

***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, Luda Wright
Ushers:	Aki Kumagai, Miko Kumagai
Parking:	Russ Hart
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Tak Fukuman
Sound System:	Titus Toyama
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Lori Hart
Altar Flowers:	Michael & Luda Wright



The Celebration of Worship

September 22, 2024 • First Day of Autumn

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Dave McGill
Pianist:	Janet Hill
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Michael Wright

Centering Prayer for Worship

*Almighty God, the seasons turn but Your love is changeless. As we
worship You today give us thankful and faithful hearts. We praise You for
brilliant blue sky, cool breezes blowing, leaves beginning to turn, the smell
of warm cider and pumpkin spice lattes, the taste of a perfect apple. We
are eager for Your touch upon our lives, we wait expectantly for Your Spirit
to work in us to make us more like our Beloved Savior Jesus Christ.
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

Dave McGill

Leader: O God, let the heavens declare Your glory to us and the hills speak of Your majesty.

People: Let the beauty of the earth be a sacrament to us that makes real the holy beauty revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Creator God, from whom all good things come, receive our grateful praise. May Your gifts of faith, hope and love be more apparent in us every day. Amen.

***Opening Hymn: 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.

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: Christ Is Alive! (#108)**

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains, but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior in the Godhead reigns

In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide, Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

***Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Paul went down, stretched himself on him, and hugged him hard. “No more crying,” he said. “There’s life in him yet.” Then Paul got up and served the Lord’s Supper. And went on telling stories of the faith until dawn! On that note, they left—Paul going one way, the congregation another, leading the boy off alive, and full of life themselves.

Musical Interlude

Janet Hill

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

Dave McGill

Joys & Concerns

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Invitation to Confession

Dave McGill

Leader: When we take an honest look at our lives and admit our mistakes, the pain we cause others, and the way we look the other way when we could be helping, we know we need God’s help. Let’s put our faith in God’s mercy and trust that God’s grace is sufficient for us. God is willing to renew, restore and redirect us. Please join me as we pray to God.

Prayer of Confession

Dave McGill

Leader: God of Moses and Mary, we could live at peace with others, but sometimes we choose to judge and criticize them.

People: We welcome those who are like us, but sometimes people who are different from us make us feel anxious. We close our hearts to them.

Leader: Forgive us, Genuine Love, hold on to our shaky lives, until we learn to clasp Your goodness to our hearts, so that we can give it away to those around us.

All: Whisper Your hopes to us, and polish the rough edges of our arrogance, until we become humble and seek justice for all.

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

Dave McGill

Leader: Confidence in God’s grace enables us to live together and work through our differences.

People: When we experience God’s love and forgiveness in our lives, our hearts soften with compassion for others.

All: Knowing God loves everyone helps us to care about others and work with God to make their lives better. 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** Dave McGill
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.

Blessing of the Backpacks Sue Goodwin

Hymn of Reflection: Grace Alone (#2162 black songbook)

Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith,
every difference we will make is only by his grace.
Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine,
every blessing left behind is only by his grace.

Refrain. Grace alone which God supplies, strength unknown he
will provide. Christ in us our Cornerstone; we will go forth in
grace alone.

Every soul we long to reach, every heart we hope to teach,
everywhere we share his peace is only by his grace.
Every loving word we say, every tear we wipe away, every
sorrow turned to praise is only by his grace.

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 Scripture Reading: Romans 1:16 Michael Wright
For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is God's saving power
for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the
Greek.

2nd Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:13-16 Dave McGill
From *The Message*

Jesus said, "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be
salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If
you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've
lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing
out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept.
We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I
make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you
under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now
that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine!
Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up
to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this
generous Father in heaven.

Sermon & 3rd Scripture Reading Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
"Who's Falling Out of the Church Windows?"
Genesis 12:1-8

Acts 20:7-12 from *The Message*

We met on Sunday to worship and celebrate the Lord's Supper.
Paul addressed the congregation. Our plan was to leave first
thing in the morning, but Paul talked on, way past midnight. We
were meeting in a well-lighted upper room. A young man
named Eutychus was sitting in an open window. As Paul went
on and on, Eutychus fell sound asleep and toppled out the
third-story window. When they picked him up, he was dead.