

***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

Wade Tambara

*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:	Russ Hart, Diane Younglove
Ushers:	Haruko Sakakibara, William Yee
Parking:	Phillip Chew
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Titus Toyama
Sound System:	Jonathan Sakakibara
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Aki Kumagai
Altar Flowers:	In loving memory of May Mayeda
Coffee Time:	Nancy Arata-Fong, Lori Hart, Irene Uno



The Celebration of Worship

September 15, 2024 • 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Sue Goodwin
Pianist:	Wade Tambara
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Mieko Davis

Centering Prayer for Worship

Here we are Lord!

*We believe in Your power to change us; Your creating power making
relationships new, Your redeeming power saving us from despair, Your
sustaining power giving us courage and strength. In this time of worship, as
we encounter You and pray and listen together, we open ourselves to the
transforming power of Your kingdom, changing our hearts, our lives and
our world. Amen!*

Prelude

Wade Tambara

*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

Sue Goodwin

Leader: We gather together to celebrate the joy in our lives.

People: God's love fills our hearts to overflowing with blessings.

Leader: We gather in God's presence, to find comfort and hope for our pain, and caring solutions for others who are suffering.

People: God's grace wipes away our tears and connects us together as a safe, hope-filled community.

All: We gather in God's presence, to bring Creator God our praise and gratitude.

*Opening Hymn: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (#466)

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin, and sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean, Christ's blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.

Invitation to Confession

Sue Goodwin

Leader: Late at night, in the shadows and in the silence, we know ourselves for who we truly are. People who have stumbled over sin, those who wander the destructive walkways of the world. Knowing this truth, let's come to God, to confess our failures and admit we need God's help to do life differently.

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: Here I Am, Lord (#525)

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

Chorus. Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them, they turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?

Chorus.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them, My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?

Chorus.

*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

So Abram left just as God said, and Lot left with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot with him, along with all the possessions and people they had gotten in Haran, and set out for the land of Canaan and arrived safe and sound. At that time the Canaanites occupied the land. God appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your children." Abram built an altar at the place God had appeared to him. He moved on from there to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent between Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. He built an altar there and prayed to God.

Musical Interlude

Wade Tambara

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

Sue Goodwin

Joys & Concerns

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Prayer of Confession

Sue Goodwin

Leader: If we have turned Christianity into dull routines and cliches' without wisdom and laughter;

People: Lord have mercy on us.

Leader: If we have traded the new wine of the Gospel for the old beverage of religious shoulds, anxiety, and self-loathing;

People: Lord have mercy on us.

Leader: Help us share Your life-giving waters of blessing with the world, not store it in jars for safe-keeping, where it becomes stagnant.

All: O Christ, our Savior, Your abundant forgiveness is offered long before we seek it; Your love enfolds us long before we become aware of it. Fill us with the blessing of Your peace that no fear or failure can steal from us.

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

Sue Goodwin

Leader: Our salvation comes from God, who lifts us up when our faith has fallen, to put us back on the paths of justice and peace.

People: Jesus comes to grace the world with forgiveness, healing, and new life.

All: Thanks be to God. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*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**

Sue Goodwin

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. Dr. Sarah Nave

Hymn of Reflection: The Summons (#2130 black songbook)

Sing verses 1,2,4,5.

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world
around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you
in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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 Scripture Reading: Proverbs 11:25 Mieko Davis

The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.

2nd Scripture Reading: Luke 3:8-11 Sue Goodwin

John the Baptist said, “Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?”
In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.”

Sermon & 3rd Scripture Reading Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

“Blessed to Be a Blessing”

Genesis 12:1-8

God told Abram: “Leave your country, your family, and your father’s home for a land that I will show you.

I’ll make you a great nation
and bless you.
I’ll make you famous;
you’ll be a blessing.
I’ll bless those who bless you;
those who curse you I’ll curse.
All the families of the Earth
will be blessed through you.”