

***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

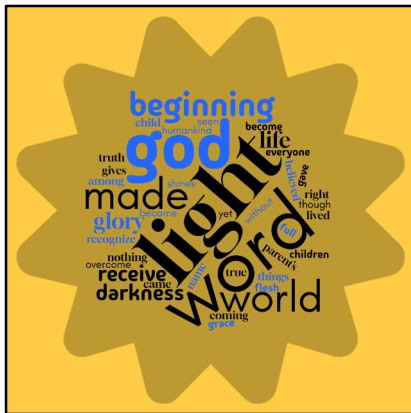
Nancy Arata-Fong

*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: Tia Kilpatrick, Diane Younglove
- Ushers: Diane Younglove, Gary Younglove
- Parking Barriers (Sat): Neil Matsuoka
- Parking: Carl Odell
- Sound System: Titus Toyama
- Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Lois Van Beers
- Altar Flowers: Sue Goodwin



The Celebration of Worship

December 29, 2024 • First Sunday of Christmas

Guest Pastor:

Rev. Rola Al Ashkar

Worship Leader:

Phillip Chew

Pianist:

Nancy Arata-Fong

Choir Conductor:

Ben Pryor

Japanese Reader:

Michael Wright

Centering Prayer for Worship

*Now, may we all take a deep breath
and center ourselves in this place.*

Christ is born. God has come. We are not alone.

Let us celebrate that good news. Let us dwell with God!

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.**

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Rola Al Ashkar

** Those who can, please stand*

Call to Worship

Phillip Chew

Leader: I have good news!

People: I have good news!

Leader: Christ is born!

People: Christ is born!

Leader: Joy is alive!

People: Joy is alive!

Leader: God is here.

People: God is here.

Leader: Thanks be to God.

People: Thanks be to God.

- by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

*Opening Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High (#23)

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly, sweetly through the night
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their brief delight

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

*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: Go, Tell It On the Mountain (#29)

Refrain. Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

Refrain.

The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth.

Refrain.

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

*Benediction

Rev. Rola Al Ashkar

Sermon & 3rd Scripture Reading:

Rev. Rola Al Ashkar

“All Things Old and New”

John 1:1-5,9-12,14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. That was with God in the beginning. Through the Word all things were made; without it nothing was made that has been made. In the Word was life, and that life was the light of all humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. The light was in the world, and though the world was made through the light, the world did not recognize the light. It came to that which was its own, but its own did not receive it. Yet to all who did receive the light, to those who believed in its name, it gave the right to become children of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen its glory, the glory as of a parent’s only child, full of grace and truth.

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.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Yeah

Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Angels we have heard

Angels we have heard on high

Angels we have heard, oh

Angels we have heard on high

Angels we have heard on high

Angels we have heard on high

In excelsis Deo

Invitation to Confession

Phillip Chew

Leader: God came to dwell with us so we can dwell with God. What good news! Let us confess together to God, knowing that the honest truth of our lives only makes this good news better. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

Phillip Chew

Leader: Holy God, too often we feel as if change is hopeless and we cannot truly make a difference, so we let go of hope.

People: Too often we let our spirits get anxious, and instead of praying and working for peace, We give it up.

Leader: Too often we paint joy as naive or a luxury reserved for good times only, so in our hardships, we turn away from it.

People: And too often we hold love so tightly, and we opt for easy love for those we favor.

All: Forgive us for extinguishing the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, and restore us into your light.

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: Family of faith, God came into this world so that we could live in the light. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: no matter how many times we turn our back on hope, peace, joy, and love God continues to light our way.

All: Thanks be to 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

Sue Goodwin

***Hymn of Reflection:** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (#31)

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Refrain.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

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: Psalm 65:11 Michael Wright
You crown the year with your goodness, And your paths drip with abundance.

2nd Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29:11-13 Phillip Chew
For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.