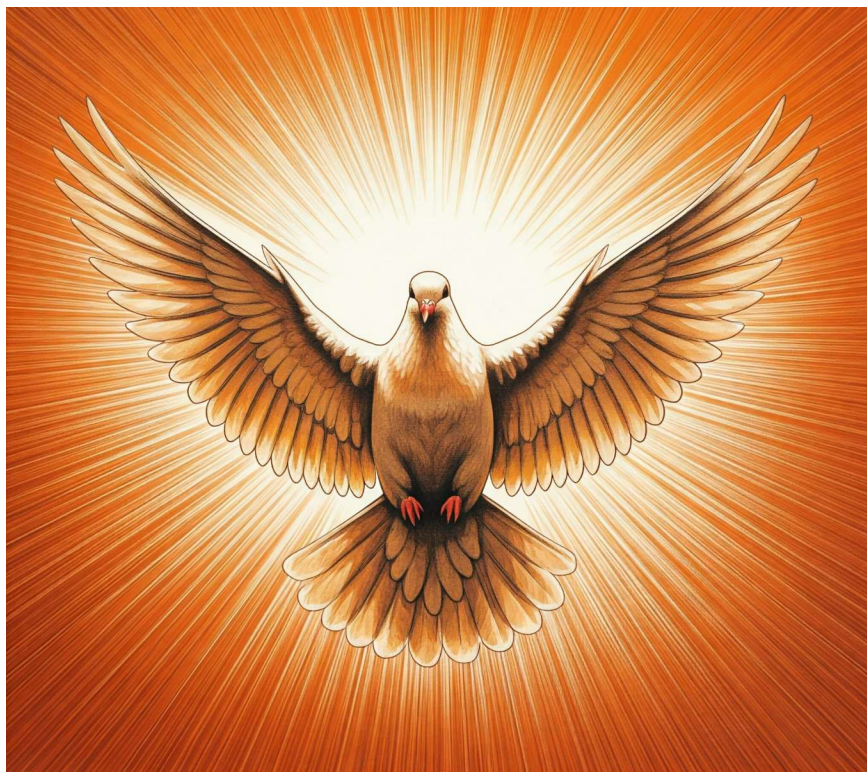




The Celebration of Worship

January 12, 2025 • Baptism of the Lord Sunday



Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Steve Hanway
Pianist:	Nancy Arata-Fong
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Aki Kumagai
Communion Elders	Carla Hart, Pattie Hashimoto

Centering Prayer for Worship

Spirit of the Living God, Who hovered over the waters at creation's birth, Who descended in the form of a dove at Jesus' baptism, Who was poured out in wind and fire at Pentecost: come to us in this sacred time and place. Open our hearts and minds that we may sense the Presence of the Holy One, hear the Word of life, and be renewed by Your power at work in us, living always to Your glory. Amen.

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. Dr. Sarah Nave

** Those who can, please stand*

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him.

(Matthew 3:16)

Call to Worship

Steve Hanway

Leader: In the beginning God created.

People: And it was good.

Leader: In the present God creates.

People: And it is good.

Leader: In the future God will continue creating.

People: And it will be good.

Leader: We gather to worship our faithful Creator God.

All: Who creates goodness in, through, and all around us.

*Opening Hymn: Great Is the Lord (#2022 Black songbook)

Refrain. Great is the Lord, He are holy and just;
by His power we trust in His love.
Great is the Lord, He is faithful and true;
by His mercy He proves He is love.

Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord; now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

Refrain.

Great are You, Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great are You, Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great are You, Lord; I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice:
Great are You, Lord! Great are You, Lord!

Invitation to Confession

Steve Hanway

Leader: When John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River a voice from heaven said, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with You I am well pleased.” By baptism, Jesus cleanses us from our sin, making us children of God. Our Lord gives the grace of being a child of God to anyone who seeks God. Let’s bring our lives to God in prayer.

*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:	Carla Hart, Diane Younglove
Ushers:	Judy Fukuman, Tak Fukuman
Parking Barriers (Sat):	William Yee
Parking:	Tak Fukuman
Sound System:	Lois Van Beers
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Judy Yee
Altar Flowers:	Pattie Hashimoto

***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**

Steve Hanway

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: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (#356)**

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace; streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I've come; and I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; He to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee: Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

Prayer of Confession

Steve Hanway

Leader: Holy God, in baptism you call us to turn from sin and to turn to Jesus Christ; but we fail to live up to our baptism and live fully as your children. Too often our lives reflect chaos instead of creation. Living in disorder and turmoil, we exist as though You do not.

People: In baptism You call us to live for You each day, but we prefer to go our own way, not Yours; we cling to destructive habits, carry grudges, and allow the past to hold us hostage. Forgive us.

All: Blow through our lives like a mighty wind this day, clearing away the clouds of despair. Transform our bad attitudes and heal our brokenness. Shine brightly among us, renewing our hope. Set us free from all that keeps us from You, and raise us to new life.

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

Steve Hanway

Leader: This is the good news: The One who goes before us is more powerful than we are. Christ baptizes us not just with water but also with the Holy Spirit. As we welcome God's Spirit, we become a new creation. The peace of God is ours.

All: 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**

Steve Hanway

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. Dr. Sarah Nave

Children and youth may now leave for YES.

***Hymn of Reflection: Baptized in Water (#492)**

Sing to the tune of “Morning has Broken.”

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
heirs of salvation, trusting God’s promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
one with His rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ, our King;
born of the Spirit, we are God’s children,
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

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.

1st Scripture Reading (Japanese):

Aki Kumagai

Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

2nd Scripture Reading: Mark 1:4-8

Steve Hanway

John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of life-change that leads to forgiveness of sins. People thronged to him from Judea and Jerusalem and, as they confessed their sins, were baptized by him in the Jordan River into a changed life.

Sermon & 3rd Scripture Reading:

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

“Being God’s Beloved”

Mark 1:9-11

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon Him; and a voice came from the heavens: “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”

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.