

***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:	Carla Hart, Lynn Yamamoto
Ushers:	Carla Hart, Lynn Yamamoto
Parking:	Russ Hart
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Russ Hart
Sound System:	Jonathan Sakakibara
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Lori Hart
Altar Flowers:	Kevin & Lisa Imura, in loving memory of their son, Kevin



The Celebration of Worship

July 14, 2024 • 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Preacher:	Rev. Jesse Larson
Worship Leader:	Jana Nakase-Lee
Pianist:	Nancy Arata-Fong
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Aki Kumagai

Centering Prayer for Worship

*Jesus, be our peace. You never want us to experience the upheavals of
spiritual desolation. When we realize that everything depends upon our
trusting in your love, we listen to your call: ‘By the Holy Spirit, make
yourself a heart that is determined to welcome everything in the radiance
of praise.’ 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.**

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Jesse Larson

** Those who can, please stand*

Call to Worship

Jana Nakase-Lee

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made!

People: We will rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: The Lord is our strength and our song;

People: You are our God, and we will praise you;

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

People: God's faithful loves endures forever!

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made!

All: We will rejoice and be glad in it!

*Opening Hymn: How Firm a Foundation (#361)

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

*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

Jana Nakase-Lee

Joys & Concerns

Rev. Jesse Larson

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Jesse Larson

**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: I've Got Peace Like a River (#368)

I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.

I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.

*Benediction

Rev. Jesse Larson

Sermon

Rev. Jesse Larson

Sermon: "The Tension of the Present"

Matthew 22:2-14

"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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.

Invitation to Confession

Jana Nakase-Lee

Leader: Let us now come before God with open and honest hearts, so that we might own up to our sins and mistakes, and move forward in a spirit of faith, trusting always that we are forgiven and loved eternally...

Prayer of Confession

Jana Nakase-Lee

Leader: Alpha and Omega, we know you guide our lives towards abundance and faith, and yet often we do not trust you or one another.

People: We cling to our own ways that can be selfish. We wound others with unkind words and actions.

Leader: Forgive us for our sins, and continue to encourage us to put our faith and trust in you.

People: We pray that we would not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

Leader: May we use the gifts you have given us to pass on the love that you have given us.

People: May we be confident in our identity as a child of God. Encourage us to be live into the present, to be present with you as you are present with us.

Leader: May this blessed truth settle in our bones so that this world to be filled with song, dance, praise, and love.

All: In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

A Time for Contemplation

This time of quiet is offered to encourage you to share your personal thoughts with God as well as listen to God through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Assurance of God's Grace

Jana Nakase-Lee

Leader: Friends, you are forgiven by the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Look to the future in hope.

***Response to God's Forgiveness:** Glory to God, Whose
Goodness Shines on Me (#582 Glory to God)
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** Jana Nakase-Lee
Leader: As the forgiven and redeemed people of God, let us
share our peace and joy with one another. The peace of Christ
be with you.
All: And also with you.

Children's Message Rev. Jesse Larson

***Hymn of Reflection:** Kum Ba Yah (#338)
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

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 46:10 Aki Kumagai
Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth.

1st Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 Jana Nakase-Lee
For everything there is a season and a time for every matter
under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die;
a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill and a time to heal;
a time to break down and a time to build up;
a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones
together;
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek and a time to lose;
a time to keep and a time to throw away;
a time to tear and a time to sew;
a time to keep silent and a time to speak;
a time to love and a time to hate;
a time for war and a time for peace.