

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
be Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,
O High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys, after vict'ry is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be Thou my Vision, O Ruler of all.

***Benediction** Rev. Rola Al Ashkar

***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 Haruko Sakakibara

*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:	Tia Kilpatrick, Miyo Uchida
Ushers:	Bill Grissom, Herning Grissom
Parking:	Dave McGill
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Dave McGill
Sound System:	Lois Van Beers
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Lori Hart
Altar Flowers:	Miyo Uchida



The Celebration of Worship

September 29, 2024 • 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Pastor:	Rev. Rola Al Ashkar
Worship Leader:	Phillip Chew
Pianist:	Haruko Sakakibara
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Miyo Uchida

Centering Prayer for Worship

*As we gather in this sacred moment,
let us turn our attention inward,
seeking the quiet depths of our souls.
Breathe deeply,
allowing the rhythm of your breath
to guide you into a place of stillness.
Breathing in, relinquish your worries,
breathing out, open yourselves to God.*

Prelude Haruko Sakakibara

***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. Rola Al Ashkar

Call to Worship

Phillip Chew

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: God of the Sparrow (#272)**

God of the sparrow
God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake
God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow
God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry
God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbour
God of the foe

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**

Phillip Chew

Joys & Concerns

Rev. Rola Al Ashkar

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Rola Al Ashkar

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: Be Thou my Vision (#339)**

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, be Thou my true Word;
be Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord;
be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son,
be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my Breastplate, my Sword for the fight;
be Thou my whole Armor, be Thou my true Might;
be Thou my soul’s Shelter, be Thou my strong Tow’r,
O raise Thou me heav’nward, great Pow’r of my pow’r.

Sermon & 3rd Scripture Reading

Rev. Rola Al Ashkar

“Jesus and the Kingdom”

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Another parable he put before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; 32 it is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.”

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net which was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind;

when it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad.

So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous, and throw them into the furnace of fire; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They said to him, “Yes.”

And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Musical Interlude

Haruko Sakakibara

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)

God of the pruning hook

How does the creature say Love

How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages

God near at hand

God of the loving heart

How do your children say Joy

How do your children say Home

Invitation to Confession

Phillip Chew

Leader: Please join me in this responsive prayer of approach to God.

Prayer of Confession

Phillip Chew

Leader: Maker and giver of all, forgive us when we are too preoccupied to notice your presence in our lives:

People: when we walk through this world and fail to see the wonder of you upholding our lives and all creation;

Leader: when we walk through our lives and fail to see you abiding with, within, and around us;

People: when we walk through holy moments and fail to savor your presence;

Leader: Open our eyes to your presence, God of love, that we may lean on you—

People: for you uphold all of creation in tenderness and power.

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

Phillip Chew

Leader: We live in God and God in us— the presence of God is within and around all. What a promise! Take courage! Take comfort!

All: Thanks be God!

***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** Phillip Chew
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. Rola Al Ashkar

Hymn of Reflection: God of Grace and God of Glory
(#420)

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient Church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways.
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage

lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

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: Matthew 13:31-32 Miyo Uchida
He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like
a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.
Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the
largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds
come and perch in its branches."

2nd Scripture Reading: Based on Psalm 105 Phillip Chew
From *Psalms for Praying*

O give thanks to the Beloved, and open your hearts to Love.
Awaken! Listen in silence for the Voice of the Counselor. Sing
praises with glad voice, and give witness to the truth with your
lives! Glory in the radiance of the Beloved; let the hearts of
those who call upon God rejoice! Seek the One who is Life,
your strength, walk harmoniously in Love's Presence!
Remember that you are not alone, for through Love doubt and
fear are released; O people of the earth, ever bear in mind the
unity of diversity in the Divine Plan!