



## The Celebration of Worship

December 22, 2024 • Fourth Sunday of Advent



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
(Isaiah 9:6)

Christmas Eve is Tuesday, December 24  
Christmas Day is Wednesday, December 25

Pastor:  
Worship Leader:  
Pianist:  
Japanese Reader:  
Choir Conductor:  
YES:

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave  
Jonathan Sakakibara  
Haruko Sakakibara  
Haruko Sakakibara  
Ben Pryor  
Cathy Nishizaki

### Centering Prayer for Worship

*All glory to you, great God,  
for the gift of your Son,  
whom you sent to save us.  
With singing angels, let us praise your name,  
and tell the earth his story,  
that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down,  
acknowledging your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*From Book of Common Worship*

### Prelude

Haruko Sakakibara  
"O Little Town of Bethlehem" by Lewis H. Redner

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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

**Advent Candle Lighting**

Advent Candle Lighters: Jun, Luyan, Hailing, & Richard Tang

Readers: Today the candles on the Advent wreath symbolize the powerful presence of God with us in Jesus Christ. The One who was sent to our world to bring God's love to all who experience suffering and hard times.

*(Light 3 purple and 1 pink candle now.)*

We light these candles as a symbol of love. The bright light from the four candles reminds us of the great light that surrounded the shepherds who were out in the fields watching their flock at night when the angels came and told them that Jesus was being born.

An angel choir sang, "Glory to God in the highest!" as they announced the good news of Jesus' birth. May our lives bring God glory as we share the Good News of our Savior's birth with all the world.

Let's pray:

**All: Almighty God, who came to us long ago in the birth of Jesus Christ, be born in us today by the power of your Holy Spirit. We offer our lives as home to You and ask for grace and strength to live as your faithful children always. Through Christ, whose coming is certain, whose day draws near. Amen.**

**Thank You for the Poinsettias!**

**In Memory of . . .**



Toyama/Komure Parents & Tomo Komure  
from Titus & Donna (Komure) Toyama

Brother Kenneth Sakaishi & Grandniece Angelica Bravo  
from Tak & Judy Fukuman

Janet Fernandez  
from Dave McGill

Our Parents  
from Stan & Christine (Asoo) Umeda

Parents Arlin & Joanne Nave, John & Pat Todd  
from Dwight & Sarah Nave

Father William Woody  
from Gary & Diane (Woody) Younglove

Father Jim Haberstock  
Nate & Kara (Haberstock) Tanoue

Parents George & Jane Matsuoka  
Neil Matsuoka & Kris Sasaki

Husband Terry Nishizaki  
From Cathy Nishizaki

Parents Joseph & Keiko, Shun & Miko  
Jonathan & Haruko Sakakibara

Our Parents  
Russ & Lori Hart

## In Appreciation:

Greeters:	Pattie Hashimoto, Gary Younglove
Ushers:	Betsy Eskridge, Irene Uno
Parking Barriers (Sat):	William Yee
Parking:	Phillip Chew
Sound System:	Dave McGill
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Judy Yee
Altar Flowers:	Wade Tambara
Coffee Time:	PPW - Circle 3



## \*Advent Candle Lighting Song: "There's a Star in the East" (#135 Glory to God hymnal)

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
It will lead to the place where Christ was born.  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

## Call to Worship

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: Let's prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child and the coming of Christmas.

**People: Though there was no room at the inn to receive  
You that night, we prepare room for You in our hearts,  
Lord Jesus.**

**All: We celebrate Your arrival, Emmanuel-God with us,  
and join with the angels to proclaim our Savior's birth!**

## \*Opening Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful (#41)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exaltation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

### Invitation to Confession

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: We try to stay faithful but we get distracted or depressed, and bail. We intend to take care of others but end up focusing mostly on ourselves. When we turn to God in prayer, God hears our guilt and shame, and forgives us. Let's pray to our loving God.

### Prayer of Confession

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: Come, God-who-draws-near-to-us, for we feel anxious about our lives, our families, and our world. We cling to our despair like a favorite sweater. Come to us with Your empowering hope.

**People: Forgive us for rushing past You in our holiday hurriedness. We know that Your love stopped at nothing to save us and claim us as Your own.**

**All: Please strengthen us for Your service, and pour out Your faithfulness on us. May our cleansed hearts welcome and adore You and reflect Your light and love to all the weary world.**

#### *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

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: As we decorate and celebrate this season, we remember God came into our broken world to bring holy healing and hope.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness,  
and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders of His love.

### \*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

### Choir Song

“Silent Night”

### \*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

“Go Tell it on the Mountain” - Traditional Spiritual

*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.*

## Musical Interlude

Haruko Sakakibara

“What Child is This” - English Folk Song

## 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

Jonathan Sakakibara

## Joys & Concerns

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

## 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: Joy to the World! (#40)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her king;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

**All: Our wreaths and ribbons and colored lights, our giving of gifts and gatherings with family and friends are small ways we repeat the sounding joy proclaimed by angels in the skies near Bethlehem.**

**All: Glory to God in the highest! 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

Jonathan Sakakibara

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

Sue Goodwin

## Choir Song

A Celebration of Carols

*Children and youth may now go to YES.*

## \*Hymn of Reflection: “In the Bleak Midwinter” (#36)

Song by Christina Rossetti

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what can I give Him: give my heart.

#### 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:** John 1:14 Haruko Sakakibara  
“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the Father's only son, full of grace and truth.”

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 2:1-5 Jonathan Sakakibara  
*The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.*

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that God may teach us his ways and that we may walk in God's paths.”

God shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.  
O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

**Sermon & 3<sup>rd</sup> Scripture Reading:** Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave  
“God's Greatest Gift”

Luke 2:8-20

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.