

He's got the tiny little baby in His hands, He's got the tiny little baby in His hands, He's got the tiny little baby in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got you and me, brother, in His hands, He's got you and me, sister, in His hands, He's got all of us together in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.

***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 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: Haruko Sakakibara, Diane Younglove
Parking: Carl Odell
Parking Barriers (Sat): William Yee
Sound System: Lois Van Beers
Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Judy Yee
Altar Flowers: Nancy Arata-Fong



The Celebration of Worship

September 8, 2024 • 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader: Jonathan Sakakibara
Pianist: Nancy Arata-Fong
Choir Conductor: Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader: Haruko Sakakibara
Communion Elders: Terri Bowman, Hach Yasumura

Centering Prayer for Worship

Gracious God, as Your children, we are claimed, gathered, and sent into the world for Your sake. Lord, we ask for Your blessings upon our worship, our work, and our hands so that our hands may be a blessing to others. 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. Dr. Sarah Nave

** Those who can, please stand*

Call to Worship

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: It's good to worship, to rest from our work, and to sing praises to Your name, O God;

People: To declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night.

Leader: Awesome Creator, Your steadfast love is great above the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

All: Be exalted, Almighty God, above the heavens!

Let Your glory be over all the earth!

***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

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: We don't have to twist God's arm in order to get God to love us. We don't have to fear punishment from God, who promises to forgive us and make us new. Let's entrust our brokenness to God, that we might be made whole.

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

Jonathan Sakakibara

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: He's Got the Whole World In His Hands

He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands,

He's got the wind and the rain in His hands, He's got the wind and the rain in His hands, He's got the wind and the rain in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

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 & Blessing of the Hands

Song During Communion: "He Is Exalted"

(#2070 black songbook) *Sing twice*

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise him.
He is exalted, forever exalted and I will praise his name!

He is the Lord, forever his truth shall reign;
heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

Prayer after Communion

Prayer of Confession

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: What can we say about our lives, Searcher of our hearts?

People: Sometimes our anger roars like a flooded creek, but our forgiveness drips like a rusty faucet. Grief and hurt are deep and wide in our world and the need to "do something" keeps us awake at night.

Leader: Fear and anxiety are always right below the surface. Sometimes our reactions seem out of proportion, over-the-top. Forgive us, Healer of our hearts.

People: Loving God, may Your mercy fall on us like a summer shower on parched grass; may Your hope overflow our hearts.

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

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: God's love is more tenacious than our despair; God's joy is more resilient than our grief; God's love is more powerful than our shame.

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 Glory to God hymnal)

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

Jonathan Sakakibara

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.

A Minute for Mission

Hailing Tang & Pastor Sarah

Choir Song

“Come to the Banquet” Words & Music by Joseph M. Martin

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: Ecclesiastes 9:10 Haruko Sakakibara
Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.

1st Scripture Reading: Isaiah 49:14-16 Jonathan Sakakibara
Zion said, “My Lord has forgotten me, I’m all alone.” The Lord responds, “But how could a loving mother forget her nursing child and not deeply love the one she bore? Even if there is a mother who forgets her child, I’d never forget you-never. Look, I’ve written your names on the backs of my hands.

Sermon & 2nd Scripture Reading Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
“Touched by Grace: God’s Hands”

Psalms 139:1-14

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me,” even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Musical Interlude

Nancy Arata-Fong

***Communion Hymn:** Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (#514)

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken; the wine is poured; Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain. Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one; at the table he sets the tone, teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.

Refrain.

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!

Refrain.