

***Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Irish Blessing

“May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields. And, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.”

***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: Luyan Tang, Miyo Uchida
- Ushers: Donna Komure-Toyama, Irene Uno
- Parking Barriers (Sat): Dave McGill
- Parking: Dave McGill
- Sound System: Jonathan Sakakibara
- Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Aki Kumagai
- Altar Flowers: Ian. & Mieko Davis
- Coffee Time Mieko Davis, Luda Wright, Diane Younglove



The Celebration of Worship

March 16, 2025 • Mr. Rogers Sunday

- Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
- Worship Leader: Betsy Eskridge
- Pianist: Nancy Arata-Fong
- Choir Conductor: Ben Pryor
- Japanese Reader: Mieko Davis

Centering Prayer for Worship

Prayer for the Faithful by St. Patrick
May the Strength of God guide us
.May the Power of God preserve us.
May the Shield of God defend us
.May the Angels of God guard us
May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us!
Christ be over all!
May Thy Grace, Lord, always be ours,
This day, O Lord, and forevermore. 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.

** Those who can, please stand*

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Call to Worship

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart.

People: In this season of Lent, we return to God. For God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Leader: Great is your faithfulness, O God. We praise You for Your transforming power in our lives and in the world.

All: We worship you, holy God, and come into Your presence with singing.

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

Refrain. Great is the Lord, He is 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

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: Neither this world nor your life is so broken that God cannot restore it to wholeness. God's compassionate care embraces us when we feel depleted and discouraged by life.
All: The world is not as it should be, but God is at work putting things right.

*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

Betsy Eskridge

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: Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! (#138)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee, who wert, and art, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee, Though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see, only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee, perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Sermon & 3rd Scripture Reading

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

“Why Irish Eyes Are Smiling”

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-21, Paul writes “to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi,”

I want to report to you, friends, that my imprisonment here has had the opposite of its intended effect. Instead of being squelched, the Message has actually prospered. All the soldiers here, and everyone else, too, found out that I’m in jail because of this Messiah. That piqued their curiosity, and now they’ve learned all about him. Not only that, but most of the followers of Jesus here have become far more sure of themselves in the faith than ever, speaking out fearlessly about God, about the Messiah.

Through your faithful prayers and the generous response of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, everything he wants to do in and through me will be done. I can hardly wait to continue on my course. I don’t expect to be embarrassed in the least. On the contrary, everything happening to me in this jail only serves to make Christ more accurately known, regardless of whether I live or die. They didn’t shut me up; they gave me a platform! Alive, I’m Christ’s messenger; dead, I’m his prize. Life versus even more life! I can’t lose.

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.

As we come to God in confession, may we sense God’s Spirit guiding us, and commit ourselves to living the way God intends.

Prayer of Confession

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: We meet you here, God of faithfulness, our hearts and lives full of our regrets and shame.

People: We vent our anger on those who care about us the most. We fire harsh words on those who need to hear hope and grace in their lives.

Leader: So we bring our hearts to You, Gracious God, setting them down before You in the hope that You will mend them.

All: As You hear our mixed motives and faltering words, please answer us with Your forgiving love.

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

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. Be amazed by our Redeemer’s love, which goes to the cross for us, endures the grave, rises in power, and leads us to new life.

People: Thank You, Lord Jesus Christ. Companion of the lonely, Shelter from the storm, Your love frees us to put our sins behind us and partner with God in redeeming the world.

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**

Betsy Eskridge

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

Welcoming a New Member: Louis Espinoza Reza

Choir Song

“Won’t You Be My Neighbor” by Fred Rogers

It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood

A beautiful day for a neighbor

Would you be mine? Could you be mine?

It's a neighborly day in this beautywood

A neighborly day for a beauty

Would you be mine? Could you be mine?

I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you

I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you

So, let's make the most of this beautiful day

Since we're together, we might as well say

Would you be mine? Could you be mine?

Won't you be my neighbor?

Won't you please, won't you please?

Please, won't you be my neighbor?

Children and youth may now leave for YES.

***Hymn of Reflection:** Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (#372)

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. In my heart, in my

heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in 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.

1st Scripture Reading (Japanese)

Mieko Davis

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.

2nd Scripture Reading

Betsy Eskridge

Psalms 16:1-2, 7-8

Preserve me, O God, for I take refuge in you. I said to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good besides You.” I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord continually before me; because the Lord is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.