship You, we adore You. Open
our lives to Your Spirit that we may be transformed into the likeness of
Your Son. On this Memorial Day week-end, we worship You, Holy
One, with our words and with our silence. May we bear your good news
and take it to all the world, bearing fruit to Your honor and glory today,
and always. Amen.*

Prelude

Janet Hill

***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: Eternal God, You are the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt.

People: Creator God, You have called us by name and made us Christ's body, the Church; we belong to You.

All: We open our hearts and lift up our voices to You, wondrous, life-giving God!

*Opening Hymn: God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand (#262)

God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine has led us in the past. In this free land by Thee our lot is cast; Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay; Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense; Thy true religion in our hearts increase; Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way, Lead us from night to never-ending day; Fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

Invitation to Confession

Liam Wright

Leader: We each know how we have failed to be faithful followers of Jesus. Let's confess our sins, trusting that God will touch us with the healing power of grace.

*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

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: The Church's One Foundation (#442)

Sing verses 1, 2, 4, and 5

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is His new creation by water and the word;
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

That stirred up the people, the religious leaders, and religion scholars. They grabbed Stephen and took him before the High Council. They put forward their bribed witnesses to testify: “This man talks nonstop against this Holy Place and God’s Law. We even heard him say that Jesus of Nazareth would tear this place down and throw out all the customs Moses gave us.” As all those who sat on the High Council looked at Stephen, they found they couldn’t take their eyes off him—his face was like the face of an angel! ...Stephen’s sermon...

At that point they went wild, a rioting mob of catcalls and whistles and invective. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, hardly noticed—he only had eyes for God, whom he saw in all his glory with Jesus standing at his side. He said, “Oh! I see heaven wide open and the Son of Man standing at God’s side!”

Yelling and hissing, the mob drowned him out. Now in full stampede, they dragged him out of town and pelted him with rocks. The ringleaders took off their coats and asked a young man named Saul to watch them. As the rocks rained down, Stephen prayed, “Master Jesus, take my life.” Then he knelt down, praying loud enough for everyone to hear, “Master, don’t blame them for this sin”—his last words. Then he died. Saul was right there, congratulating the killers.

Musical Interlude

Janet Hill

Memorial Candle Lighting

See insert.

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.

Prayer of Confession

Liam Wright

Leader: God, You know that we all make mistakes, many of them. People: We hurt You, we hurt others, and ourselves, with our words and actions, with our apathy and ingratitude. Forgive us. Leader: When we obscure the splendor of Your presence rather than making it more visible to those around us, forgive us.

All: Give us a heart like Jesus’ heart, a heart more ready to serve than be served, a heart moved by compassion towards the vulnerable and oppressed, a heart fixed on you. Amen.

Time for silent reflection and confession to God

Assurance of God’s Grace

Liam Wright

Leader: Our loving Lord Jesus lived on earth for all of us, so that every life might be redeemed by God’s love; through God’s yearning heart, all people are invited to be held in God’s grace;

People: Jesus, friend of the fallen, we choose to follow You and seek to honor You with our lives.

All: We believe the Good News of the Gospel! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***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: Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (#825 GtG)

Refrain. Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see coming for to carry me home? A band of angels coming after me, coming for to carry me home. O,

Refrain.

If you get there before I do, coming for to carry me home, tell all my friends I'm coming too, coming for to carry me home.

Refrain.

The brightest day that ever I saw, coming for to carry me home, when Jesus washed my sins away, coming for to carry me home.

Refrain.

I'm sometimes up and sometimes down, coming for to carry me home, But still my soul feels heavenly bound, coming for to carry me home.

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: John 15:12-13

Aki Kumagai

Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down their life for their friends."

1st Scripture Reading: Acts 6:1-7

Liam Wright

During this time, as the disciples were increasing in numbers by leaps and bounds, hard feelings developed among the Greek-speaking believers—"Hellenists"—toward the Hebrew-speaking believers because their widows were being discriminated against in the daily food lines. So the Twelve called a meeting of the disciples. They said, "It wouldn't be right for us to abandon our responsibilities for preaching and teaching the Word of God to help with the care of the poor. So, friends, choose seven men from among you whom everyone trusts, men full of the Holy Spirit and good sense, and we'll assign them this task. Meanwhile, we'll stick to our assigned tasks of prayer and speaking God's Word."

The congregation thought this was a great idea. They went ahead and chose— Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, Nicolas, a convert from Antioch. Then they presented them to the apostles. Praying, the apostles laid on hands and commissioned them for their task. The Word of God prospered. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased dramatically. Not least, a great many priests submitted themselves to the faith.

Sermon: Acts 6 and 7

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

"Stephen's Story: That'll Preach!"

Stephen, brimming with God's grace and energy, was doing wonderful things among the people, unmistakable signs that God was among them. But then some men from the meeting place whose membership was made up of freed slaves, Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and some others from Cilicia and Asia, went up against him trying to argue him down. But they were no match for his wisdom and spirit when he spoke. So in secret they bribed men to lie: "We heard him cursing Moses and God."