

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them, My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?

Chorus.

***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

Haruko Sakakibara

“Giga” by Handel (1685-1759)

*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, Pattie Hashimoto
Ushers:	Betsy Eskridge, Carla Hart
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Dave McGill
Parking:	Gary Younglove
Sound System:	Lois Van Beers
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Lori Hart
Altar Flowers:	Cathy Nishizaki



The Celebration of Worship

February 23, 2025 • Answering God’s Call:

Ordination and Installation of Elders

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Worship Leader:

Jonathan Sakakibara

Pianist:

Haruko Sakakibara

Choir Conductor:

Ben Pryor

Japanese Reader:

Aki Kumagai

YES:

Julie Chew, Cathy Nishizaki

Centering Prayer for Worship

*God, most holy, You are a God of closeness to our hearts. You have
implanted Your likeness in us. You know us each by name and constantly
send your love to support us on our way. Remove in us all that resists your
will and plant in us a willingness to learn and grow and change and deepen.
By your Spirit, come to us, now, in sacred texts, in everyday moments, in
the need of our neighbors. Connect us to each other, that Your purpose may
find fulfillment in our life and service. Amen.*

Prelude

Haruko Sakakibara

*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*

Call to Worship

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: Transforming God, in these moments, come upon us.

People: Living Christ, bathe us in the glow of Your light as we worship and respond to God's call to heal the world.

All: Spirit of the Risen Christ, help us encounter our magnificent Creator and deepen in faith and community.

*Opening Hymn: God, You Spin the Whirling Planets (#285)

God, You spin the whirling planets, fill the seas and spread the plain, mold the mountains, fashion blossoms, call forth sunshine, wind, and rain. We, created in Your image, would a true reflection be of Your justice, grace, and mercy and the truth that makes us free.

You have called us to be faithful in our life and ministry. We respond in grateful worship joined in one community. When we blur Your gracious image, focus us and make us whole. Healed and strengthened as Your people, we move onward toward Your goal.

God, Your word is still creating, calling us to life made new. Now reveal to us fresh vistas where there's work to dare and do. Keep us clear of all distortion. Polish us with loving care. Thus, new creatures in Your image, we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.

Invitation to Confession

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: When our hearts are hardened, when our souls are filled with fear because of all that has been said and done, God comes; bringing new life, forgiving our failings, restoring us to new hope, calling us to partner with God in transforming our world. Let's pray together to God.

Prayer of Confession

Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: Creator God, you have sent Your Spirit to bring boldness to our lives and fill your church, but in the bitter arguments which divide us, we cannot hear Your voice calling us to be one.

(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

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: "Here I Am, Lord" (#525)

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

Chorus. Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?

Chorus.

Eli answered her, “Go in peace. And may the God of Israel give you what you have asked of him.” “Think well of me—and pray for me!” she said, and went her way. Then she ate heartily, her face radiant.

Up before dawn, they worshiped God and returned home. Elkanah slept with Hannah his wife, and God began making the necessary arrangements in response to what she had asked. Before the year was out, Hannah had conceived and given birth to a son. She named him Samuel, explaining, “I asked God for him.” When Elkanah next took his family on their annual trip to Shiloh to worship God, Hannah didn’t go. She told her husband, “After the child is weaned, I’ll bring him myself and present him before God—and that’s where he’ll stay, for good.” So she stayed home and nursed her son until she had weaned him. Then she took him up to Shiloh, bringing also the makings of a generous sacrificial meal—a prize bull, flour, and wine. The child was so young to be sent off! They brought the child to Eli. Hannah said, “Excuse me, sir. Would you believe that I’m the very woman who was standing before you at this very spot, praying to God? I prayed for this child, and God gave me what I asked for. And now I have dedicated him to God. He’s dedicated to God for life.”

Sermon & 3rd Scripture Reading Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
“Answering God’s Call”
1 Samuel 3:1-10, Jonathan Sakakibara & Lucas Wright

Musical Interlude Haruko Sakakibara
“Air Tendre” by Jean-Baptiste Lully (1633-1687)

Elder Ordination & Installation
Jody, Brown, Judy Fukuman, Aki Kumagai

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.

People: From all of the cruelty and conspiracy, from dehumanizing words and actions; Lord, deliver us. Fill all the world with Your mercy and light.

All: Breathe Your peace upon us, that we might be healers of brokenness. Breathe Your love and hope into us, that we might be as considerate and generous as Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 Jonathan Sakakibara

Leader: When we seek wholeness through the One broken for us, then we remember we are saved by God’s powerful love.

People: We are healed, to bring healing to our world; we are strengthened in faith, to become channels of grace for others; we are set free from our captivity to sin, to become servants of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***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: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Choir Song

“Shout to the Lord” by Darlene Zschech

Children and youth may now leave for YES.

***Hymn of Reflection:** The Summons (#2130 black songbook)

Sing verses 1,2,4,5.

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world
around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you
in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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

2 Timothy 1:9. God has saved us and called us to this holy work not because of anything we did, but because of God's own purpose and grace, a gift given to us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.

2nd Scripture Reading

Jonathan Sakakibara

1 Samuel 1:1-28

There once was a man named Elkanah. He had two wives. The first was Hannah; the second was Peninnah. Peninnah had children; Hannah did not. Every year this man went from his hometown up to Shiloh to worship and offer a sacrifice to God. When Elkanah sacrificed, he passed helpings from the sacrificial meal around to his wife Peninnah and all her children, but he always gave an especially generous helping to Hannah because he loved her so much, and because God had not given her children. But her rival wife taunted her cruelly, rubbing it in and never letting her forget that God had not given her children. This went on year after year. Every time she went to the sanctuary of God Hannah was reduced to tears and had no appetite. Her husband Elkanah said, “Oh, Hannah, why are you crying? Why aren't you eating? And why are you so upset? Am I not of more worth to you than ten sons?”

So Hannah ate. Then she pulled herself together, slipped away quietly, and entered the sanctuary. The priest Eli was on duty at the entrance to God's Temple in the customary seat. Crushed in soul, Hannah prayed to God and cried and cried—inconsolably. Then she made a vow:

Oh, God, if you'll take a good, hard look at my pain,

If you'll quit neglecting me and go into action for me

By giving me a son,

I'll give him completely, unreservedly to you.

I'll set him apart for a life of holy discipline.

It so happened that as she continued in prayer before God, Eli was watching her closely. Hannah was praying in her heart. Her lips moved, but no sound was heard. Eli jumped to the conclusion that she was drunk. He approached her and said, “You're drunk! Sober up, woman!” Hannah said, “Oh no, sir—please! I'm a brokenhearted woman. I haven't been drinking. The only thing I've been pouring out is my heart, pouring it out to God. It's because I'm so desperately unhappy and in such pain that I've stayed here so long.”