

## In Appreciation:

Greeters: Judy Fukuman, Pattie Hashimoto  
Ushers: Bill Grissom, Herning Grissom  
Parking Barriers (Sat): Titus Toyama  
Parking: Russ Hart  
Sound System: Cathy Nishizaki  
Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Lori Hart  
Altar Flowers: Steve & Barbie Fujinaka,  
in memory of George Matsuoka



## The Celebration of Worship

December 8, 2024 • Second Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave  
Worship Leader: Dave McGill  
Pianist: Nancy Arata-Fong  
Choir Conductor: Ben Pryor  
Japanese Reader: Miko Kumagai  
YES: Jana Nakase-Lee, Lynn Yamamoto



### Centering Prayer for Worship

*Holy God, Mary responds to the news that she will bear a son by asking Gabriel, How can this be? The answer from your angel messenger is clear: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you." Mary didn't go it alone. We don't go it alone. We don't become filled with Jesus's presence by our own efforts. Your Spirit filled Mary with Jesus' presence. Your Spirit fills us with Jesus' presence. This miracle requires our consent. Mary said yes to You. We say yes to You. For Jesus to be born in our lives, we offer ourselves to You each day. You invite us to yield ourselves to You so that Jesus' love and grace deepen in us. You don't coerce us, You wait for our freely given yes. May Jesus' glorious presence shine through us.*

**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.**

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*\* Those who can, please stand*

## Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

### Advent Candle Lighting Ian, Mieko, Hannah, and Sora Davis

Readers: This morning during the season of Advent we light the second candle in the Advent wreath, the candle of peace.

We light the first candle in hope. (*Light the first candle.*)

We light the second candle for peace. (*Light the second candle.*)

Advent sets a mood of waiting in the dark for Christ's coming, waiting for the one who is the Light of the world. Each new candle we light each week shows we are getting closer to the day we celebrate Christ's birth. We light these candles today to remind us that Christ is the Prince of Peace, the one who brings peace to any who will receive it. May we live in peace with all people and all creation. Let's pray:

**All: O God, Your plan for the world needed the love of a mother. May we, like Mary, open our lives to be messengers of Your love to the world. Lord Jesus, may Your coming bring love and peace to every heart. Amen.**

### \*Advent Candle Lighting Song: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (#37)

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;

Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing;  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

### Call to Worship

Dave McGill

Leader: Now, in this season of waiting,

**People: May we worship God who comes to restore our lives.**

Leader: Now, in this season of watching,

**People: May we see Jesus at work in the world, and rush to help Him.**

Leader: Now, in this season of hoping,

**People: May we share God's Spirit of peace and joy with everyone we meet.**

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world: above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing: O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold, when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold; when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

### \*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

This holy season, may we listen and say "Yes" to the message of God's angels who remind us not to be afraid as we live out our calling to bring God's 'nothing-is-impossible' hope to our world.

### \*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.*

Then Mary said, “Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

#### 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

Dave McGill

#### Joys & Concerns

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

#### 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: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (#38 )

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: “Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King”: the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

#### \*Opening Hymn: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (#2)

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee. Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by Thine all sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.

#### Invitation to Confession

Dave McGill

Leader: Advent is the season of waiting and watching, of preparing and praying, of hoping and hearing, of loving and serving, You and others. Let’s come to God now, admitting how easily we become distracted from these acts of Advent discipleship.

#### Prayer of Confession

Dave McGill

Leader: God Most High, Your only Son became one of us, so we might draw closer to You. He came as a baby into our world, forgive us for ignoring the vulnerable ones around us.

**People: Jesus became poor to serve the world, forgive us for our obsession with wealth and possessions.**

Leader: Loving God, in this holy season, let neither busyness or selfishness overwhelm us. Cleanse us, and touch us with Your steadfast love;

**All: Strengthen us, and pour out Your faithfulness on us. May our cleansed hearts welcome and adore You as we reflect Your light and love to those around us. Amen**

*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: The star of hope that brought light to a dark world that long-ago night in Bethlehem, shines still. Glory to God in the highest! Christ came to bring God's loving Presence to all.

**All: 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.**

## Choir Song

"Still, Still, Still"

Austrian Carol

## Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

*Children and youth may now go to YES.*

**\*Hymn of Reflection:** "Away in a Manger" (#25)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

## 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:** Isaiah 7:14 Miko Kumagai

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call Him Immanuel, which means God is with us.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:26-33 Dave McGill

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was very perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of a greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name Him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

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

Advent Sermon Series: Angels Among Us  
"Gabriel and Mary: Carrying God's Blessing"

Luke 1:34-38

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the Child to be born will be holy; He will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.