

By law God enforces. The stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.

We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing with glad adoration, a song let us raise: till all things now living unite in thanksgiving, to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

**\*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:	Betsy Eskridge, Luda Wright
Ushers:	Aki Kumagai, Miko Kumagai
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Neil Matsuoka
Parking:	Russ Hart
Sound System:	Titus Toyama
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Lois Van Beers
Altar Flowers:	Terri Bowman
Thanksgiving Decorations:	Sue Goodwin



## The Celebration of Worship

November 24, 2024 • Thanksgiving Sunday

*“Build longer tables, not higher walls.”*

- José Andrés, founder of World Central Kitchen

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Liam Wright
Pianist:	Nancy Arata-Fong
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Aki Kumagai

### Centering Prayer for Worship

*Thanksgiving is a time when we count the blessings in our lives and respond to God’s generosity with our own gifts of time, money, and talents. Recalling our abundant blessings of life and health can deepen gratitude in us. God’s Spirit in us can develop thanksgiving as a lifestyle through which we become more aware of our blessedness, and more expressive of our thankfulness.*

#### Contentment Prayer

*Lord, help me be grateful for what I have, remember that I don’t need most of what I want, and know that joy is found in gratitude and generosity. Amen.*

**Prelude** Nancy Arata-Fong

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*\* Those who can, please stand*

### \*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

### Call to Worship

Liam Wright

Leader: On this Thanksgiving Sunday, bring your gratitude to God and share your stories of blessings!

**People: Awesome, wondrous God, as the trees reflect the dazzling autumn sun, so may our lives reflect Your glory.**

Leader: Creator God, You have made an intricate and diverse world, and set us in it to cultivate it reverently and responsibly.

**All: King of Creation, we come to you with thanksgiving. We gather to worship You, God of Generosity, from whom all blessings flow!**

### \*Opening Hymn: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come (#551)

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home. All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin; God, our Maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied: Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto God's praise to yield; Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown; First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear: Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home: from each field shall in that day all offenses purge away; give the angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast, but the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.

We choose to open ourselves to your sacred generosity, aware that we live in an unending circle of gratitude. We all are guests at your hospitable table around which gifts are passed and received.

We will not let anything opposed to love take over this table.

Instead of giving into fear, we embrace grace, love, and the gifts of life at this table. In this choosing, and in the sharing of this meal, we are strengthened to pass gratitude on to the world.

Thus, with you, with all those gathered at this table, and with those at tables far distant, we pledge to make thanks.

We ask you to strengthen us in this resolve.

Here, now, and into the future. Around our family table. Around the table of our nation. Around the table of the earth.

We choose thanks. Amen.

- Adapted from *Grateful: The Subversive Power of Giving Thanks*, by Diana Butler Bass

### The Lord's Prayer

Congregation

**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: Let All Things Now Living (#554)

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise; Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us onto the end of our days.

God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night: Till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into Light.

## A Thanksgiving Prayer: We Choose Gratitude

GOD, there are many days we do not feel grateful.

When we are anxious or angry. When we feel alone. When we do not understand what is happening in the world or with our neighbors. When the news is bleak and confusing. When there are threats, injustice, violence, and war.

We struggle to *feel* grateful. But this Thanksgiving, we *choose* gratitude.

We choose to accept life as a gift from you, and as a gift from the unfolding work of all creation.

We choose to be grateful for the earth from which our food comes; for the water that gives life; and for the air we all breathe.

We choose to thank our ancestors, those who came before us, for their stories and struggles; we receive their wisdom as a continuing gift for today.

We choose to see our families and friends with new eyes, accepting them for who they are.

We are thankful for our homes, whether humble or grand.

We choose to appreciate and care for our neighbors whatever our differences or how much we feel hurt or misunderstood by them.

We choose to open our hearts to those who dwell among us in the shadows of uncertainty and fear, recognizing their full dignity and humanity.

We choose to see the world as our shared commons, our home now and the legacy we will leave to the generations to come.

God, this Thanksgiving, we do not give thanks. We choose it.

We will make this choice of thanks with courage, knowing that it is humbling to say “thank you.”

Even so, Lord quickly come to Thy final harvest home; gather Thou Thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin; there forever purified, in Thy presence to abide: come, with all Thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

### Invitation to Confession

Liam Wright

Leader: God has told us not to be anxious about anything, but to bring everything to God in prayer with thanksgiving. But we worry about political appointments, about rising prices, we wonder how to get through the holidays without arguing with relatives. Let's bring our worries, our regrets, and our longings to be better, and do better, to God in prayer.

### Prayer of Confession

Liam Wright

Leader: God of Grace, you have gifted us with a world of blessings; a land of plenty; a country where all can have enough.

**People: God, we come to You to repent from our reluctance to share this wealth. We admit our complicity in systems that sustain some of us, while neglecting many others.**

Leader: Loving God, You listen to the despair of those who struggle and go without, while so many spend and consume recklessly.

All: Forgive us. Touch our hearts and equip us to be good neighbors, world Christians, and effective voices for justice.

#### *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

Liam Wright

Leader: We are made whole; not by our self-help efforts, not by any work we do, not by strivings or skills, but by God's amazing grace.

All: Out of God's abundant kindness, God pours forgiveness into our lives, giving us grace so we might live in hope and joy. 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** Liam Wright

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.**

**Choir Song**

"I Will Give Thanks to the Lord"

**Children's Message** Sue Goodwin

**\*Hymn of Reflection:** Now Thank We All Our God (#555)

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done, in Whom this world rejoices;  
Who, from our mother's arms, has blessed us on our way with  
countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our lives be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us; and keep  
us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us  
from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven, to  
Father and to Son and Spirit now be given. The one eternal  
God, Whom heaven and earth adore, the God Who was, and  
is, and shall be evermore.

**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:** Psalm 9:1 Aki Kumagai

I will give thanks to You, Lord, with all my heart;  
I will tell of all Your wonderful deeds.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading:** Philippians 4:4-7 Liam Wright

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your  
kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no  
anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with  
thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the  
peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your  
hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**Sermon & 3<sup>rd</sup> Scripture Reading:** Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

"An Attitude of Gratitude"

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks;  
for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

**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.**

**\*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** Liam Wright

**Joys & Concerns** Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave